

CASTLES IN THE AIR

LEONARD E. READ

If you have built castles in the air, your work need not be lost; there is where they should be. Now put foundations under them.

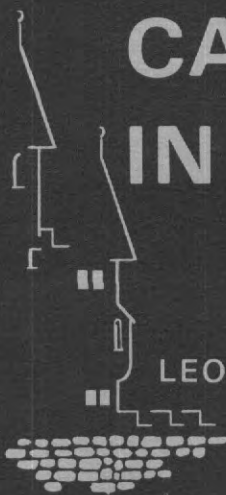
—Thoreau

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1. CASTLES IN THE AIR

Ours to maintain are the foundations of the castle built by our Founding Fathers.

2. FREEDOM: A NEW VISION

Freedom, the newest politico-economic vision, depends for stability upon you and me.

3. THE MYSTERY OF SOCIAL ORDER

Men freely producing and exchanging are the real ambassadors of good will—at home and abroad.

4. PRICELESS—BUT NOT FREE

Liberty has a price: it must be earned!

5. STRIVE FOR THE SIMPLE LIFE

Specialization and interdependence in a free market is far easier than self-subsistence—or slavery.

6. THE FEAR OF FAILURE AND SUCCESS

Fear not to let dying industries die and growing industries grow.

7. CONTROLS TELL LIES

So-called price controls are economic falsehoods by which people are enslaved.

8. SHORTAGES ARE HUMAN BLUNDERS

There are no shortages or surpluses in the free market, only under government intervention.

9. POLITICAL HOCUS-POCUS

The first duty of a citizen is to see through the deceptive jargon of would-be rulers.

10. WIZARDRY

The case for freedom rests upon the same logic which opposes statism.

11. REFLECTIONS ON GULLIBILITY

The remedy for gullibility is to activate one's dormant talents.

12. THE BLESSINGS OF DIVERSITY

Differences between unique individuals are stepping stones to progress and better lives.

13. THE COMMONERS

Special privileges for commoners discourage the productive elite.

14. LAW VERSUS TYRANNY

Legal edicts in conflict with moral law are the source of tyranny.

15. ON BEING MY OWN MAN

Let each individual be his own man rather than a reflector of "public opinion."

16. THE INVISIBLE HAND

Freedom is the invisible hand, the magnetic force that draws from each of us his best in service to others.

17. FROM INSTINCT TO REASON TO INSIGHT

Concerning the freeing, releasing, unmasking of the human spirit.

18. BITING THE HAND THAT FEEDS

Any person who acts coercively to thwart the free market bites the hand that feeds.

19. THE SANCTIFYING OF PLUNDER

The law, rather than protecting life and property, has converted plunder into a right.

20. TRUST THYSELF—SOME OTHERS DO

Fetters bind those who will not trust themselves; have faith in free men.

21. AIM TO BE A SEER

Among men are those who see [seers], those who see when shown, and those who do not see.

22. BELIEVE THE BEST OF EVERY MAN

Finding the best in another person helps him and you.

23. I LIKE YOU, TOO

If you would attract others to freedom, be an exemplar.

24. THE GREATEST GAME IN LIFE

In the leapfrog game of competition, outdistance everyone you can, and hope that others will outdistance you.

25. WHO IS A TEACHER?

There is not enough darkness in the whole world to put out the light of one wee candle.

26. THE RARE MOMENT

To perceive a better idea is a rare experience, the chance for which is improved through integrity.

27. STILL MORE TO DO

The more one knows and does, the more there is to know and do.

28. FAITH WORKS MIRACLES

There can be no turnabout from authoritarianism to liberty without faith. Let freedom reign!

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