

Brazil, July 4, 2026

The Possible Seed

A Guide for Action and Thought

When we face a problem, we rarely stop to ask what causes it. What we usually do is offer a list of solutions based on our own opinion. It is counterintuitive to pause for a moment and analyze the situation at hand. Human beings evolved to respond immediately to threats. When it comes to society and government, things become even more chaotic: tempers flare, because everyone holds the exact remedy for society's ills, and those who disagree face hostility from the other side.

In the end, the debate always tilts toward one of two solutions: waiting for a savior of the nation, or the slow collapse of the current system so that we may rebuild it, never knowing for certain whether the future will be better than the present. Neither option is realistic.

What if we did not have to live in an endless holding pattern of hope, or drift toward radicalism? What if we accepted that the problem belongs to each of us, and changed the way we look at it?

If we stop asking “Why are things this way?” and start asking “What kind of society do we want to live in?”, we change the center of the debate. If a society is made of individuals, and if those individuals are responsible for solving its problems, we arrive at the following question:

“What kind of people must exist so that, one day, power is held by those who work for the progress of their people?”

That question carries the seeds of tomorrow. These seeds are planted by organized minorities, builders of citizens. Every mature society is shaped this way. Today, the organized minorities in our country are efficient at extraction and rewarded for remaining so. They do not form citizens; they exploit the current system and its flaws. Parties, corporations, pressure groups, bureaucracies, political fiefdoms, and protected sectors keep us in a permanent state of stupor.

The possible seeds will be planted by producers, educators, managers, families, and local leaders who do not depend on the existing system and who ask no moral permission to cultivate the society we deserve. These people already exist, but perhaps they do not yet see one another. They may believe their effort is isolated or futile. Once we recognize that we stand before a horizon of decades of social transformation, we realize that the moment to begin is now.

The Possible Seed was not born to be led by a central leadership, nor to become a party, a formal organization, or a project of power. It is an open idea for anyone who wishes to adopt it, practice it, and multiply it within the spaces they already occupy. Its strength does not depend on command, structure, or permission, but on convergence, example, and responsibility.

Building Communities of Competence

Communities of competence are small local, business, educational, and cultural circles that live by the following code:

Whoever promises, delivers;

*Whoever receives help, repays it with responsibility;
Whoever leads, serves;
Whoever produces is honored;
Whoever lives as a parasite loses standing;
Whoever learns, teaches;
Whoever prospers opens a way for others;
Whoever is near comes first; whoever is far comes after.*

A parasite is not someone unable to contribute. It is someone who, through some mechanism, is encouraged to remain dependent or to use the State for their own benefit, and rewarded for staying that way. The shame falls on the mechanism and on those who exploit it, never on those who need help to get back on their feet.

This is a code of continuous social improvement. It is not ideology; it is behavior before it becomes culture.

The goal is to form people, families, companies, and communities that value independence, competence, duty, value creation, local responsibility, and shame of parasitism.

Where to Plant the Seed

Circles where we can be a positive influence and that lie within our reach.

Families

The first source of values and unity. A child grows up seeing that work, reading, commitment, care, truth, and togetherness are the most valuable things in the world.

Technical Schools

Less theory, more people who build and produce. People able to build, operate, maintain, program, sell, measure, and improve. Dignity begins when people feel useful.

Local Associations

Clubs, cooperatives, churches, councils, trade associations, community projects, mentoring networks. Everything that promotes values and solves problems without depending on the State.

Companies

A company is a powerful moral school. It teaches punctuality, delivery, standards, hierarchy, merit, collaboration, frustration, and continuous improvement. A well-led company forms citizens.

Municipalities

The good example of a transparent, responsible administration, close to local reality, can become a model for other communities.

What to Avoid

Avoid violence and radicalism of any kind. Below are some of the most common traps in today's discourse:

- Hatred of the State – an adolescent simplification;
- Cult of the entrepreneur – it turns into corporatism;
- Messianism – it turns effort into a sect;
- Contempt for those who need assistance – it morally kills the initiative.

How the Circles Evolve

I believe that, over time, these circles will produce closer families, better companies, sponsored technical schools, private scholarships with obligations attached, mentoring for the young, the formation of local leaders, and a culture of reading, debate, and work. In isolation, these circles are nothing extraordinary; in great numbers, they will produce citizens who are ever more conscious and capable.

At a second stage, the circles will recognize one another and share experience and learning. The network born of that connection will share values and purpose. Never as a party or an ideology. An ecosystem whose purpose is to form people and contribute to society.

Further ahead, people shaped by solid values will gradually come to occupy positions in politics, universities, companies, newspapers, and civil, governmental, and military organizations. Not as well-meaning adventurers, but as prepared citizens.

This is a process that will take decades. In silence, the seed grows slowly in the soil. Whatever it yields will be greater, more powerful, and more enduring than any quick fix.

A mature society is built by people willing to plant trees whose shade they may never enjoy.

Better to plant now.

How to Begin

The possible seed requires no great structures to be planted. It begins with small repeated gestures, in the spaces we already occupy and the responsibilities already within our reach.

Anyone, today

- Arrive at the agreed time, always, even when no one important is waiting;
- Return what you borrowed before being reminded;
- Read thirty minutes a day of something that demands effort, and let your children see it;
- Share a family meal without screens every day, including the bad days, which are the ones that count;
- Finish what you started before starting something else, however small: the course, the book, the repair;
- Admit a mistake on the day you make it, to the person affected, without waiting to be found out;
- Praise in public someone who did good work and is not your friend;
- Learn something well enough to teach it, then teach it to at least one person.

Those raising children

- Give the child a real household responsibility, with real consequences if unmet, and resist the urge to do it for them;
- Let a child lose what they failed to care for, instead of replacing it;
- Read to the child until the child reads to you;
- Never speak of work in front of your children as if it were punishment: that is where they learn whether work is a curse or a dignity.

Anyone with authority over someone: an apprentice, an intern, a godchild, a student

- Correct in private, recognize in public, without exception;
- Teach the why along with the how, even if it takes twice as long;
- Assign tasks one step above what the person believes they can do, and hold back the urge to intervene;
- Introduce a young person to someone in your circle they could never reach alone. It costs social capital, the most expensive kind there is.

Those who employ or buy

- Train people as if they were going to stay forever, knowing they may leave tomorrow;
- Pay what was agreed on the date agreed, the small supplier before everyone else;
- Buy from those who do good work even when it costs a little more, and tell them why you came back;
- Dismiss with the same dignity with which you hired.

Agreeing with this list costs nothing. Practicing it costs time, money, pride, or fatigue. If nothing here has cost you anything this week, you have not yet begun; you have only agreed.

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