


Book of Radical Love





The only tool to make people happy is mobility and energy, which satisfy their emotional and physical needs by bringing them together and inciting love.

H. Otatürk



**"Hatred doesn't suit us.
We will live in solidarity.
Arm in arm, shoulder to
shoulder we will fight.
We will strive to elevate
democracy to beat hunger
and poverty."**

KEMAL KILIÇDAROĞLU
LEADER OF REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY





In the vast emptiness of space,
there's life on a tiny
little planet...



*But there is fighting
throughout this
planet...*



*When did the world become
this loveless?*

What is it that we can't share?

The Book of Radical Love



Preface

This book in your hands is not a party program or an election bulletin.

This book is about a noble concept usually looked down on and made worthless through dire repetition: "Love".

It's easy to win elections, the more important thing is to win hearts. The one who wins the hearts wins the votes anyway. I've personally witnessed this in my city.

I'm an Anatolian child from Ordu, my father was a baker. I spent my childhood and youth on Ordu's mountains, in its villages. I grew up among fishermen, foresters, hazelnut growers.

Many of them were as wise as sages; most of them were illiterate.

I met villagers too hungry in winter, yet too honest to eat even a handful of rice trusted upon them. These people didn't normally vote for our party. I never blamed them; I kept asking myself "Why?"

While I was in the mountains and villages, some arrogant people who didn't know these villagers at all were busy insulting them by calling them "pasta eaters, bribe-takers". They even called the hardworking workers and villagers of Anatolia "belly scratching men". Not knowing and otherizing became the gravest illnesses. We were doing something wrong, but what was it?

I remember my childhood. In those days, we used to see lion-hearted revolutionaries in the Black Sea. Some of them lost their lives in torture chambers, others in exile. A big number of these revolutionaries belonged to the generation that wrote Kara Oğlan on hills and mountains.

The language of the revolutionaries was the language of the people. Everybody spoke the same language. What happened after those days, we don't know. Those beautiful people left on those beautiful horses perhaps, as the writer said.

Now we spend all our time on our mobile phones, day and night. The people of this country have stopped talking to each other even when walking together in the street, sitting together on buses. We've been divided, divided, divided... Not into two or three, but we've been divided into almost 82 million pieces. Individualism is being pumped into the society and separating us from one another. Even siblings have stopped loving one another.

The more we've become trapped in individualism, the more victorious has capitalism come to be by feeding on our loneliness. As we try to pay our bills off with debt, we become more indebted. The more indebted we become, the less loving, the less trusting we end up.

We live on ancient lands that have given birth to many civilizations; we will pass by this life, but the wisdom bred in these lands will remain. Even if they take everything from us, they can't take away this depth that has brewed over thousands of years. They can't make us forget our grandfathers' words, our grandmothers' prayers.

We may speak Turkish, Kurdish, Laz, Georgian, Arabic or English, but the most important thing is to speak the "humanist language".

Let's shut our phones down. Let's open up our hearts.

When we start to see our 82 million sisters and brothers through the eye of our heart, we will better understand the wealth and greatness of our country.

Like an old-timer in CHP said: What else could revolutionism be?

*Seyit Torun
Deputy Leader of CHP
Responsible for Local Administrations*



What is radical love?

It's easy and natural for siblings to love one another. If people love each other, they become friends, comrades. When two people start loving each other, this love may sometimes last a lifetime.

"Love" is a wildflower that blossoms in our hearts. It blossoms on its own and exudes the joy of spring.

But unfortunately, our world has long been planted with seeds of hatred as well. Many countries are drowning in a sea of hatred caused by hate-mongers. Capitalism asks us not to love, but to feel fear, jealousy and rivalry for one another. People even compete in love, they even turn love into a source of jealousy, this is the goal of capitalism.

In short, the world has changed. The ambitions of capitalism and hate-mongers don't only pollute our air or water, but also our souls.

In order to combat this pollution, "love" is not enough on its own. We need to "love radically".

We call this philosophy radical love.

***Radical love
needs to be strong.
United we stand.
A nation that stands
strong, and loves
each of its members
is a nightmare for
hate-mongers.***

The main difference between radical and normal love is that the former denotes giving your love not only to those who already love you, but also to those who do not.

A young man who you would normally get along with may come to your party kiosk and provoke you.

What to do in this situation? Should we get into a fight as he wants us to, or should we let love win like we want it to?

This is the greatest struggle, and most difficult decision.

Normal love is readily visible, radical love is not. It requires patience, repeated action.

A person you come across with may be rude to you or to your values. Try to have the patience to talk with him. You will see things starting to change soon.

Radical love needs to be strong. United we stand. A nation that stands strong and loves each of its members is a nightmare for hate-mongers.

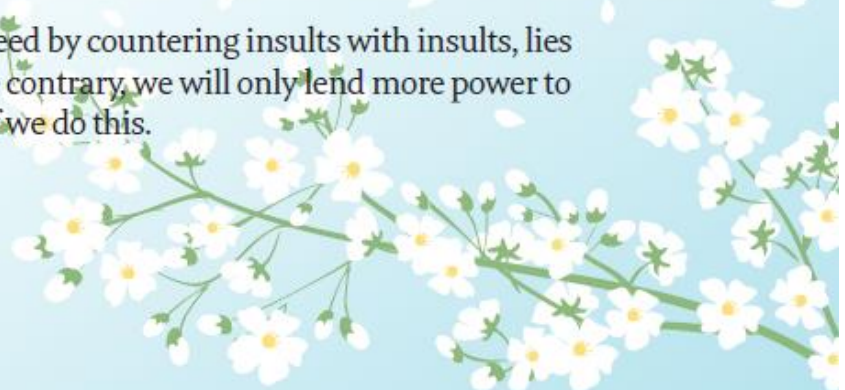
***“Radical love”
is not light fiction,
it’s not an easy job;
it’s perhaps the most
difficult.***

It is exactly for this reason that the game will no longer be run by hate-mongers; it will now be run by us.

We will use the language of love. We will not get provoked.

People will try to provoke you with insults and lies. Let this be no surprise. Insults and lies are the provoker’s biggest weapon.

We cannot succeed by countering insults with insults, lies with lies. On the contrary, we will only lend more power to hate-mongers if we do this.



Who is the depoliticized voter?



The depoliticized voter is one who votes not for political views, but for service. In fact, the depoliticized voter has a political choice, but the choice is not made merely on the political discourse of parties.

It may be deceiving to label people as supporters of this party or that.

Imagine that two people who vote for rival parties get diagnosed with cancer at the same time. They would pray for each other while undergoing treatment in the same hospital.

Politics divides people, but people have many common concerns outside of politics.

It may be deceiving to distinguish people as supporters of this party or that.

Walking after dark in a deserted street, all women feel worry regardless whether they support AKP or İYİ Party.

For a youngster who needs to prepare for an exam, parties are not important.

Two young MHP and HDP voters work side by side in a textile workshop to win their daily bread, listening to the same noises day in day out.

Whether you support the Felicity Party or Turkish Communist Party, the coming of the spring fills your heart with joy.

Our differences are precious as long as they bring colors to our lives;

they are harmful if they plant animosity in our hearts.

If we stop focusing on our political differences, we can reach depoliticized voters more easily.

The depoliticized voter votes not for political views, but for service.

Depoliticized voters are not undecided voters; on the contrary, they vote decidedly.

Some depoliticized voters may vote for Party A in general elections, and Party B in local elections.

This difference may change the election results in that region. There are many examples of this.

Some call these voters “fickle”. The depoliticized voter may quit their own ship at election times and starts swimming towards any other ship that seems trustworthy. If we don't talk sense, and if we make confusing reactive statements especially in the run up to the elections, the depoliticized voter will swim back to their original ship. Unfortunately, there are many instances of this too in our history.

In a sense, everything is political, including being depoliticized. When trying to understand the depoliticized voter, we actually become engaged in a political activity. When addressing them in a language far from the usual political discourse, we are actually engaged in political communication.

We have many differences, but we have more similarities. As long as we can gather around unpolitical common denominators, such as being a woman, being young, being disabled or being a shopkeeper, we can reach new election results that will significantly benefit the country.

CHP is our country's founding party and all others are offshoots of CHP. That is why we stand close to all other parties.

We are proud of our party, but we are not partisans.

*Right is right,
genuine is genuine:
We're not partisans,
We're genuinists.*

We wouldn't denigrate a deed that is good for the country just because it has been done by another party.

CHP can also make mistakes, CHP members can also make mistakes.

We don't blame other parties when there is a mistake, we try to be just.

We give due credit to everyone. We don't see the members of our party as angels, and those of others as the devil. We display patience and compassion, even for people who hold grudges against us.

Camps look down on other camps, they feel contempt for them. We CHP members don't do so. As long as there is no violence, we listen to all political views with respect.

Provoking artificial political divisions only works for those who benefit from these divisions.

We're not seeking titles; we're seeking solutions to the problems of our country and the humanity.

Therefore we don't polarize, we don't divide into camps. We take patient, perseverant steps to achieve justice.

The disease of our times: **HATRED**



Jealousy is nearsighted; it cannot see what is far away, we get jealous of what is around us. Unfortunately people get jealous of one another, and mostly of those closest to them. A certain brand of car may be owned by millions of people, but people get jealous when they see a neighbor driving one.

***Hatred cannot
be overcome by
hatred.***

Jealousy was not so rampant in the old days. As capitalism grew, so did jealousy. This is because the survival of capitalism depends on regularly luring us with advertisements. These advertisements are so full of people who are proud of, "smug about" their cars, houses and even the coffee they drink that we ultimately come to believe this is the way to be. The system

constantly makes us feel lacking in some way, and leads us to believe that we must buy things to become whole again.

In countries where there is huge migration from rural to urban centers, the cities grow like the layers of an onion from the core to the outside. The newcomers are jealous of the old-timers. Anyone who has migrated to the city a generation ago bothers the newcomer.

If this feeling of jealousy is constantly fueled, it evolves into hatred. In our age, hatred is one of the strongest feelings that shape politics.

Hatred is easy to produce and it is lucrative.

Turkey cannot be divided into groups such as Alevi - Sunni, Kurdish - Turkish, religious - secular. Our courteous culture respects differences.

The true division is between those who lend and those who borrow. A minuscule group that lends money to the masses dominates millions that live in debt. In Turkey, 80 million people have debts. People get loans ten times their income with high interest rates, and unable to pay them back, they sell their homes their lands. Each family have their own poverty drama.

In order to stop people from thinking about this reality, they are given artificial divisions. People end up hating their neighbors, relatives and fellow citizens who are actually their comrades.

Hatred is easy to produce and it is lucrative.

Sages say, "Our only enemy is enmity". Let's get rid of the hatred planted in us, let's put up a fight against those negative feelings inside us.

Hatred cannot be overcome by hatred. Love does that.

The only way to beat people who feed on hatred is to defend love with patience and perseverance.



Don't get divided into camps!

Dividing into camps only benefits camp leaders. So don't get polarized!

Any idea that derives its power from its opposite needs an opponent. It therefore constantly provokes the opponent, trying to pull them to the arena for a fight.

We have two camps only: Our country and the world.

We are devoted to the shared values of our country.

We are devoted to the shared values of the world: love for fellow humans, love for the nature, the culture of living together, justice, freedom, equality.

We know no other camp.



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*What to
avoid?*

1-Hubris:



Hubristic people are jealous people.

A person who wants to make others jealous is definitely jealous of others.

A leftist, a revolutionary cannot have hubris. A CHP member should never succumb to hubris.

How lucky for us that a shepherd in the mountains has the same right to vote as a professor.

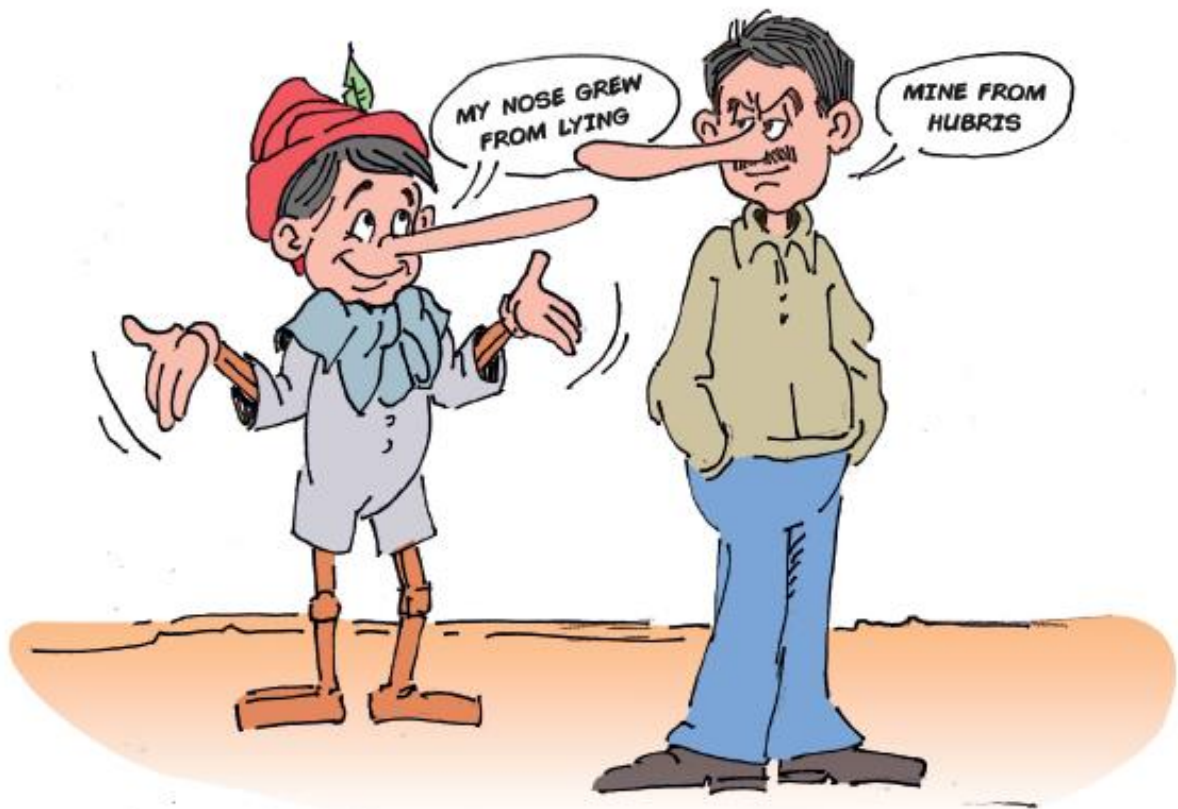
Older people cannot dominate the young just because they are older; bosses cannot exert power on workers; nobody can look down on others by using their wealth, position or brute power.

The most hubristic people are the most cowardly ones. They can never tackle others one-to-one, they always hide behind others.

University graduates cannot belittle elementary school graduates. On the contrary, having been to school makes a person indebted to those who have not had the same opportunity. The heaviest ear of grain bends its head the lowest.

Every person is wise. Having graduated from a reputed university does not guarantee deep thought about life. Sometimes, the wisest words come from people who have never been to school.

How lucky for us that a shepherd in the mountains has the same right to vote as a professor. We belong to the party of Atatürk who established this system. Without Atatürk, the shepherd in the mountains would always remain a shepherd. Thanks to the republic, shepherds can become ministers, presidents, scientists, artists.



If we've lived in better conditions than a fellow citizen, this should only increase our humility, not our pride. Because we've had that opportunity, while the other person did not.

Hubris is the cancer of human relations.

We may be a teacher or a doctor, but in a political campaign for CHP we are equals with other citizens. We shouldn't sound like a teacher or a doctor when we talk with equal citizens; otherwise, we will appear to be hubristic... In a campaign, the people we communicate with are fellow citizens, not our students or patients.

If we question all our behavior, conscious or subconscious, to see "whether we've been hubristic", we will establish much healthier communication with others.

The opposite of hubris is respect. It's our duty to feel equal respect for everybody.

2-Sarcasm:

Humor destroys the castles of hubris. Satire is in our tradition, we're all Nasreddin Hodja's grandchildren.

However, in societies where political identities are built on hatred, humor can easily be perceived as "sarcasm". Sarcasm can sometimes strengthen those in power. Cunning administrators establish a strong sense of "us" between themselves and their followers. Therefore, a person using



sarcasm about an administrator may appear to be sarcastic about the people instead. This, of course, only benefits the ill-willed.

Some voters of a party may be ignorant, some may be mentally unbalanced. We should never forget that this is not

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unique to any party. All political parties may have such supporters. If we make a video of some such person and share it, we will only contribute to the circle of hatred. As your sarcastic video gets circulated more and more, that person ends up as a symbol for the group he is thought to represent.

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“Where you strike a blow
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a trait is emphasized unfairly or made fun of, it turns into an identity. This, in turn, increases social polarization.

One needs to refrain from sarcasm in societies where there is not a healthy democracy or in places where the inner voice of individuals has been silenced.



3- *High politics:*

These are local elections, not general elections.

We are striving to find solutions to our citizens' problems, not to propagate general political views.

Healthy urbanization brings improvement from trade to transportation in the city, from youth education to the safety of women.

The citizens' problems involve roads, the cleanliness of their streets, the municipality's social support programs.

Everybody wants to live in better cities, everybody wants a healthily growing city.

Healthy urbanization brings improvement from trade to transportation within the city, from youth education to the safety of women.

Pushing CHP into high politics is an intentional perception management project. The aim is to distract CHP voters by using illogical blame games, infuriating and artificial arguments.



They do this because they know that when CHP voters forget about the local elections and start to publicly discuss general political issues, the depoliticized AKP voter will withdraw.

Our job is to ease problems, to offer our citizens solutions for their daily lives.

Constant complaining and deriving joy out of other people's problems doesn't suit us.

4-Haste:

He who hastes falls into the well.

As elections approach, some people may think “We’re not at a favorable place, we need to do something more” and others in haste may cause irreversible scandals.

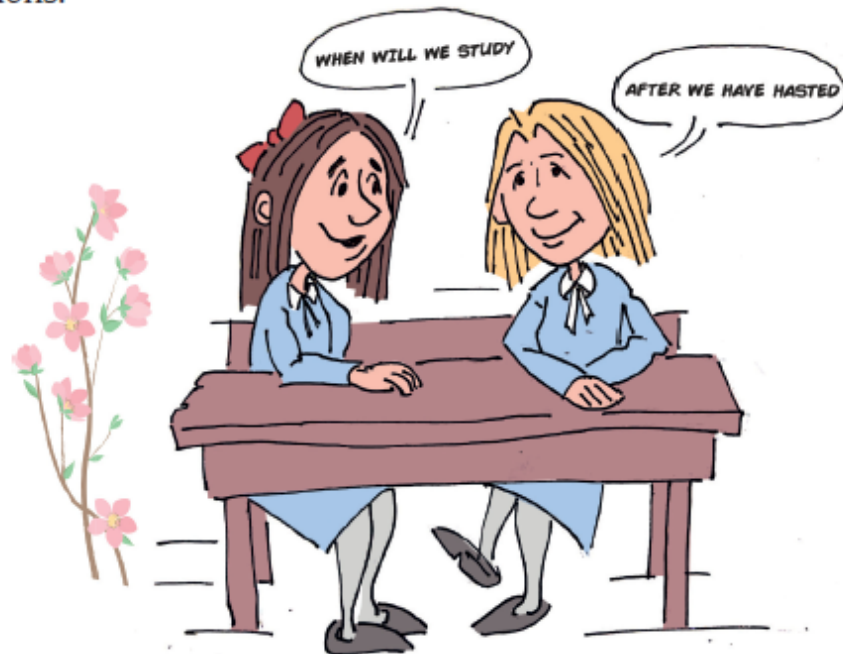
Faux-pas by a few tactless people during elections harm the entire party.

Haste is destructive and contagious. One step above haste, there is panic.

No haste, no panic.

Everywhere around the country, CHP members are carrying water drop by drop, they are winning over hearts.

No one has the right to haste and upset the apple cart, and to ruin the efforts of millions.



How to run an election campaign?

The best campaign is to talk to people one to one.

The majority of CHP voters are people with good rhetorical skills.

We must pay attention to the following when talking with people face to face:

1 - Don't get provoked, don't be pulled into arguments

Not everybody needs to agree all the time. Some people may try to sabotage us, sometimes unknowingly, sometimes with bad intentions, and sometimes only because they are fanatics of a rival party.

*Not everybody
needs to agree
all the time.*

If we try to respond to them, we may come across as unpleasant to others. Indeed, this is the goal of some of these arguments.

We can never convince a true fanatic, and we may in the meantime lose other voters listening respectfully to us while we try to do our convincing.

Our target audience should never be fanatics or ill-willed people. On the contrary, we should deal with these people by using positive statements and intelligence to deliver a meaningful message to the impartial majority.



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3 – *Introduce yourself*

We've discussed the negative effects of conceptual thinking on the campaign process. Another potential danger of this type of thinking is people referring to themselves with “conceptual” statements.

Sincerity is the greatest success in political communication.

For instance, our conceptual job description may be “CHP election campaign worker” but no person is a concept. We're living humans like everyone else - married or single,

with or without children, doing this job or that, living in a neighborhood.

Therefore, we should introduce ourselves with more concrete statements, not with political or institutional codes.

For example:

Instead of “Hello, I'm from CHP's city administration. My name is Hatice Güneş”,

it is much better to say, “Hi sister, my name is Hatice Güneş. I live in Baklacı neighborhood. I'm a chemist. Do you know the big oak tree in the square, yes, I own that chemist shop... I'm working for the People's Republican Party. I'm here today to have a chat with you”.

This is free stream of consciousness. In fact, in daily life we always talk like this. However, in political communication, people become uptight and end up sounding not like their real selves. Not letting our consciousness flow freely shows in our sentences. This is a mistake which makes us seem “cold”, “distant” and “off-putting”.

However, if we realize that we're facing people like ourselves, then we can talk as if we're talking to friends, not to "strangers". This becomes reflected in every word we utter, and people can connect with us much more easily.

As the conversation goes on, we may even talk about our children, families, childhood, past and present problems, or a disease we may have. As we give more detailed information about ourselves, others stop seeing us as a conceptual being; they come closer to us, a fellow human being. And sincerity is the greatest success in political communication.

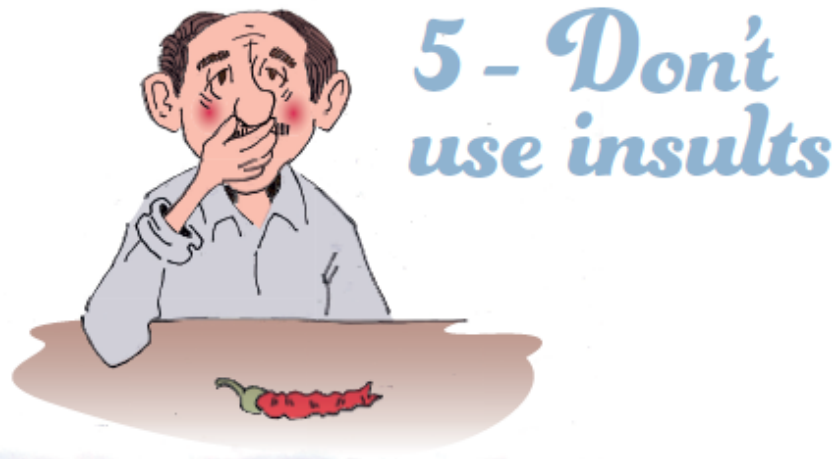


4 - Talk less, listen more



We should listen to others.

The more we listen to them, the more people will start to open up and share increasingly deeper and more personal topics. For example, most people are too shy to talk about poverty because they've been taught not to do that. However, the majority of the society are struggling with poverty and the many problems that come with it. Listening to people, even simply sharing hardships, is better than empty political banter.



People may have different political views which we don't agree with at all.

If we start the conversation by insulting the party that others vote for or their leader, nothing we say later will have any effect.

Don't badmouth other political leaders. Instead, exclude them from your conversations altogether. Some people may insistently try to center the conversation on their leader. We should respond to these people with concrete and decided sentences such as:

"I'm sorry brother, but we're not here to discuss politics; we're here to chat about local administration. We respect all political leaders who our people elect with their votes. We may have different political views, but this shouldn't keep us from respecting each other. We're talking about our shared problems here, not our differences.

For instance, I have four children, and you just told me that you have grandchildren; let's discuss how we can have a park built for them in that empty lot there or how your grandchildren can attend the daycare center we're planning to open in Gülbahar neighborhood."



6- Don't make insinuations

Another rather frequent behavior in political communication is “insinuation”. In other words, uttering no explicit words against others’ political views or parties, but fooling or provoking them by insinuations or implications. A CHP member has no right to talk like this. If a citizen who votes for a rival party does this, there is no need to respond to them.

7- Don't lord over people, don't wag a finger

Another mistake is to wag a finger, dominate or sound as if we're teaching a lesson. We may be teachers in real life, but in politics we are equal citizens and this should be reflected in our speech.

We're not to the left, to the right or above anyone. We're equals with all other people, and we should communicate with them hand to hand, eye to eye.

8 - *Don't have an idea*

People who know-it-all when others are discussing a topic are usually thought of as unpleasant. They also often become a target due to their own mistakes. We should give other people a chance

to talk first, and we should listen to them even when we know a lot about the topic being discussed.

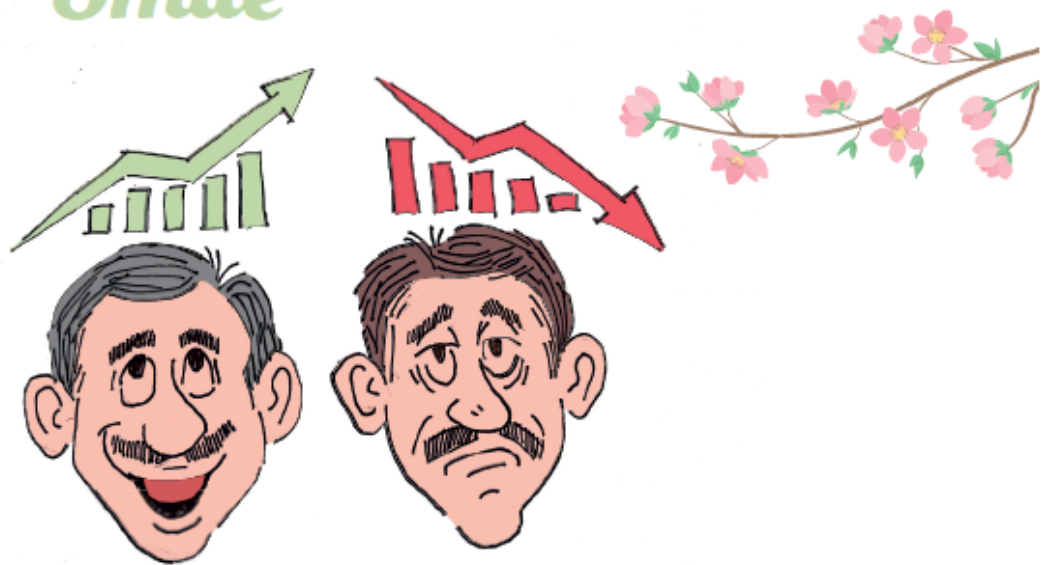
A citizen may not have as much information as us about a topic, but may better able to explain the core of it. And sometimes, people find it hard to enter a discussion about a topic but, given time, they may express themselves rather well.

*A citizen
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of it.*

Sometimes, it may even be necessary to act as if we don't know about a topic that we actually know about, only so as not to break the other person's heart. Once a heart is broken, it's difficult to mend it. If there is mutual love, information exchange is much healthier.



9 - Smile



Everybody loves a cheerful person, but they can also detect fake smiles.

Election time is festive time. Election campaigns give the people an opportunity to listen to one another, learn, share problems.

*If we smile,
everyone*

Our people are beautiful, our Turkey is beautiful. You can find a sage in every neighborhood, every street, even every home. The more we listen to one another, the more we come to realize what a big group we are, and we start to smile.

There may be ill will, rude people, those who purposefully try to irritate you. Such people exist everywhere, not just in Turkey... Instead of obsessing about them and sulking, we should remember the generosity and love of the millions that invite us into their homes, offer us tea or coffee, hold our hands. And we should smile.

If we smile, everybody smiles. Happiness is the most contagious mood.

10 - Don't forget that you're with the People's Party

Atatürk did not found a Republican Party, he founded the People's Republican Party.

If Atatürk were alive today, he would stand with the car mechanics, shopping mall employees, miners. He would listen to them.

If we aren't standing with the people, then we must be at the wrong place.

We are the people and we must always stand with the people.

If we're doing politics in the People's Party, we must be aware of and reflect this every moment, from our outfit choices to our demeanor.





Voters are CHP's greatest wealth.

The duty of the party organization is to motivate the voter.

CHP voters are great people. Most don't get involved in politics and would never set foot in the party building, but they know how to influence the people around them.

Giving voters morale is the most basic duty of CHP party organizations... If the organization has high morale, so do the voters. It would be good for them to visit the party building, but it's not a problem if they don't. It's enough that they have high morale, that they believe.

There will always be people who claim that these elections are our last chance. Unfortunately, there will also be people who criticize everyone and continually put down young people. We shouldn't give up on them and we shouldn't give up... Goodness breeds goodness, positive thought increases the participation of masses.

How should we react to economic depression?

People are suffering greatly from poverty and our country is going through a serious depression.

But the depression should never be seen as a political opportunity.

We don't see economic depression as a political opportunity. We aim to be a source of solutions

We are Turkey's founding party, and if external powers play economic games with us, then we will put internal politics aside, get together with all other parties and display our solidarity.

At the same time, even though the reason for the economic depression may be the government's wrong economic policies, constantly dwelling on them does not benefit the CHP campaign.

Imagine that you're a doctor, and a patient has come to you looking for a remedy. You keep rebuking the patient instead of offering a treatment. This is no way to be a doctor. The duty of a doctor is to write prescriptions, to find remedies.

At times of economic depression, it becomes more important to emphasize the culture of solidarity and stand with our impoverished sisters and brothers.

The answer to the depression is our Solution-Oriented Municipality approach.

CHP municipalities listen to people's problems and work day and night to find solutions to them.

We don't see economic depression as a political opportunity. On the contrary, we aim to be a source of solutions for our citizens.

Social media can sometimes be dangerous

Social media is the truth of our age. Turning your back on social media means being left behind.

A knife is useful for slicing bread and fruit. But the same knife can also be used to hurt someone. Therefore, we can't call a knife useful or hurtful. The important thing is how we use it.

Social media is beneficial but if we're not careful, it also has many risks.

For example, Twitter increases our anger and polarizes us.

Facebook traps us in an echo room and increases our intolerance for opposing views.

Instagram is perhaps the best among these, but it has a limited effect.



The immune system of social media is vulnerable to ill-willed use; the trend is to disseminate the negative, not the positive.

It also demands a lot of time, and this alone can lead to disengagement from the society.

Beware! Opposition trader



We need to beware of people who trade anger, polarize us, and insistently put down a certain part of the nation. These people are opposition traders. There's good money in trading opposition. No trader earns as much as these people do.

*The greatest
headache
for CHP voters:
Opposition traders*

Tomato sellers are good, taxi drivers are good, barbers are good.

But opposition trading is really bad.

We need to take measures against opposition traders. We must never let them provoke us.

We must disregard their internet posts that use sarcasm on the people, that put people down. This type of post is mostly produced from one center, and if we're not careful we may also contribute to the circle of hatred by sharing these messages.

As elections approach, social media turns into a ticking bomb. The harshest, most sarcastic, most polarizing posts go viral and divide the voters.

Even though almost all of CHP's voter base uses social media, the number of AKP voters who use it is very small.

Ill-willed circles can use social media to demoralize CHP voters, but CHP can't do the same even if they wanted to. This is because CHP voters have the highest social media use rate.

When relaying political messages, people on social media become agitated; sarcastic and polarizing messages become viral. However, in the street nobody would talk to another person in this tone, people would choose their words more carefully.

Therefore, social media turns into a ticking bomb as elections approach. The harshest, most sarcastic, most polarizing posts become viral and distance voters.

It has been claimed in the USA, Russia and some other countries that ill-meaning administrators use social media suspiciously. Such groups actually invest in "big data", not social media. This is a project and its goal is to sneak into everyone's mobile phones to polarize individuals one by one.

Such polarization not only benefits our rivals, but also opposition traders. Those who post polarizing, hateful messages get many followers at election times, receive many likes and become highly popular.

We should definitely use social media for sharing news and information flow. But never use it to build echo rooms and grow the circle of hatred.

*Leave aside your personal cause
come join us in our circle
let your heart fill with love
try to know tolerance...*

Yunus Emre

*In love, be like the sun;
in friendship and brotherhood,
like a river...*

Mevlânâ

*Our path is science,
wisdom and love for human beings.*

Hacı Bektâş-ı Veli

WHEN IN LOVE

*Love could wait till tomorrow,
Thought the timid, hesitant, dutiful you.
None of the people you knew
Really knew you.*

*Due to neverending duties
(you never wanted it this way)
All that could be said with one glance,
All the feelings in your heart,
Remained untouched.*

*You were hoping for large days
Love couldn't be declared in tiny times
You never thought the years
Would be so quick to pass by.*

*In your secret garden
Flowers bloomed,
Always at night, always alone.
Not worth offering to anyone perhaps,
Or perhaps time just flew.*

Behçet Necatigil



This book is educational material to be used inside the party for the local election campaign. It has been written to contribute to the discourse and attitudes of CHP party organization and volunteers during the local administration campaign.

Does your opposition strengthen or weaken what you are opposed to?

JOHN FOWLES

Never forget this question

*Reformatted by Ian Vincent Mulder (ian.mulder@clara.net)
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