

Sir,

THE GOOD MASTER (CAPTAIN).

The following Principles were originally expressed for the guidance of ships' captains. In giving them expression, however, it occurred to me that they applied equally to the captains of ships ashore, whether great or small, to Captains of Industry and Captains of Ships of State.

History teaches us that when some or all of a ship's people are in a state of mutiny (strike) the fault, almost invariably, lies with the captain and/or the shipowners. This being the case it follows that the captain and/or the shipowner should be disciplined equally.

The word 'people' is used in it's medieval sense as being the crew of a ship.

THE PRINCIPLES.

If you will grant the people the respect they deserve as fellow human beings regardless of rank, race, colour, Creed or sex;

If you will take them into your confidence and trust them;

If you will deal with them with humour, consideration and, when necessary, with compassion;

If you will, when you make a mistake, and who does not, apologise for it and try to rectify it;

If you will teach them when they know not how to perform the task you are setting them;

If you will not exploit them;

If you will not cheat them;

If when you have to discipline one or more of them you try, as far as possible, to make the punishment fit the crime and treat them with understanding afterwards. N.B. This is NOT an advocacy for corporal and capital punishment but for the withdrawal of appropriate privileges;

If you will keep your infrastructure in good repair and appearance;

If you will keep your environment clean and sweet;

then it is the experience of all captains, if they hold to these Principles, that their people will work cheerfully and hard and their ship, even a Ship of State, will work efficiently and have a pleasing appearance for the enjoyment of all.

Similar Principles have been in existence for several millenia. I have merely collated them. They have been conveniently overlooked by many captains for their own gross enrichment. Had they not been so, the Tolpuddle martyrs (farm workers in England who tried to form a Trade Union and were transported to Australia for twenty years) may have been spared their agonies and Trades Unions, which were born of dire necessity, may never have been formed.

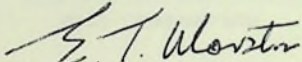
Deuteronomy: "You shall NOT oppress your servant who is poor and needy."

Confucius: "If you desire what is good, the people will at once be good. If a ruler himself is upright all will go well even though he does not give orders. But if he himself is not upright, even though he gives orders, *they will not be obeyed*. Sullenness, resentment and an un-cooperative attitude of the people, together with the excessive growth of lawlessness, are the direct result of the greed and amorality of the rulers."

There are, of course, many captains who, consciously or unconsciously, hold to these Principles. There are many more who do not to the sorrow of their people. It is to them to whom I refer these Principles.

Democracy and democratic majorities are not a magical 'open Sesame' to Nirvana. They do not guarantee that the minorities will be ruled in rectitude and justice. I suggest that the above Principles, if written in the 'imperative' rather than the 'suggestive' provide an expectation, by the people, of decent, honest humanitarian Government and, further, provides them with a redress through the Courts if it is not forthcoming. They would certainly have the right to demand disobedience of the rulers by the military and/or the police if they were ordered, by the rulers, to oppress the people.

It is adherence to these Principles that has enabled my fellow Captains, and myself, to maintain Law and Order aboard ships carrying multi-racial and multi-Faith crews without recourse to the gun, the truncheon or the fist.



E.T. Worster.

Master Mariner. (Retired).

p.s. There will not be peace in Northern Ireland until the 'powers that be' have the courage to look the truth in the face and re-act to it with Justice.

E.T. Worster.

