

# On Responsibility, Breadth and the Emperor's Clothes

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Most of the contributors to this book will make an excellent job of describing the horrible situation we are in, and the helplessness of a nation and a state who have such people as their leaders. We shall doubtlessly read about the hostages and their families, the numerous killed and wounded, the ruined and desolate areas of the country, and the tens of thousands of displaced citizens, whose entire lives have collapsed upon them. The blame, according to the book's title, will be put repeatedly on the person at the helm.

Consequently, there is no point in me talking about these and trying to delve deeper into them. Instead, I will concentrate on three related terms.

## **Responsibility:**

"He doesn't take responsibility" people complain about him. Absolutely terrible!

However, this must be said: responsibility is not for the taking. Responsibility is given the moment the appointment is made. It comes with the job, as part of a package deal.

In our context, the questions are many: Who knew? How was supposed to know but didn't? Who knew but did nothing? Who knew and did things – but not what had to be done? Who came to their senses and did what had to be done, and who did not? Who shakes everything off and continues to ruin all

that was built here in seventy-six years? And what are the considerations hidden in such conduct?

However, there is no question about responsibility. The person who heads an organization – any organization, from a multi-family house committee to an entire country – is fully entitled to get credit for achievements. But he has the clear responsibility, with no reservations whatsoever, also for the failures. And ever since this present government was sworn in, and all the more so since that terrible Saturday in October, the failures are gigantic.

A state commission of inquiry will be formed, by hook or by crook, and that will be the body that decides as to whether our leaders are to be actually blamed for the present failures, or that those are only their “responsibility”; and if the former then what is the extent of that blame.

### **Breadth:**

There is no need to resort to higher mathematics in order to understand the meaning of the term “breadth”. A table has breadth, and so does a polygon, our shoulders and a football pitch. Breadth is measured by a straight, continuous line, with no diversions to the right or left, which is stretched uniformly from one side of the measured item to its other side. Nothing stays outside.

If so, how does it happen that when our government announces a “breadth-wide cut” in the budget, because of the war, these basic rules all but disappear?

Many bodies and organizations that do not pose any danger to the government are being cynically subjected to attempts at far larger, destructive budget cuts. Yet not a single cent is cut from the budgets of entire

sectors of the population and of several government ministries – whose only common denominator is the government's utter dependence on their support in order to stay in power – and these are actually given extremely generous increases! Is that what a breadth means?

### **The Emperor's Clothes:**

Let us talk about our leader's clothes – actually, our emperor. Either he is stark naked, as per Andersen, or he is indeed clothed, but the lapel of his coat is fully worn out from the tugging...

We do not want a king or an emperor, but a true leader. One who does not need a coat's lapel to be tugged.

As far as I am concerned, let him wear a tuxedo, or work overalls, as long as he rolls up his sleeves and works. Not for himself and for his staying in power, but for us. Every single day and every single hour. From the moment he opens his eyes in the morning until he falls asleep at night after a hard day's work in the service of his constituents, the public.

Oh, yes, there is the matter of the color: it is critical that the leader be, so to speak, clean as a whistle, or as Ecclesiastes puts in in Chapter 9 therein, "*Let thy garments be always white*".

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