



## **POWER, RATIONALITY AND COMMON SENSE**

Power, rationality, and common sense, the pillars of a balanced society

A just and stable society rests on the interplay of power, rationality, and common sense. Power drives action, rationality sharpens thought, and common sense grounds both in everyday human experience.

In any community, power is essential to structure collective life, uphold rules, and ensure security. But without rationality, that is, without reflection, logic, and ethics, and without common sense, power can quickly become arbitrary or disconnected from real needs. A balanced society relies on institutions capable of exercising authority with discernment, taking into account individual rights, on-the-ground realities, and the common good.

When guided by reason and common sense, political power enables the creation of just laws, the protection of liberties, and the encouragement of civic participation. Montesquieu, for instance, saw the separation of powers as a rational mechanism to prevent authoritarian excesses. But history shows that without safeguards, political power can descend into populism, repression, or corruption. Common sense, in this context, means listening to the people while rejecting simplistic or demagogic solutions.

Family power, often embodied in parental authority, must be exercised with reason and common sense. This means listening, being consistent, respecting the child's needs while setting clear boundaries. Power that is too rigid or incoherent can lead to tension, psychological wounds, and a loss of trust. Parental common sense is knowing when to intervene, when to let go, and how to transmit values without imposing them.

In the professional sphere, power is expressed through hierarchy, management, and decision-making. Rational and sensible leadership is based on competence, transparency, and recognition of talent. It fosters motivation, performance, and a climate of trust.

Conversely, power based on fear or injustice breeds stress, demotivation, and disengagement. Managerial common sense lies in combining efficiency with humanity.

Power without discernment or common sense can lead to serious excesses: abuse, injustice, tension, and even acts of violence. History is full of examples where power, detached from ethical or social logic, has led to human catastrophes, from dictatorships to civil wars. In many cases, common sense could have prevented ideological blindness or absurd decisions.

Conversely, power grounded in reason, common sense, and responsibility can positively transform societies. It enables the building of strong institutions, the resolution of conflicts, the protection of the most vulnerable, and the encouragement of innovation. It becomes a lever for progress when guided by reflection, experience, and an intuitive understanding of reality.

To exercise power with discernment is to know how to listen, analyze, anticipate, and decide while considering the consequences. It means recognizing one's limits, seeking wise counsel, and remaining faithful to ethical principles. Here, common sense acts as a moral and practical compass, allowing for sound judgment in complex situations.

History reveals that power, when steered by lucid vision, grounded reason, and common sense attuned to reality, becomes a force for profound transformation. From Pericles to Lincoln, Napoleon to Mandela, the great leaders remind us that true governance is, above all, an act of service, marked by clarity, pragmatism, and benevolence.

The dialogue between power, rationality, and common sense lies at the heart of every free and just society. It is not a matter of choosing between authority and reflection, but of allowing them to coexist in a fruitful balance, capable of meeting the challenges of the contemporary world with wisdom and effectiveness.

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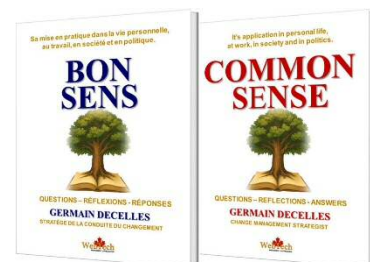
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