

Throughout history we have had many political figures and leaders that have had the ability to infuse core concepts of humanity into their vision and leadership of varying nations. Marcus Aurelius was, in fact, a great leader who not only understood the concept of leading a nation—which was the only true “known” world—through military might, but also understood the deep meaning of life and earnestly applied it to everyday life. In his book, “The Meditations,” he describes in detail the thought processes he used to delegate authority, interact with individuals and maintain the strength of Rome.

Not only is this book a masterpiece of philosophy, it is also a guideline for political leaders to follow. Today, we find that our political leaders have all but lost touch with the real and true human factors of life that make living enjoyable, free and prosperous: uniqueness of individuals, respect for one’s fellow man and the core of society—the family. Politicians today are not truly providing motivating factors for our society to seek the best within each individual, nor do they believe it possible by the amount of laws and amendments used to channel individuals into groups of followers, not leaders.

Marcus Aurelius, being the Emperor of Rome, chose not to live in the capital city—in the lap of luxury—but spent most of his life away from his family so he could serve Rome in the greatest good. Politicians of today seek to find ways in which they can obtain monetary raises while most of the population makes a fraction of their pay; they seek to create laws which restrict and condemn others who have different beliefs instead of respecting them; and finally, they clearly present an heir of mistrust, deceit and lack of concern by not only their actions of late, but by the advertisements and accusations continually made against one another. There is no brotherhood that unites our current society.

“The Meditations” contains philosophies that have been discussed by many other authors, writers and philosophers and religious leaders; however, they are written from the point of view of a political figure that had greater power than any figure in our country. The principles of morality, understanding, respect and, for lack of a better term, “soul-searching” are discussed with the ultimate goal being the betterment of society and the individuals in society.

Our politicians, who are considered public servants, have a debt to society and it is apparently clear that serving the individual has been corrupted—it now serves groups, corporations and the beings in the governmental body instead of the millions of citizens in this country. This country, like any other great country, was made great by individuals having an understanding of this “inner” strength of humanity—the downfall of many nations was the neglect of it. Bringing forth and promoting the ideas, that are eloquently written, should be given consideration by all political leaders—if the object is to promote the greatest good for all.