Six Basic Elements of Human Rights

© Stephanie Y. Evans | <u>www.professorevans.net</u>

To enhance human rights education, I have reimagined the original 1948 UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights metaphor and added a haiku. The Greek temple is replaced with six basic life elements: CHNOPS (Carbon, Hydrogen, Nitrogen, Oxygen, Phosphorus, and Sulfur).

| Carbon galaxy | Carbon – Natural Rights Article 1. All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood. Article 2. all rights and freedoms, without distinction, race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. | Atmosphere Universal force Children born free and equal Nations united |
|--------------------------|---|---|
| Hydrogen water-former | Hydrogen – Individual RightsArticle 3. right to life, liberty and security of person.Article 4. No one held in slavery or servitudeArticle 5. No torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.Article 6. recognition as a person before the law.Article 7. equal before the law and equal protection of the law.Article 8. effective remedy by competent national tribunalsArticle 9. No arrest, detention or exile.Article 10. fair and public hearingArticle 11. (1) presumed innocent (2) No one held guilty on account of any act or omission | Water I move like the sea Not enslaved by cruel torture Free to ebb and flow |
| Nitrogen fuel | Nitrogen – Communal Rights Article 12. No one subjected to interference with privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor attacks upon honour and reputation. Article 13. (1) movement and residence within the borders. (2) leave any country, and to return. Article 14. (1) seek asylum from persecution. (2) may not be invoked in prosecutions genuinely arising from non-political crimes. Article 15. (1) nationality. (2) No one deprived of nationality nor right to change. Article 16. (1) Men and women of full age, marry and found a family. equal rights during marriage and dissolution. (2) Marriage only with free and full consent. (3) The family fundamental unit of society - protection by society and the State. Article 17. (1) own property alone as well as in association. (2) No one deprived of property. | Fire We choose each other Feeling the spark in our hearts Owning our own home |

*Based on the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights <u>www.un.org/en/documents/udhr</u>. Inspired by Dr. Anna Julia Cooper, Cooper, A. (2000). A Voice from the South (Anna Julia Cooper, 1892), pp. 59, 122. Dedicated to UNICEF.

Six Basic Elements of Human Rights

© Stephanie Y. Evans | <u>www.professorevans.net</u>

| Oxygen respiration | Oxygen – Political Rights Article 18. thought, conscience and religion Article 19. opinion and expression; t information and ideas through media Article 20. (1) peaceful assembly and association. (2) No one compelled to association. Article 21. (1) take part in the government. (2) equal access to public service. (3) will of the people basis of government; equal suffrage | Air Open up and breathe Minds, unbridled expressions Gather and speak truth |
|-----------------------|---|--|
| Phosphorus crust | Phosphorus – Social Rights Article 22. social security, economic, social and cultural rights Article 23. (1) right to work. (2) equal pay for equal work. (3) human dignity. (4) trade unions Article 24. rest and leisure, limitation of working hours. Article 25. (1) standard of living for health and well-being. (2) Motherhood and childhood special care and social protection. Article 26. (1) right to education. (2) Education to full development of personality and shall promote peace. (3) Parents choose education [for] children. Article 27. (1) participate in cultural life, to enjoy arts and to share in scientific advancement. (2) protection of the moral and material interests from any scientific, literary or artistic production. | Earth Learning dignity Creative work and leisure Foundations of health |
| Sulfur core | Sulfur – Democratic Rights Article 28. social and international order. Article 29. (1) duties to the community. (2) rights and freedoms of others - meeting requirements of morality, public order the general welfare in a democratic society. (3) no case contrary to purposes of United Nations Article 30. Nothing aimed at destruction of any rights and freedoms. | Axis Natural conflict Equilibrium's forces Compel us toward peace |

"There are two kinds of peace in this world. The one produced by suppression, which is the passivity of death; the other brought about by a proper adjustment of living, acting forces. ... Now I need not say that peace produced by suppression is neither natural nor desirable. ... **All through** *God's universe* we see eternal harmony and symmetry as the unvarying result of the *equilibrium* of opposing forces. ... Could the centrifugal force for one instant triumph, or should the centripetal grow weary and give up the struggle, immeasurable disaster would ensue—*earth*, moon, sun would go spinning off at a tangent or must fall helplessly into its master sphere. The acid counterbalances and keeps in order the alkali; the negative, the positive electrode. A proper equilibrium between a most inflammable explosive and the supporter of combustion, gives us <u>water</u>, the bland fluid that we cannot dispense with. Nay, the very <u>air</u> we breathe, which seems so calm, so peaceful, is rendered innocuous only by the constant conflict of opposing gases. Were the *fiery*, never-resting, all-corroding oxygen to gain the mastery we should be burnt to cinders in a trice. With the sluggish, inert nitrogen triumphant, we should die of inanition. These facts are only a suggestion of what must be patent to every student of history. *Progressive_peace* in a nation is the result of conflict; and conflict, such as is healthy, stimulating, and progressive, is produced through the co-existence of radically opposing or racially different elements. Each race has its badge, its exponent, its message, branded in its forehead by the great Master's hand which is its own peculiar keynote, and its contribution to the harmony of nations.

*Based on the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights <u>www.un.org/en/documents/udhr</u>. Inspired by Dr. Anna Julia Cooper, Cooper, A. (2000). A Voice from the South (Anna Julia Cooper, 1892), pp. 59, 122. Dedicated to UNICEF.