

Editorial

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

We have experienced many changes in the past few years, both in our country and worldwide. We have to be bold and face changes, and never hide from them. It is essential that we adjust to an era where typing may temporarily replace human touch or human voice, or even a hug or a kiss. Indeed... However there are things that will never change or be replaced: honesty, for example.

Brazil is a blessed country still struggling to meet basic needs, such as public health, education, and security. All around this huge and beloved land it is possible to hear claims for more respect to human dignity. How could this reality be transformed and how could Brazil become not only a blessed, but also a calm, peaceful and healthy country, where individuals are proud to have the national flag waving in front of their homes and to sing the national anthem? There is a single, straightforward answer to that question: we all have to become real citizens, in the full sense of the word.

Our population currently reaches 200 million people, and half of them are responsible for electing politicians, who are constantly accused (at least part of them) of misappropriation of public money or resources – public money that comes from heavy taxes paid without appeal by those who really work hard, no matter if making little or a lot of money. This same diverted money should be allocated to improve the trinomial mentioned above: public health, education and security. And this same scarce money that comes from taxes will also support graduate scholarships in public and private universities.

Please allow me to build another trinomial with other words also mentioned in this text: Honesty / Public Money / Scholarships. Facing the facts with deep sincerity, some questions suddenly arise: Is it possible to say that the blessed individuals who earn scholarships financed by scarce public resources are behaving as real citizens? Are these publicly sponsored students changing the reality around them, serving as opinion leaders and highly qualified health promoters? Can we see in these students a real commitment to dedicate the appropriate required time to make Brazil a better country?

Former U.S. president John Kennedy once quoted: “Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country”. On behalf of those who have already lived more than half of their lives, I may say that it urges that the new generation of masters and researches stop complaining and start proposing changes with the aim of shifting from the noxious standard currently in place to a new standard marked by a positive, constructive attitude.

As mentioned in the title of this editorial, these reflections are offered “to whom it may concern,” or to whomever the cap fits.

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