

# **The Principles of the Revolutionary Movement of Human Workers for a Sustainable Future**

We are revolutionaries of spirit. We are workers. We do not wish to destroy. We wish to create.

By Okra Jay, Stenographer

With last spring's Arab youth uprisings, the summer's youth protests in Israel, Europe and the UK, and this fall's occupy Wall Street movement in New York City, it has become abundantly clear that the generation of people in the world so often called "the millenials" is instigating a massive global revolution and enlightenment. As governments topple around the world, we, the group of title, wish to offer a comprehensive set of principles and beliefs by which we plan to heal our world. We do this because the politicians of the world do not represent our interests. They are playing a game of disturbing rhetoric and sensationalist bravado that we reject as at best childish and at worst deeply destructive. We are stepping into the void out of necessity and more than that, out of a deeply held belief that the solutions to our problems are clear and we must only work hard to implement them.

We are not a new movement. Indeed we are a movement as old as humanity itself. We are a return to the pioneer spirit of the first agriculturalists, of the pilgrims, of the cowboys. We have taken our beliefs from studying the foundational philosophies of human societies throughout history. We do not claim originality, only the need for a renewed integration of our very old philosophy into the bleeding soul of our times. We will work the land. We will relegate our tools to their proper places and uses, and not be used by them. We will build infrastructure that is commensurate with our current understanding of our planet, our localized communities, our bodies, and our minds. We will build cultures of wisdom and compassion.

To the current members of the US government and those CEOs of major corporations and banks who have thrived on greed,

We will continue to occupy Wall Street and the centralized sites of this country's financial institutions and build localized independent democratic societies in our occupied places until our demands are met. These are our demands: Free of us of our debts, both monetary and spiritual. Work with us to phase you out of power as we implement improved structures of government and commerce. And finally, make no attempt to stop our progress. We do not ask you to save us. We ask you to move aside so that we may save ourselves.

These are our principles:

We believe that we are not exempt from the consequences of alterations in our planet's climate. We abstain from the farce of a political argument over global warming. We are not so arrogant as to believe that we can destroy a planet, but remain concerned that we are making the planet increasingly unlivable for ourselves. We see that the Earth is not infinite and that many of the ways in which we consume and use its land, water, and resources are destructive of our habitat and therefore not viable for the survival of our species. There will be no one to save us from this destruction but ourselves. That being said, we are a motivated, creative, skilled, and mindful group that can and will right our course by first and foremost declaring ourselves individual human workers of the land and its materials.

The Frontier has always been and continues to be our greatest national resource. The current Frontier is the innovation taking place in the production and proliferation of sustainable energy for farming, building, and relationships between people.

We will create a society sustained by locally grown food and sheltered in localized climate specific buildings that utilize renewable energy and reusable water.

We reject the use of coal in any of our work and seek to put an absolute end to the practice of mountaintop removal.

We cultivate the principle of sustainability in our individual relationships, our building structures, our methods for growing and distributing food, and the revitalization of our communities. We do not want the jobs of the Obama or any other politician's congressional plan. We know what jobs we must do. We have learned the skills of building, engineering, design, farming, and community organizing and our creativity in problem solving knows no bounds. The only thing hindering us is the monetary debt and the responsibilities to a dying society with which those in power have shackled us.

We believe that the young people of the cities of New Orleans, Detroit, Baltimore, and Portland, OR are currently beginning the trends necessary to restart our country through the cultivation of urban farms, innovation in renewable energy sources including wind, solar, and hydroponic, and sensible climate-aware policies and practices in architecture and city planning. We highlight them as examples. Similar efforts are also underway in cities and towns across the country and the world.

We believe that healthy minds, healthy bodies, healthy communities and a healthy society are tied together in a mutually dependent holistic manner and are founded upon the cultivation of individual spiritual strength and discipline.

We believe that if you follow the current troubles of our times to their rational beginnings, you will find a flawed system of democracy and commerce. However, if you pursue deeper into the reasons for such flawed systems, you will find a failure in the enterprise of cultivated individual spirituality.

We believe that change in our country and our world begins on the level of the individual and we advise each individual person to take the responsibility to his/her/their spirit seriously. Cultivate yourself. Engage with art. Listen to all the music you can. Read as many books as you can. Read novels. Read the Confusion Analects and the Dao de Ching. Read Emerson and Thoreau. Meditate. We believe in looking within to learn who we are so that we can work for the Good in the capacity of our choosing in the area in which we will most excel.

We believe in the importance and necessity of art, music, and writing to engage and stimulate the imagination of the individual thereby fostering in him/her/them interior strength of spirit and an ability to think independently. We also believe that art is an exceptional tool for learning the practice of sympathetic understanding, which is to say the ability to see and feel the world through the eyes and skin of another living creature.

We welcome and celebrate all types of individuals. The only people we will not tolerate in our movement are those who are willingly hateful, ignorant, and violent. We believe that the details of how an individual lives his/her/their life is of secondary importance to the spirit in which he/she/they live that life. If you are motivated by fear, anger, and hatred, we are open to helping you so long as you wish to be helped. If you are motivated by wonder, love, mindfulness, and kindness we hope you join us in our efforts.

We are keenly aware of the history of disenfranchisement of women, blacks, Latinos, Native Americans and all minority groups and are mindful of the spiritual burdens carried by the individuals in these groups. We believe that our varied histories, cultures, and perspective provide invaluable insights and wisdom into who we are and how to create a sustainable future.

We respect every individual so long as he/she/they respect him/her/themself. Even those who do not respect themselves we are respectful of, and we encourage them to join us and to cultivate a rich respect for their own individual spirits.

We do not ask any single individual to carry the burden of saving the world. We believe that if only each person makes his/her/their decisions independently of spirit, asking him/her/themself if he/she/they are doing something for good rather than for profit or personal glory, we will each find grace and honor in our work and no single one of us will ever be crushed under the weight of our tasks but we will instead find ourselves freer and lighter than ever before.

As we work to rebuild, we will carry all those who cannot work themselves. We will also carry all those who choose not to work until our backs can no longer bear their weight. At that point, those who have theretofore abstained can make their own individual decisions and will not be judged.

We do this for ourselves, for our future, for the betterment of our country and our world. All those who wish to use the fruits of our labor for these ends are welcome. We will not however be the blue-collar labor of the middle class. All those who wish to use us to further their own personal and selfish ends will be met with blank stares and deaf ears.

To those who would pursue the professional work of doctors, lawyers, professors, scientists, etc. We encourage you to engage with whatever you believe as an individual to be the place that will make you happiest and allow you to contribute to Good in your life and the lives of others. We encourage you to use your knowledge and expertise to care for others and further the cause of a sustainable future for humankind.

We recognize that an overabundance of internet, television, and advertising for products often has the effect of scattering our minds and clouding our judgment. We will focus our minds and gain liberating clarity by relegating the tools of computers, internet, and televisions to their proper places and utilizing them towards the laborious

pursuit of an ideal and sustainable human society.

We do not believe the internet and the “openness” of its current forms of social media to be our savior. We believe that as individuals, we cannot be co-opted by the uniform identities of Facebook and Google, which turn our sacred selves into mass-market products to be sold to advertising companies. However, we recognize and appreciate the internet as a powerful tool of organization, communication, and research.

We reject the superfluous rhetoric of the members of our government who are shouting at each other in an echo chamber.

We see that those currently in power have so far ingloriously failed. We are not angry at them because they failed. We choose to believe that they put in a good faith effort to do what was best for themselves in their time. We are angry at them for attempting to ensure our failure so that they can blame theirs on the impossibility of the task and not their own shortcomings. If they insist on remaining steadfast captains steering doomed vessels, we ask them to do what is noble and steer their sinking ships away from us, the escaping survivors.

We believe that those people currently in power can offer us sage advice only once they have vacated their seats of power and grown wise with the memories of their failures. If they choose to entrench themselves, they will be ignored and forgotten.

We are nonviolent and we do not believe in the rhetoric of “you are either with us or against us.” If you are with us, we welcome you with open arms. If you are not with us, we open ourselves to your questions, arguments, and ideas. If you are against us, you will be listened to so long as your objections are of principle. Otherwise you will be ignored. We have no intention of wasting our energy fighting you. There is important work we must do. If you stand in our way, we will walk around you. If you insist on planting firm your feet in the cement of power blocking our path like the hummingbird guarding his flower, we will work where we stand. Should you force us to do the jobs you want us to do, we will take after Melville’s Bartleby and refuse and then sit until we rot. Should you send your police with their guns to force us to do your work or to stop us from doing the good work of creating sustainable infrastructure for ourselves, our communities, our country, and our world, then we will sit silent and still in your jails until we die.

We do not believe that any system of economy is to blame for the pain and suffering of these current times but that a culture of greed and groupthink has corrupted such a system. We reject the notion that “capitalism justifies greed.” As a system of economy, capitalism is not a sentient being and has no more ability to justify a human vice than a napping pod could justify sloth. We do however recognize that there are those who hide behind capitalism to justify their own greed. For this reason, we believe in a transparent free market and spiritual revival in our culture emphasizing the values of Honesty, Generosity, and Compassion. We believe that such a market can easily be tied to the doing of Good so long as we use it so. We believe that capitalism is a tool at our disposal and should our tools began to take control over us, we need only to work harder at cultivating spirits of strength in ourselves to turn them into tools once more.

We believe that he/she/they who possesses the spirit of the entrepreneur is a vital part of our world’s future. Continued innovation is critical. However, we maintain that the endeavors of business professionals will only be viable if his/her/their business practices are grounded in spiritual integrity such that no individual sacrifices his/her/their personal integrity for the sake of profit. No business is separate from the individuals who create and operate it.

Furthermore, we maintain that the time of a financial epicenter pulling the strings of economy and controlling the commerce of the world is over and we will implement the transition to a decentralized community based economy, one that recognizes the value of investment, innovation, and growth founded upon a value system of individual honesty and the betterment of humanity.

We reject the false gods of monetary success, image, comfort, and convenience. We do not believe there is no value in these things; we only reject the notion that they are the pinnacles of freedom. We do not believe that freedom means the right to indulgence or a right to excessive convenience. We believe that freedom is a personal endeavor of reflection and discovery and that it is contingent upon us growing our own food and/or knowing where our food comes from, knowing how the electricity and plumbing in our houses work and where the energy and water we use comes from, knowing ourselves and our neighbors and living without fear, and living without the shackles of debt inherited from our educations or the mistakes of our leaders.

We believe in a criminal justice system that rehabilitates and educates and treats all offenders as the human beings they are. We believe in the legality of all recreational drugs and we will immediately release all those prisoners who are currently incarcerated only for the so-called “crime” of drug use. Should they need or want it, we will provide treatment and care for those addicted to drugs and alcohol. Furthermore, we will reassess every criminal case and release all those guilty of the “crimes” of vagrancy, public intoxication, and busking.

We believe that the epidemics of cancer, diabetes, and obesity are caused largely by the unhealthy diet of our country, which is built on a food economy of type 2 corn and animals pumped with unhealthy antibiotics and hormones. We believe that an organic and local food economy is the only solution to this problem. We have all the tools and skills necessary to put this in place and are currently working to do so.

We appreciate and welcome the advice and guidance of our parents and grandparents. We humbly request that you share with us the wisdom of your experience. We will treat you with the utmost respect and dignity as you age.

We do not believe that competition can be the central catalyst for excellence in education. We believe in giving abundant resources to well-trained educators who will give individualized attention and care to all children.

We believe that Justice is not an end in itself but is an important means towards the ends of Peace, Happiness, and Liberty.

We are careful not to confuse confidence for wisdom and we are wary of false messiahs who exude confidence and charm without substance.

We believe in the sacredness of all life and we thank and respect any animals whose lives we take for our sustenance.

We believe in the right of all living creatures to drink and have sex whenever they want to, as long as they do so responsibly.

We call on all nations to disarm their nuclear weapons and close their nuclear power plants. We will not use nuclear power in our work.

We reject the overabundant language of the 24 hours news media as we see it as the primary contributor to the corrosion and degradation of meaning in our words, which is our most precious human resource.

We use sparse language to ensure that we stay true in deed to those things we say.

We believe as Man Ray did that “there is no progress in art any more than there is progress in making love. There are simply different ways of doing it.”

We believe in the beauty of intentional process and in the practical use of the products of that process.

We encourage all citizens to keep dream journals and to take the advice of Lewis Miner, protagonist of Sam Lipsyte’s novel *Home Land*, and to send those dream journals to congress.

To those who would accuse us of naiveté and impossible idealism, we find your cynicism and your irony tiresome and destructive. We will not be deterred by your scoff of superiority, your eye rolling, your rib nudging, or your sarcasm. We reject the paralysis engendered by your attitude.

We believe as Manasseh, the optimistic opera singer acquaintance of Charlie Citrine in Saul Bellow’s novel *Humboldt’s Gift* did that if every person in the world decides to scuff his/her/their feet in unison against the ground of the Earth, we can change the rotation of our planet. And while we acknowledge Charlie’s objection that some would scuff the wrong way out of perversity or ignorance, we believe that we can scuff strongly enough to account for and overcome the perverse and the ignorant.

We are ever optimistic.

“With all its sham, drudgery, and broken dreams the world is still a beautiful place. Be cheerful. Strive to be happy.” - From *The Desiderata* by Max Ehrmann

One last note: This is an open and unfinished document. To all those who wish to join us in the effort to reconstruct our civilization in the spirit of love and goodness; we welcome your suggestions, your notations, and your additions. Make your own version and pass it on!