

**Dictatorial Authoritarianism
and Democratic Authority**

**By Dr Maryse Touboul, MD – PhD
Psychiatrist - Psychoanalyst**

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Dictatorial Authoritarianism

Dictatorial Authoritarianism means the power and authoritarianism of one man, or organization, on the people; it is based on fear and violence. All dictatorships are based on terror. At the basis of dictatorship are fanaticism and elitism.

People believe in a certain image that the leader represents. They project on him their desires, their hope for a better life; and they applaud him. This one person becomes the only one who will bring them this better life they were waiting for, which provokes in them a feeling of strength and power, unknown to them until that moment. Dictatorial authoritarianism is based on the illusion of an ideal of power, with the idea of a universal profit. The danger is that fanaticized people will allow their leader to use all means to achieve this ideal.

THE UNCONSCIOUS AND THE LANGUAGE OF LEADERSHIP

The language of a dictator speaks to the passionate part of his public; but the public does not know or notice it because it is an emotional, very regressive part, which makes people react like when they were children, awaiting love and gratefulness.

The thinking power of one man can suffice to reach the passionate part of a silent assembly. It allows this one person to take a ‘superpower’ on this assembly, making the people in it regress to a very low level of consciousness, bringing them closer to the leader; making them see him as a good and strong father, loved and feared; and pushing them to give him a part of the mselves—all for one, and one for all. For an observer, a spectacle like this one is always terrifying. Immature people are always ready to believe in a “savior”; as if there was in ‘human’ nature a necessity to owe the meaning of life to someone else.

This is the language of lack: believing that “without him/her, I would be nothing!” It is the language of so many people, like children, so immature that they absolutely want to stay passionate for somebody else.

But in psychoanalysis, we have learned that the master of passion has no desire for oneself; it just wants to not feel the lack of somebody else. This is the characteristic of affective immaturity.

Dependence causes a domination of the “*jouissance*” to live every day with intensity, so that one can avoid answering the question, “how can I use my time?” The less meaning someone’s life has the less alive and curious of life can this person be, and the more he/she is subject to becoming the object of anyone who wants to be served by him/her.

As Kant said, it is essential to teach students how to think, not what others thought; and to guide them, not hold them; if the goal desired is that they eventually manage to function on their own.

Dictatorial authoritarianism is the worst way of functioning for humanity. And although it is a national phenomenon, its roots can be found also be found at the family and social levels.

For the last few generations, education was often horrific. A child was nothing but an object, and the parents often had the power of life or death upon him/her.

A child rarely had the right to simply express him/herself, express how was his/her life going, what he/she desired, etc. A child had to unconditionally obey his/her parents, and could not

judge them, but was judged by them. The same mechanism was often repeated with professors in school. Once more, the children's only rights were often to obey and to agree with what the teachers taught them; critical ability is truly a democratic functioning way of functioning. This dictatorial approach can be very damaging for a young child's sensibility and emotional system.

Our unconscious, all of us, even today as children have the right to talk, stays conditioned by its parental history and by the negative memories, which are waiting for a way or a person that will cure and relieve them from their unbearable feelings of guilt. Because a child always believes he/she is guilty of something, even when in reality, it is the parent who is responsible for his/her sadness.

Therefore, to have an adult society, every member of this society needs to be adult, meaning able to think, want, and grow by him/herself.

IDENTIFICATION AND AUTHORITARIANISM

People who have not successfully identified to their parent will need to identify and give value to another person; because when this symbolic passage of positive gratefulness does not happen during childhood, people will keep searching for a substitute for this reciprocal gratefulness, without which they cannot become responsible and mature individuals.

Without a good "model," separation with the parent cannot be achieved; there can be no separation without love and peace. And if there is no separation, there will be fusion instead, and an endless impossibility to exist by oneself.

When a dictator takes the power, this is what happens, as he himself is looking for a strong identification, of the others to him, instead of just wanting to become himself.

Ignorance is responsible for so many atrocities in the world. The reason for it is that people do not have enough curiosity to learn and open their minds to new things (maybe because curiosity was prohibited for a long time). When we learn, we become less and less scared of the others, of the unknown.

Authoritarianism and dictatorship can exist and take power on the people when the latter are ignorant, but also when they did not learn to think objectively, with no passion and immaturity. No one but oneself can be responsible for someone's happiness in life. To become conscious of this is necessary to start wanting to be responsible of our own life and actions.

Too often, leaders of nations are immature, not adult, narcissistic and paranoid; this is very dangerous for societies. People need their leaders to be mature and driven by their wish to see everyone well off, instead of leaders driven by their anger and hatred.

In dictatorship, a man, or a system, takes the place of god, of someone/something above everyone else. A dictator does not see himself as a human being; he sees himself as a superior being. Yet, this apparent superiority hides a profound feeling of inferiority: It is an unconscious reaction to the fear of being inferior that creates the insane need to be superior and to become the chief, the "Father", with no limit to his paranoia. This is the language and the way of functioning of hatred, violence and deadliness. This is why hate, and not love, is the master of all dictatorships. No dictator serves his country; he serves only his fantasies. But the people serve the dictator. No democracy can go along with such dependence. There is no *horizontal* relation in authoritarian dictatorship; instead, there is the *verticality* of power struggle.

SEDUCTION, EMOTIONALITY AND MANIPULATION

Seduction, emotionality and manipulation are the three weapons of dictatorship's language. A dictator is someone who is liked when he speaks; he needs to be liked quickly to have the tolerance of his public. To do this, he quickly starts to speak about what people need to have in order to be in the good direction, thereby creating a sense of unity in his public.

A dictator knows what and how to go about realizing his goals; the public just has to listen to be charmed, not by his ideas, but by the way he expresses himself.

Dictatorship transforms a number of individuals that came in as separate entities into a fanaticized crowd, in which people lose their individuality.

Emotionality grows as the leader delivers his speech to reach his goal: unanimity. And when this ultimate point is reached, people in the assembly are full of emotions; they have become excited and grateful. And this is just the beginning of a long obedience to this one person.

HOW TO GET OUT OF AUTHORITARIANISM?

Everyone's goal should be to get out of all the authoritarianisms in our lives, in order to respect the authority of a life that respects the other and the others, and to fight for the defense of democratic values, which are values of life. This means that we have to first become conscious, second want to get out of this malicious mechanism, and third fight not to reproduce the same story later.

Dictators and authoritarianism are everywhere, not only in politics. In families, the father, mother, brother, sister, can all be dictators in their family, feared by the others. Authoritarianism is any where one takes the power and the others obey. This also happens in work environments, when a boss is particularly cruel, pressuring, and threatening to his workers. Similarly, in couples, one can take the power of decision and take a superior role in the relationship, making the other suffer.

Wherever it is, every time there is a dictatorial way of functioning, it is due to passion, hate, and to a lack of love, attention and laws during childhood.

Democratic Authority

Democracy is the highest level of humanity, because it does not come “naturally;” it is a state that needs to be achieved through all levels of a society, by bringing everyone closer to each other, and not above or under one another: The democratic way of functioning is horizontal.

There can be no democracy without acceptance and love of authority; no family without rules and order; no feeling of life without obeying the rhythm and laws of space-time.

The unit of life is everyday day of one’s life.

The unit of democratic is the free acceptance of its laws by every one.

THE LAWS OF TODAY

Everyday needs to be a success, meaning that today’s time is just for today; tomorrow is another day. A democratic day is a day lived with the respect of itself (time) and of one’s desire to make a success of it. This is a law, meaning we have no choice but to accept this day: Our life is a succession of days, not years.

The laws of energy are real: There is no energy without obedience to our desire to succeed each day. The choice to waste a day is not a choice; it is refusing the laws of time that are laws of life. We can choose the rhythm, but not any rhythm; we have to decide to provide efforts every day in order to follow and obey our desire to make a success of it.

And as we have to respect our lifetime, we have to respect the other, which also means really desiring this goal.

The language of desire is democratic because it asks us to be mature and to leave behind a language of lack that our unconscious built. If we do not work and even fight to leave this language, it will take the power over our lives, never allowing us to have independence or the right to desire a good real life.

Because our unconscious reflects our childhood and our suffering from the others (parents, family, etc.), it cannot be alive; it is the master of our lack, suffering, violence, and of our belief that it is impossible to find a way out of these lacks. Our unconscious is like a dictator that reduces us to becoming slaves, always feeling punished and guilty, and feeling the need to do something “extraordinary” to feel valuable; this is one of the reasons for the existence suicide bombers.

To become conscious of this enemy—our unconscious—is to begin to make peace with our self and with the others; because the more we become conscious of our negative interpretations and of the unreal nature of our memories, the more we can accept to forget about our anger and hatred for our parents, and the more we can grow and become proud of ourselves, of what we are becoming.

Pride has its laws. Many people mistake pride and self-complacency. To feel proud of ourselves is the feeling that comes after we make a successful action, meaning an action that brings us peace inside. Self-complacency is just an idea of superiority.

Real simplicity and democracy. Simplicity means to not be overwhelmed by obsessive thoughts of vengeance or other bad intentions; simplicity is inside, as the outside is too often deceitful. Simplicity is the result of hard work and efforts by each one of us, because “naturally,” the human mind is very complex. To become simple is to become light and in harmony inside.

DEMOCRACY CANNOT BE WITHOUT AUTHORITY

A child needs limits to accept reality. Bringing up a child without authority is very dangerous for the child’s future, as it can cause confusion and a lack of sense of direction. We all need to be directed before we learn to direct our own lives.

Authority means to teach the child what is important in life and what values need to be respected. If the parents are coherent with what they transmit, the child will respect the values they taught him/her; if the parents say something but do the contrary, this will cause incoherence in the child’s mind, and this is why the more the parents are mature and adult, the more the child has chances to be in peace, and to feel love for his/her parents. Love is an essential factor in the acceptance of rules in life.

Democracy requires teaching everyone to become autonomous and to share with others the result of their evolution. People need to evolve inside in order to become increasingly tolerant with themselves and with others; they need to take more and more responsibility over their lives.

The head of a nation represents the level of maturity and democracy of its people. In democracies, the people have the ability to exercise their power to counter-power, to equilibrate the power. But rare are the nations where a true ability to counter power is possible. The American nation does have this ability, but France does not, because too many political parties exist and because not enough people are willing to take responsibility for their life; they prefer to wait for benefits, rights, and help of the state. This behavior is dangerous, because this is how dictatorial authoritarianism can arrive.

A democratic mind does not need strict morality; it just requires a good level of consciousness to recognize what is good and what is bad for oneself and for others.

No conscious mind can desire war, murder or hate; but sometimes when morality is an obligation, and not a choice, the response can be excesses of immorality and perversion.

What is democratic is universal, and what is universal is a same choice of values for humanity. For instance, money is not a value in itself, but to work, to like our work, to strive for a good life is a real goal that everyone can share with others.

This unity in values comes from the unity in our desire; another example: nobody has the desire to die, but many people confuse desire and lack.

Desire is a democratic value that needs to be learned and developed. This means becoming conscious that it is not because our parents give us life that they give us the meaning of our life; and without meaning, there can be no life. And the structure of aliveness is this of our desire to feel alive. When we feel alive, we are in peace; but to feel alive we have to obey the authority of our desire, which asks us to obey its law—to give importance to what we do of our time more than to what we do with someone else. To be passionate about something is excellent for a healthy mind, but to be passionate about someone is an illusion with no future.

Democracy is about structuring everyone's desire. The instinct of life is too often hidden by our unconscious' drives and suffering. We all need to build our mental structure with time, experience and attention to our actions.

It is important to free ourselves of our prejudices, bad interpretations, and all of our repetitive way of functioning, which gives the wrong meaning to our life; so that we can open our minds rather than stay dependent on false knowledge. To have ideas about life is not the same as living it.

Rich or poor, Christian, Jewish or Muslim, Head of State or member of the working class, the way to becoming adult, responsible and human is the same; because the values of life are the same for everyone; the laws of life are the same for everyone; and to grow requires from all of us that we transform our immaturity and dependence into maturity and freedom of thought. We increasingly need one another; we increasingly become interdependent, whether it is for economic, social, or survival reasons.

DEMOCRATIC AUTHORITY AND GOVERNMENT

In democracy, the relationship between the leadership and the people is *horizontal*, meaning that the leadership's power is just to insure that the laws are respected by the people. And authority is essential to make people obey the law.

Normally, this power is not an abuse of power because it is regulated by the agreement made between the people and the leadership, on what the people accept and what the leaders asks them to accept: People can express themselves if they disagree with a law or a decision taken by the government or the leader. Democracy needs authority but does not prohibit reaction from the people. It is a constant mechanism of auto- regulation (auto-control) to find an agreement between authority and liberty.

Authority is essential for everyone, because we are social beings and we cannot live together without rules to respect the others; however, authoritarianism is the opposite, as a dictator can be identified by his abusive and disrespectful behavior toward his people.

A government needs to have laws in concordance with the interest of the people, but also with the different structures of this government. Even in democracy, "moments" of authoritarianism can exist, which is why in America, "us" is not an image, "us" is the people and its ability to counter-power, even if it takes time to succeed in front of an abusive or manipulative government. The American nation will never lose its values and its obedience to them. People represent an authority, just people in itself; because it has a heart, not just faith. Governments pass; people stay. This unity is an enormous strength and necessity to advance through time.

The necessity of authority: a consciousness to acquire. Authority is the guarantee that limits exist; we need to love it because it participates to our mental health and rationality. We need to choose to accept it instead of wasting time and energy believing that we would be better off if there was no restriction to our freedom. Freedom actually is to make our desire succeed, and to make of our life a positive compromise (and not sacrifice) between our liberties and our respect for everyone and everything. Nothing is perfect, and all is relative.

It is necessary to give value to the laws enforced by leadership. Which laws? Not the ones only one man decides because he is the leader, as in authoritarian rule, but those chosen by the people so they can live better within a society. Everyone has to honor his/her commitments and responsibilities to others, and to respect what they are and what they think. And above all, in a real democratic system, *the leader has to respect the same laws that he makes others respect. He has an obligation to serve the people, and the people to serve the democracy, not their leader.* Democracy and humanity are made to go hand in hand.

Conclusion

My hope, my sympathy, my love goes to the people, not because they suffer or they are manipulated and victimized by the leaders, but because it is in the people's hands that lie the real values of life; and the people's obedience to these values is that will make of them the real leaders of all politics and governments.

The people are this "us" that needs to be constructed; but for this to happen, everyone needs to choose love rather than hate, in order to fight for and win their rights to life. Life is not mystical, not an ideal, not an eternal value; everyone has only one life, and this is why time is so precious, and why we cannot waste it because of passionate, destructive and deathly drives.

Everyone has the desire to love his/her life, but for this to be, everyone has to make peace first in his/her own home, and to want to make this compromise between myth and reality. Myth is transmitted; but we need to conciliate it with our real desire to move in the direction of peace, and to make it everyday of our life, because this is how to make of our life a real success. Peace is not just a word; it is work, determination; it requires daily efforts and continuity. No love is possible without peace.

Definitions

Authoritarianism

Its origin is the symbolic language of a father, and the identification as father, mother, son or daughter.

Its master is the unconscious, with its ideas of elitism, superiority and superpower.

Its language is passionate, symbolic and violent, proposing an ideal of life, in which every life is nothing, but to die for an ideal *is* the meaning of life.

The other, the dictator, is at the center of everyone's lives.

It works based on lack; and actions are in fact reactions.

It relies on the people's dependence to the laws of only one person/organization; this obligation to obey encourages hate and war, not love and peace.

The future of dictatorial authoritarianism is war, confusion, and death.

Dictator only utilize the language of lack, but never exist on their own; this is how dictators move farther and farther from reality, until they can take refuge into the past, already gone, or until they become crazy.

In this system, there can be no open counter-power.

Democracy

It is based on a real identity of man or woman.

Its master is the conscious, with its feelings of equality, humanity, and obedience to the laws of real space-time.

Its language is real and conscious; and it wants to make of each individual's life a place where he/she can experiment with life.

The other, the democratic leader, is one among the others, no more.

The desire to feel alive is always at work; its energy is just for actions with anything, through anything, and not for or against somebody else.

No autonomy is possible without accepting the necessity for everyone to obey laws based on values that defend and love; because this is how life can start to make sense.

The future of democracy is peace, order in people's minds, evolution and life. Democracy follows the laws of the desire to become more and more alive, and to move toward today.

In democracy, counter-power is always at work: the government and the people are two different entities; there is a possibility to criticize, and this is how balance is established.