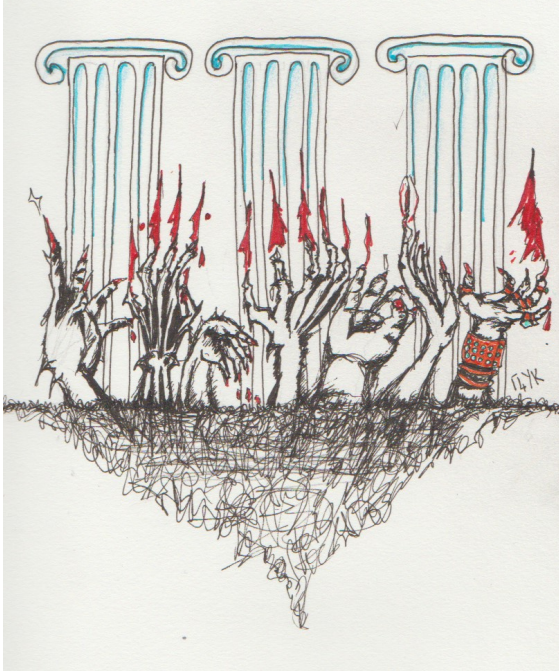


Democracy or Democracy?



Many people take the current form of democracy for granted, but have you ever considered what the ancient Athenians would think of what we did with their concept? They believed that two minds are better than one and that by sharing their views and examining them together better decisions could be made on how to benefit the people. A view implying all share a common goal of welfare for all and that different opinions will tend to converge as truth and wisdom reveal themselves. A wonderful ideal, which unfortunately has little to do with modern politics.

Modern politics are more similar to the Roman concept of different factions competing for power seeking to gain popular support from both high and low. Those who have less self-interest in their hearts can become champions for their lobby group in the political arena. The quest for truth and wisdom has given place to a winner takes all system of debate and decision making.

We know that the person who is willing to go further than others has an edge in competitions and how far people will go is only bound by how far they can go. Does winning make a person more right or just a better fighter or one willing to do what other people ball at? Why do we like the ancient Germans chose to seek justice by a battle between advocates? Why don't we seek the burden of decision making, but prefer to cheer on our favourites in the arena?

Violence provides a clear dominator, a strong protector, good breeding stock with the skills to survive and thrive. So it is clear why we, drawing on our ancient herd instincts, would chose such a system of power and control. What is unclear to me is why we would consider such a system a democracy simply because we select and cheer on our champions. Modern leaders don't seek truth or wisdom, but instead try to appeal to the lowest common denominator to gain as much popular support as possible. Everyone understands fear, wrath, greed, lust, vanity, pride and sloth, but few master freedom, brotherhood and equality. We are governed by the beast with many heads rather than a light trinity. Isn't it time for at least a little bit of truth and wisdom and start calling our system of government a demoncracy?

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