

The Power of Sovereignty

Choosing Self-Reliance Over Fear And Compliance

By Val Jon Farris

“Trust thyself; every heart vibrates to that iron string. Accept the place divine providence has found for you. We must not be minors and invalids in a protected corner, not cowards fleeing before a revolution, but guides, redeemers, and benefactors advancing on chaos and the dark.”
— Ralph Waldo Emerson

[Author Disclaimer: This article is about choosing personal sovereignty and self-reliance as one’s overarching life philosophy. While it calls into question the motives of those who would otherwise attempt to relieve us of our freedoms, it is not about demonizing agencies, institutions, or organizations that make public policy or oversee local, national, or global affairs.]

Misinformation, manipulation, and mandates have always been how the few have controlled the many. But at no time in the history of humanity have we experienced such control on a global scale. Advancements in worldwide information technology have enabled us to communicate (and miscommunicate) at near light speed. Case in point, the majority of information on the internet, and all its social media platforms employ complex algorithms designed to exploit our privacy and impose upon us various forms of censorship, segmentation, and misdirection.

The mainstream media also all march to the same drumbeat by saturating us with highly censored, fear-based news designed to evoke compliance rather than free choice. Governmental agencies, major universities, mainstream medical establishments, and even scientific institutions are methodically destroying the reputations, careers, and lives of anyone, (even their own alumni and experts) who question their policies and protocols or encourage people to think for themselves. (Some of my own posts and articles regarding self-reliance have been removed from social media platforms, or their distribution has been drastically curtailed to only a small fraction of my total followers.)

If all this is true, would it not make sense to demonize those who are behind all this control? No, it would not, and for a very good reason. Wasting one’s energy on demeaning others rather than investing that same energy into strengthening our self-reliance capabilities is an unwise choice. That’s not to say we should allow others to jeopardize our well-being or systematically confiscate our liberties, but the way we go about dealing with these threats needs further examination.

In the past few months I have read countless accusatory COVID/pandemic articles, watched hundreds of controversial interviews, poured over clinical trials and case studies both for and against our current policies and protocols, and the theme is always the same. The “other side” is wrong and flawed in some way, accused of being a dissident or conspirator, and in just about every case, portrayed as a danger to society and the free world.

People see and believe what they want to see and believe, and no amount of convincing or cajoling will change this form of bias. There is so much polarization and misinformation and so many conflicting “facts” these days that we don’t know who to trust any longer. Not only have we devolved into a detrimental condition of mistrust and fear, many people have gotten drawn into heated debates with their families, friends, peers, and fellow citizens that have resulted in greater separation and polarization.

I want to turn our attention to Emerson's quote . . . being "*guides, redeemers, and benefactors*" requires something greater from us than defending our opinions, demeaning others, and adding to the escalating chaos through engaging in reactive behaviors. (I don't claim to be an expert at being objective, but I do strive towards it with all my heart.)

To be *Sovereign* means being self-reliant, in command of our individual existence, and the overseer of our own lives. It also means engaging with others in a way that encourages them to come into accord with their own self-reliant capabilities. That's not to say we should become self-appointed revolutionaries, deny the presence of a power greater than our own, or ignore the opinions or expertise of others. But what it does mean is that we must *never* hand over our command to anyone or anything outside of ourselves. And while we have a responsibility to coexist as best we can with others, with our society, and with the whole of Nature herself, each of us has a more fundamental responsibility to live true to our personal values and make the choices we believe are best for us.

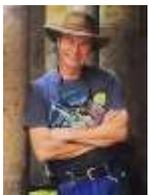
Emerson points to this fundamental responsibility by encouraging us to "*accept the place divine providence has found for us.*" This "*place*" has nothing to do with either stubbornly opposing or mindlessly acquiescing to social pressures, religious doctrines, or political mandates. To clarify, Sovereignty is not about taking an oppositional stand or moralistic position against those who might threaten our liberties or right to choose. Rather, it is an existential declaration to living in accord with our authentic nature; a free choice based upon internal harmony and inclusion rather than on exclusion. Said another way, the question, "*What am I for?*" rather than "*What am I against?*" is the cornerstone of being sovereign.

This brings us to the challenges we all face concerning the pandemic policies and protocols being endorsed and soon to be mandated by our government. What would being sovereign look like with respect to accepting or rejecting vaccination? Or whether or not we should trust the government, the media, and the mainstream medical community to continue with booster shots? Or whether to defer to hospital protocols backed by the CDC, or to choose alternative treatment? The bottom line is, *who should we trust?*

Again, Emerson encourages us to take personal command by trusting *ourselves*. But how do we do so if we are unsure of the path forward? One answer is to exercise due diligence by learning as much as we can about the issues at hand, and from *both* sides. You and I are much wiser than we give ourselves credit for. There is a natural course the human psyche will take if it is prompted to step forward and exercise its self-reliant ability to lead.

As I have stated, there is no benefit whatsoever in arguing with people or trying to convince them of what choices they should make about this pandemic or any other life challenge they may face. There is also no point in gathering "*credible evidence*" in our favor to bolster our opinions and points of view. All these tactics do is create more separation and opposition. If we want to "*advance on chaos and the dark,*" the way to do so is to shed light not on what *we want* people to see, but on *their ability to see* for themselves.

Encourage people to open their eyes to their own ability to be self-reliant, to their ability to discern what is best for them based upon as much information as they can glean. Encourage them to explore both sides of the issues and get as granular as they need to gain clarity. This approach will open the space for others to come into accord with the truth for themselves, an experience of self-reliance that needs no argument, no defending, and no investment in who is right and who is wrong. ~



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