

Turn Off the Gaslights (Social Beauty's Song)

**By Rob Rennebohm, MD
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Note: This poem summarizes the full manuscript of *"Sowing Seeds of Social Beauty."*

They say that we aren't good enough
To create much Social Beauty
They say we're too selfish by nature
Too unfit for moral duty

They say we perform only for money
They claim Human Nature's to blame
Accept the Mean Arrangements of Man, they warn
For human nature is lame

But there's more to human nature
A loving, giving side
Driven by moral favor
Led by kind, incorruptible guides

We can create kind arrangements
That brim with generosity
We need not accept Mean Arrangements
That breed Social Atrocity

So turn off the gaslights
We don't need your power
We have our own energy
It's Social Beauty's hour

Turn off the gaslights
Stop the sick division
Let fresh winds take flight
To spread Social Beauty's vision

Who are “they” you ask?
And who are “we”?
They are trans-national ultra-capitalists
We? Those who sow seeds of Social Beauty
Those who set Kindness free

You know who people are by their fruits
By what their sown seeds grow
Does Social Beauty blossom?
Or do weeds of atrocity flow?

They say, don’t put faith in Human Goodness
They warn against such trust
But their social understandings are flawed
Belief in Human Goodness breeds what’s just

The root cause of humanity’s problems is social misunderstandings
About human nature, competition, types of incentive, types of leaders
Their understandings and ours differ widely
Different types of freedom, types of teachers, types of seeders

We all have capacities for both kind and unkind behaviors
Human nature has a spectrum of features
Expression of capacities can be up- or down-regulated
Much depends on the wisdom of the teachers

Yes, Human Nature consists of a spectrum of capacities
Great altruism, great evil at extremes
Some economic models upregulate expression of kind capacities
Others upregulate expression of capacities to be mean

There are leaders who are naturally kind
And leaders who are prone to be mean
When the latter populate positions of power
Mean arrangements are predictably seen

There is moral incentive and monetary incentive
One is altruistic, the other all about the “get”
There is individual liberty but also selfless freedom
We must ask: what do people need and how are those needs most kindly and wisely met

It's not about the "get," it's about the "give"
It's about determining the best ways for us to live

They think competition is all about beating
Dominating, diminishing the other
But the word comes from the Latin "com petere"
"to seek new heights together"
A fun and spirited way to raise each other up
So that all can become better

Their social understandings are mistaken
Human nature's not to blame
Our souls must not be crushed
It's their shallow view that's lame

Indeed, they are mistaken
Their understandings only half true
There are two sides to Human nature
We can help the mistaken, too

There are those who dearly love Humanity
And those who truly don't, with a spectrum in between
Those who don't, have seized great wealth and power
That's why current arrangements are so mean

Our leaders should be those who truly love Humanity
Not those who truly don't
We need leaders who follow wholesome principles
Not those who predictably won't

The ultra-capitalist's social beliefs are the source of their great power,
As long as we accept their spiel
But the deeply flawed nature of their understandings
Is where they are vulnerable; That's their Achilles heel

The flawed beliefs upon which capitalism is based
Are what capitalism depends on people believing
Its beliefs about human nature, incentives, competition, and freedom
Gaslight those who accept these false "truths" as real

But these beliefs represent capitalism's Achilles heel
When the public knows this, capitalism is sent reeling

When it is exposed that capitalist truths are not real
When the gaslit public discovers truths that fit how they truly feel
Capitalism's Achilles will have ruptured
The ultra-capitalists will lose their power
Humanity will no longer be captured
The gaslighters will take cover and cower
Human nature's kind side will blossom
The seeds of social beauty will finally be free to flower

We do not belong to evil
We belong to ourselves and to good
We must strive for truth's retrieval
We must behave as our hearts say we should

The Mean Arrangements of Man aren't good enough
Nor the social atrocities they breed
We must develop and teach more accurate understandings
Humanity can and must be freed

It is time to address root cause
Not focus only on symptoms and superficial blaming
It is time for deep, respectful dialogue,
Not silence, censorship, and shaming

We must challenge the social mis-understandings
The roots of what currently prevails
We must teach better understandings and stir fresh breezes
So the ships of peace may sail

We must challenge social mis-understandings
That create mean arrangements and abuse
We must create kind social arrangements
Not what the current model and its leaders produce

If prevailing social understandings go unchallenged
If we fail to fully educate
Peace and social beauty will be elusive
Social atrocities will only escalate

So turn off the gaslights
For they are mistaken
For certain we are good enough
It's time that we awaken

Turn off the gaslights
Their wealth is absurd and obscene
We are tired of all their rip-offs
Let's paint Social Beauty's scene

The public must awaken
Human nature's not to blame
Our souls must not shrink
We don't deserve such shame

Indeed, they are mistaken
Their view of Human nature is not true
Humanity must not be forsaken
We can help the mistaken, too

So, turn off the gaslights
The notion of "useless eaters" is disgustingly untrue
All people have value
Not just the obscenely wealthy few

Say hello to social beauty coming
To mean arrangements say your goodbyes
Say hello to human nature shining
Turn off the gaslight's lies

Say hello to social beauty coming
Say goodbye to social crime
Say hello to human nature beaming

It's Social Beauty's time

Turn off the gaslights

We're tired of being nickel and dimed

We're sick of exploitation and usury

And commercials all the time

Yes, tired of advertisements everywhere

So many, so often that even Saints swear

We're sick of AI Chatbots and hideous impersonality

We're tired of being unable to talk to a human being

Tired of society with inauthentic personality

Tired of being bilked by automatic renewals unseen

We're sick of monetization and profiteering

Sick of propaganda and wars

Sick of women and children being bombed

While militaries proudly roar

Turn off the gaslights

Let human nature's other side shine

We're good enough to achieve great heights

It's time to redesign

The public's time has come

It has long been overdue

Gaslighting's time is done

It is time for a path that's new and true

Their economic model is outdated

Its social understandings old and wrong

Their model creates injustice and misery

We need a huge choir that sings a new song

It's time for positive imaginings

Time to focus on more than what's wrong

It's time to honor human nature's best aspects

Time to compose Social Beauty's song

It's time to challenge the prevailing spiel
To expose the abusers' Achilles heel
But it's also time to move beyond what's wrong
To heal and create Social Beauty's song

To think Humanity's problems can be remedied
While allowing the current economic model to prevail
Is unrealistic, naïve, even Pollyannish
More realistic is a public economy
that allows ships of kindness to sail.

Dear Humanity, don't despair
Don't believe their spiel
Seeds of Social Beauty can be sown
We know their Achilles heel

So turn off the gaslights
We don't need your power
We have our own energy
It's Social Beauty's hour

Turn off the gaslights
Stop the sick division
Let fresh winds take flight
To spread Social Beauty's vision

It's time for positive creation
Time to focus on more than what's wrong
It's time to honor human nature's best aspects
Time to compose and sing Social Beauty's song

What does all of this mean?
What would "We" do differently than "They?"
What would society look like?
If sowers of Social Beauty held sway?

What do we propose?
And what do ultra-capitalists oppose?

It's the Children's Hospital Model that we have in mind
Where kind arrangements you can find
In children's hospitals Social Beauty naturally flows
It's an altruistic public economy model
Based on kindly meeting children's needs
It's based on a positive view of human nature
With leaders who are not prone to greed
A model that can be applied to a general economy freed

As Victor Hugo wisely stated:
Vast public activity must be created
To think of others is our highest duty
The greatest goal is Social Beauty
The current economic model is outdated
Study of social infirmities is essential
We must seek root cause and solution
We must ponder over social questions
Study wages and production
And ensure fair distribution

We must stretch out our hands to the exhausted and feeble
Return dignity, purpose, and meaning to people
Open schools for all aptitudes
Change not just habits but also attitudes
We must seek truth's retrieval
We must proportion enjoyment to effort
And gratification to need
The highest justice is conscience
There is no place for greed
From Empire's clutches, we must be freed

Awakening of conscience is greatness of soul
Public economy is the wiser goal
Those demoralized by lucre
Lead us only towards stupor
Those petrified in dogma dig us deep into a hole
Mercantile absorption diminishes the radiance of a people
Deprives it of the universal aim

Lowers its horizon by lowering its level
Starts war after war, all the same
Creating ever-worsening global shame

Genuflexion before the dollar
Does not make one better or taller
The education of wealth deafens and weakens
While the education of struggle strengthens and deepens
For some, dread of suffering is carried to aversion for those in squalor
If liberty is the summit
Equality is the base
The highest equality is equity
Which does not mean big spears of grass
And little oak trees—all vegetation growing at same pace

In politics there is a compromise school
Tepid water is between warm and cool
But should we not strive for better than tepid
Shouldn't warm social arrangements be the goal, shouldn't we be intrepid?
Disciplined change should be the rule
Neither despotism nor terrorism tolerated
Healers must remain innocent
Change must be civilized
Progress must not be belligerent
And methods must not be discriminant

Victor Hugo goes on to say,
And here we will shift to verse that's free:
"Progress is the mode of man;
There is no more a backward flow of ideas
Than a backward flow of a river;
The amount of civilization is measured
By the amount of imagination;
Beneath the mortality of society
We see the imperishability of the human soul;
The idea of Social Beauty, seemingly so lost,
Is no more in danger than a star in the jaws of a cloud;
Those who despair are wrong

Grief everywhere is only occasion for good always”

Those who promote the capitalist economic model disagree
They say human beings, by nature, cannot create Social Beauty
Not good enough to sustain social progress
Not good enough to prevent wars; too likely to oppress
And too tempted to become bourgeoisie
They simplistically blame Human nature
They claim we are too prone to corruption
Don't put faith in Human Goodness, they warn
For such leads only to dismay and disruption
Complete control is their main intention

But they and their social understandings are mistaken
They can't handle their beliefs being shaken
They and those who accept their gaslighting
Are the ones who stand in the way of wonders happening
It's time for the public to awaken
The ultra-capitalists' narrative must be challenged
Those paralyzed by doubts and fears
Are the ones who stand in the way of Human Progress
Leaving hopes for Social Beauty in tears
Preventing Social Beauty's song from reaching people's ears

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