

The Role of Advisors!

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**Written by Majid Al Suleimany
in Columnists**

Majid Al Suleimany –

The Role of Advisors!

I wrote this article in July 2013 for The Oman Daily Observer in my Column then Between Us Only!

It is really surprising that 4 years later it is still relevant and applicable applying to my own Status Quo and all the things all around us now - especially in regard to Relations between countries after Donald Trump became 45th USA President!

It is amazing, indeed! Please read it - and tell me what you think?

Should you as The Leader use your own conscience to act - or just be led and be used around by The So-called Advisors? Bloody shame!

Should you have proven to your Advisors that you want only good leasing news – and are surrounded by The Same people intent to keep and shield you from people who may give you unpleasant bad news – even if is The Truth?

www.majidwrite.com/2013/07/26/the-role-of-advisors/

Best Wishes & Regards

Majid Al Suleimany

- Be very careful in what you are wishing for!
- You may get your wish to come true!
- Be careful in choosing your advisers — they can make — or break you!
- Do you remember the fable of The Emperor's New Clothes?

Human beings never cease to surprise and amaze at what they are really capable of and doing to others, as if nothing will ever happen to them — because they are fully covered — and have all the protection they need! But are we really sure? Have we read and analysed the situation correctly? Have we compared notes of what happened to others and elsewhere?

There is a famous East African saying that when brothers fight take your plough and go to farm, that is metaphorically ‘Do not get involved!’ Because when they patch up you will end as the loser!

There is also the Arabic saying that if my brother fights my brother I will try to bring them together and not get involved. But if my brother fights my cousin I will support my brother. But if my cousin fights someone else I will support my cousin!

It is also being said that in one ex-colonial country, the leader had asked his team of advisers that he wanted to reverse the traffic system of the country from what it was then of people driving on the left to driving opposite to the right. He formed a panel comprising several engineers, experts and intellectuals to come up with a concrete and feasible plan on how to do the change. He was driven by bringing change to the ways of the colonial masters.

After several months and follow-ups the advisers came up to the conclusion that the plan was not feasible due to very high costs in transformation and changes to the traffic layout and infrastructure and it was a nightmare plan to even think off — let alone to implement! But everybody was scared to tell the bad news to the leader for fear that heads would roll if one tried to do this!

So they drew lots of who would tell the leader the dreaded message. It finally dawned on one engineer who was distantly related to the leader — as a possible way out of the impasse. He tried his best to convey the message to the leader. Luckily for him the man was in a good mood that day and he did nothing untoward to the messenger of the bad news! Then he took the adviser aside and told him, “Try to see if we can at least have the big trucks go on the right for now whilst the rest go on the left. Maybe this can work!” The engineer was baffled because this was a sure way of increasing the rate of accidents and fatalities in the country!

There are several cases reported later in history where very bad decisions were made but the advisers were all impotent and helpless and in fear and dread to advise correctly and ethically because they feared for their lives’ if they said the truth to the especially draconian autocratic leaders!

Forgive me for those that really know of the adviser joke and if I had missed out the punch line! There are many other such advisers’ jokes — you can Google them! I liked also the one about the last adviser who gave the advice on how he could make the whole country happy — though it is usually one group of people making the very same joke about the other group of people always!

During my career I have been fooled into thinking that the top brass were really interested in getting ideas, feedback and research on the aspects, issues and tasks at hand! It was more a front and façade to show ‘things were changing and improving’ — and not really to find out the real core issues per se!

I have a very clever family member who always would try to figure out what the boss really wanted and would make him very happy by giving the same advice back to him. His outlook was: why

should I be bothered if I can get all I want from the situation and I have lost nothing from the equation? The boss is happy and I am happy too!

We both gain from the situation and if anything would go wrong in the plan or its execution he would always reiterate that he had given the boss a choice of options and it is the boss that had opted for this one! Remember boss? The boss cannot deny it because they usually only remember his own preferred option and he had conveniently forgotten the other options or even if they had been made in the first instance!

Then when things have turned out to be wrong the boss has only himself to blame because of listening to his own advices but coming out from another person's mouth — which is what he had wanted in the first place — but was using all kinds of cover and disguise to get at it! I said this in my column years back! As kids we used to be so scared of our father that one day when he was reversed the truck into a coconut tree we dared not to shout at him to stop! Even though we were all sitting at the back of the truck and were most likely to be hurt in the process!

Our late father got out from the truck took a look at the slightly dented American Ford truck and for the first time he saw the funny and the humorous part of his own autocratic ways — a joke he kept telling his friends for a long time after! The only thing he asked was: Why did you not tell me? To complete silence and no answer from the others!

In one of the most ugly and vulgar experiences as a human resources consultant and adviser we were given names of some staff who should come forward to 'volunteer to the company' as people marked out for release and termination and a few others for fast development and progression! This came out after we said we had interviewed most of the staff and what were their training and other requirements! Of course, we refused to participate in the sham scam business and not only were we denied further business but the payment for the current job was considerably delayed.

In one other incident at another place, we were even asked to give full names 'of who said what, where and when' — when we were conducting a Staff Morale (Climate) Survey! The more disturbing part was not that this was asked of us in the first instance but that as they said 'others had consented to this request before' — and we reiterated we were not like them! That too ended with the business side — with me resisting the urge from others higher up 'to please participate and join with them' in this!

Please keep remembering all these things happened years ago and I do not know if things that have now really changed on the ground but I sincerely hope it has!

Take Care!

The Role of Advisors!
Or The Difference – The Turks and The Arabs!
Full Articles Here Below!
<http://main.omanobserver.om/node/170480>
<http://majidwrite.com/2013/07/05/the-role-of-advisors/>

It is interesting to note that though there were protests pro and against the Turkish Government due to the mall thing – the Turkish army did not step in to ‘protect Democracy’ – but the Egyptians did. The Turkish thing died down quietly after some time – but now increasing in Egypt despite the intervention!



**Point out – I am not pro or anti Morsi – as I am not Egyptian – and not my issue! Or my concern in reality!
Arabs and Democracy are far apart!**

They just do not match – even after the Arab Springs!

So sad to see the last bastion in the Arabs go down this way into malaise, decay, decadence – wastage and demise – but we Arabs will never learn our lessons!

Very pathetic, sad and tragic!

Take Care!

With Due Respects

Regards,

Majid Al Suleimany

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