

Gardinnia—Founders—Without Money—Purple Centrist (7)

Rick Brigham © 2023

Bricks (the author of the book):

This chapter is part of a novel, Gardinnia.

In reading the novel, the reader would know these characters.

As a standalone piece, I 've added parenthetical descriptions to the characters to enhance the reading.

Please also note that Gardinnians capitalize concepts; I am using their capitalizations.

Derek (a self-effacing janitor):

Could we, for a Best Society

Remove all the layers over the True Values?

Could we, for a Best Society,

Live without money?

My friend, Al, is suggesting the idea.

Malchus (a film-producing banker):

No way. Impossible. It could never work.

Who is this Al, anyway? What is he up to? Why won't he show himself?

Renata (an herbalist) to Malchus:

You are nothing if not consistent.

Must you always be rude?

Max (who is in the audience, watching this recorded presentation) is drawn to the anger in Renata.

He enjoys that she has snapped at Malchus.

He chuckles to see Malchus turn away and subtly curl a lip.

The Founders (who are in a holographic recording) stop motion.

Only Jeremy (the holographic Facilitator who engages with the audience) continues to move.

Jeremy, from his seat, turns to the audience:

At that time, there was a strong reaction to Derek's proposal to try to live without money.

The full discussion is available in the Archives.

What follows has been heavily edited.

You will see frequent shifts in the recording because of the edits.

Jeremy turns back to join the Founders' discussion.

The Founders resume motion.

Malchus:

Rude or not, this proposal is extreme and, I think, completely ridiculous.

No one would do anything if they were no money, there would be no motivation.

Sai (a polite realtor):

I think it has been tried to varying results.

If it could work, wouldn't it have already been done somewhere?

Trey (*a downcast pastor*):

I do have the list of the government Isms...we could examine them for...

York (*a cosmetics mogul, scientist, and high school teacher*) interrupts:

Derek, or Al, are both right about the Money Skew.

I've seen it firsthand.

I have a lot of money and it causes issues.

Part of the appeal of Gardinnia is there wasn't any asking for money.

Max (*in the audience*) looks at York and wonders.

Max knows of York's wife, Melvina, and her cosmetics empire.

He knows of their great wealth.

What could be so bad about so much beauty and money?

Genny (*a young, slender dancer*):

I've often lived without money.

It's not easy.

I've wondered what it would be like to live in a community that is not based on money.

Audrey (*an environmental advocate and botanist*):

Money is often the core reason for pollutants.

But it's naïve to think we can get away from it.

Bula (*a professor of philosophy*):

From my studies I doubt, deeply, that we could do it, but I stay open to new approaches.

Derek?

Derek (*the self-effacing janitor*):

Might I outline a scenario that might give us some insight?

Malchus (*the film-producing banker*) looking around:

You've dragged us this far; it seems you have to do whatever is next.

No one else objects.

Derek (*the self-effacing janitor*):

In a Best Society we need to think about our collective management, which we call government.

In the culture in which we live there are, basically, two political parties.

This division in perspectives is true in many countries.

For our country, there are, if I may, blue liberals and red conservatives.

Al and I are Purple Centrists.

Malchus (*the film-producing banker*) guffaws.

Derek, glancing patiently at Malchus:

I would like to take one political topic and look at it from these three points of view.

Malchus:

Why?

Renata (*the herbalist*) exhales a loud sigh.

Derek:
Please, just come along with me for a few minutes.
The point will become clear.

Derek waits.

There are no objections.

Derek:
Let's look at Healthcare.

*Bricks (the author of the book):
To the Reader—first, thank you, as always, for reading!
The Founders eventually used the Wall Monitor to show the three perspectives.
For the following discussion I chose a matrix to show the basics of what they found.
The Matrix shows the political perspectives, and the progression in thinking.
Please know that this conversation was gleaned out of a two-and-a-half-hour discussion.
Most emotions, accusations and threats have been removed.*

| Red Conservative | Purple Centrist | Blue Liberal |
|---|---|--|
| Derek: There is the Red Conservative. | | |
| | | Derek: There is the Blue Liberal. |
| | Derek: A Purple Centrist is not a rigid political view. It is a flexible perspective that seeks to blend the colors of blue and red to purple, and to blend the conservative and liberal views to centrist. | |
| Derek: Is there someone who would be willing to represent the conservative view? York: I will. | | |
| | | Derek: Is there someone who would be willing to represent the liberal view? |

| Red Conservative | Purple Centrist | Blue Liberal |
|--|--|--|
| | | Audrey: Gladly. |
| Derek: York, how would you define conservatism? York: As little government as possible so that the individual can make his own decisions. | | |
| | | Derek: Audrey—liberalism? Audrey: Needing government to manage the greed of the wealthy, York,... to be sure all the needs of everyone are met. |
| | Derek: Ah..., thank you. Regarding healthcare... Can you both agree that everyone should have access to healthcare? | |
| York: Yes, with conditions. | | |
| | | Audrey: Yes... Without conditions! |
| | Derek: How do we get there? | |
| | | Audrey: A single payer system. Because of the selfishness of the wealthy, there needs to be central management to balance the extremes in our society. |
| York: A single payer system would give the few too much access to the information of the many, and | | |

| Red Conservative | Purple Centrist | Blue Liberal |
|--|--|--|
| <p>it would foster tyrannical control.</p> <p>We would need a combination of private and public funding options that allows full individual choice.</p> | | |
| | <p>Derek: So, the issue is really about paying for the healthcare.</p> <p>What if money were not an issue?</p> <p>What if money were not in the picture?</p> | |
| | | <p>Audrey: If everyone had healthcare, I would be satisfied, but wouldn't that need a single system?</p> |
| <p>York: Not at all. The single system is promoted for the payments, not for the care. Without the invasiveness of money all healthcare would be between the patient and the provider, which sounds good, very good, but who would be willing to do this work without pay?</p> | | |
| | <p>Derek: That becomes the primary question—if there were no money would there be any providers?</p> | |

Derek (*the self-effacing janitor*) to Jeremy (*the Facilitator*):
Jeremy, how is the clinic that is here in Gardinnia managed?

Jeremy:
It's run by a team of salaried Nurse Practitioners.
There are three and they all live here, in Gardinnia.

Derek:

If the nurses had All Needs Met, would they continue to provide healthcare?

Jeremy:

Hmm, I don't know.

You'd have to ask them.

Renata (*the herbalist*):

If I had All Needs Met, I would definitely want to continue with my homeopathic research.

I know that a better diet would eliminate the need for many medications and interventions.

If I had everything I needed personally, that's where I'd be spending my day.

It would be like play for me.

York:

I'd be interested in being a part of the clinic, too.

I'm pretty much done with researching lipstick and powders and creams.

In my work with cosmetics, I've often wondered at the healing properties of chemicals.

I've also wondered if healing a bone break could be quickened with sonics.

I'm with Renata.

If I could, I'd be spending my days there.

Derek:

Could we provide healthcare without an exchange of money?

If we could, does this remove all "Outer Culture" wrangling about healthcare?

Malchus:

This is all very interesting fiction.

Let's make a movie!

I'll bankroll it, because it would sell.

But forget about it working in real life.

Derek:

Jeremy, would Mr. Lakeman (*owner of Gardinnia, who is monitoring the Founders*) let us try it?

Jeremy touches his earpiece, knowing Mr. Lakeman has heard, and listens for his response.

Jeremy smiles:

Mr. Lakeman is skeptical, but is willing to go for the ride.

He's interested to see if, and how, this could work.

Derek:

Great.

I have a plan; well, AI does.