

Is Faith in Human Goodness Justified?

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Granted, a considerable percentage of the human population is currently behaving badly--- primarily leaders of many governments, corporations, and other institutions, but also followers of those leaders---and this, understandably, raises doubts that much faith should be placed in Human Goodness. Indeed, many readers have probably lost faith in the altruistic aspects of our Human Nature and thereby seriously doubt that an altruistic social and economic model, like the Children's Hospital Public Economy Model (CHPEM), is realistic.

But it is important to appreciate that the current disappointing and worrisome social behavior (at both individual and population levels) has occurred while the corporate capitalist model, its leaders, and its culture have dominated and prevailed. Much of that disappointing behavior is a reflection of the capitalist culture and its leadership---a culture and leadership that predictably up-regulates expression of our non-altruistic capacities and down-regulates expression of our altruistic capacities.

But this disappointing behavior, considering the circumstances that generate it and escalate it, does not mean that we should lose faith in all of Humanity and conclude that we cannot count upon Human Goodness. Human Goodness just needs to be unleashed, given opportunity, given oxygen. Expression of the altruistic capacities of our Human Nature needs to be up-regulated, and expression of our non-altruistic capacities need to be down-regulated.

The CHPEM and the CHPEM-inspired public economy that it could create provides that opportunity. It creates opportunity for our Human Goodness to be expressed, unleashed, freed. The CHPEM could markedly increase the percentage of people behaving well and markedly reduce the percentage of people behaving badly, thereby restoring and justifying faith in Human Goodness---a faith that has become severely shaken during the reign of corporate capitalism.

So, yes, faith in human goodness seems unwarranted when one looks at social behaviors occurring in our current corporate capitalist-dominated world. But that does not mean that individual and collective behaviors cannot change and does not mean that faith in Human Goodness could not rightly be warranted in a CHPEM-inspired world. Culture matters. The choice of social and economic model matters.