



To:
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Frank Van Dun

Fri 5/9/2025 5:04 PM

Dear Frank van Dun,

Hope this finds you well.

It was my pleasure and honour to share a stage with you last Saturday in Eindhoven.

Though you did not see my entire presentation, I was very pleased that you mentioned my inclusion of Erasmus' ADAGES, and confirming that indeed such sayings & proverbs are a major factor in helping keep our 'SAMENLEVING' on course'. It was a bit of a wild-card to include it, as nowhere in the literature about Natural Law is he mentioned, but intuitively I knew that the ordering of family & business life on the people's level (sayings), is as fundamental, if not more so than the Axiomatic Deductive methods; reasoning from scratch and building from there.

But more importantly I wanted to write you concerning a paper you wrote/presented in 1999/2001, 'Natural Law, Liberalism and Christianity', which I reread yesterday & today. I must admit, I did not realize the full impact of that paper when I read it exactly a year ago. Probably, because I needed to really dive into the ethical underpinnings of Anarch-Capitalism, i.e. Natural Law myself, see a bit of its history & evolution as well as its attack upon it.

Reading today, I found your thoughts profoundly prescient as well as very original in its thinking, analysis & insights. Linking Marxism to Gnosticism was eye-opening as I somehow had not made that connect. You seem to have been 1-2 decades ahead of other academics in exposing the absolute abandonment of reason and the principles on which Natural Law stands. Way ahead of a Jordan Peterson who took on academia with all its leftist leaning, ahead of Stephen Hicks & his 'Explaining Postmodernism', or James Lindsey which has been making the Gnosticism connection. You took on the Freudian pathetic notion of 'individuals can not be held accountable', the ENDTIME believers-sect w/in Christianity (Millenarians), who rather escape to 'The Next Place' so to speak & thus lose all relevance here.

But, more than anything I was amazed with the ease & succinctness with which you articulated all the inherent fallacies & their departure from the original Natural Law foundations. When I say ease, I don't mean to infer that it was easy to finally articulate the way you did.

Also, though you landed on 'certain adherents of the Austrian School', who approximated the truths you were expressing, you did not waver to take on the Giant Stalwarts: Mises & Hayek. Totally amazing & gutsy and indeed the same conclusion I came to (which of course does not mean these fine people did not make great contributions to the articulation of economics, but importantly that they had major blind spots).

It must've been a lonely road....being ahead of one's time....somewhat 'Prophet-like' as in speaking Truth to Power. I admire that very much, because I know what it translates into, over time in one's life. It's like being cancelled, before the word became popular, being still a 'heretic' even when the methods of silencing such a one have slightly changed.

I hope to meet you at another more convenient occasion in order to chat about your own journey, as 'A Lonely Voice in the Desert'. Maybe over a glass of wine.

As a last note, I took the liberty to include you in a slide of a list of people (Locke, Hugo Grotius, Rothbard, Hoppe & Kinneking) who articulated/defined 'Natural Law', in their own way. I did that as follows:

"Frank van Dun: [Code of Conviviality – A profound sense of order, a covenant of peace and respect for diverse & distinct separate people. Natural Law, Liberalism & Christianity – 2001](#)"

Now 'code' here may be criticised as 'A Code' is usually the result of codification, which is usually done by a monarch of any stripe. But I felt the rhyming sounds of CODE & CONVIVALITY gave it extra zing....but more importantly that there are a variety of 'codes of honour' that spontaneously develop & become accepted norms within society, even the 'honour among thieves'. Ha.

Any ways, I hope to use your insights & definition of Natural Law in further presentations. Please let me know if I got it right.

Kind regards & much appreciation
Riekus de Poel,