



What Do We Owe Each Other?

By Colin Cano

01

The Keys to Thriving Societies

How Empathy and Accountability Work Together





Keys for Thriving Societies

Empathy

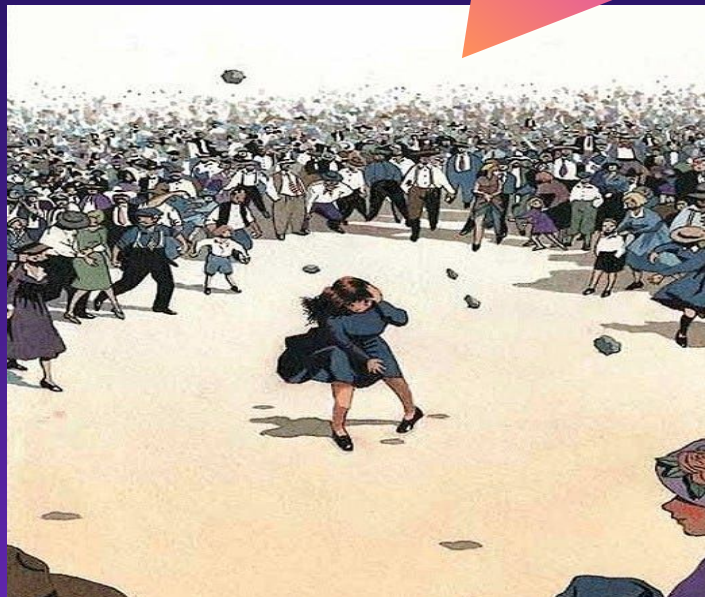
Encourages understanding and connection among members.

Accountability

Ensures fairness and trust by holding everyone responsible.

Balanced Together

These create strong, stable communities



02

Failed Societies

The Cost of Neglecting
Empathy or Accountability

Societies That Lacked Empathy

Example: "The Lottery" by Shirley Jackson

- Lack of empathy led to blind adherence to harmful traditions.
- The community sacrificed individuals without considering their humanity.
- The community demonstrates accountability to tradition.

However, this accountability lacks empathy and evidently created a dangerous society.

“It isn’t fair, it isn’t right,” Mrs.
Hutchinson screamed, and then
they were upon her.

The Lottery

Societies That Lacked Accountability

Example: "Is This Kansas?" by Eula Biss

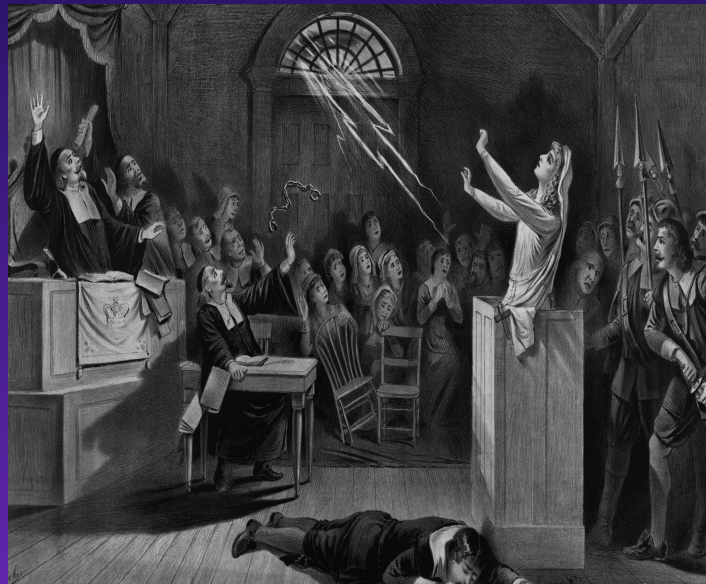
- Lack of accountability in college towns created imbalances.
- The lack of accountability allowed destructive behaviors to continue without consequences.
- Residents and authorities often empathize with students, viewing their recklessness as a phase of youthful self-discovery

'Is This Kansas?' highlights a community where misguided empathy excuses harm at others' expense.

03

Societies with Both but Still Failing

Misapplied Principles Can
Still Lead to Failure



Societies with Both but Still Failing

Example: "The Crucible" by Arthur Miller

01

Empathy

Present in personal relationships but weaponized during the trials.

02

Accountability

Transformed into paranoia and unjust persecution.

03

Outcome

Misapplied empathy and accountability led to fear and the community's collapse

04

How Can We Apply Empathy and Accountability Thoughtfully?

Balancing Freedom and the
Collective Good



How to Apply Them Thoughtfully

Empathy

Empathy must extend to all, not just a select few.

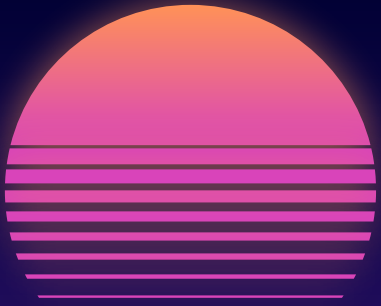


Accountability

Accountability must be rooted in fairness, not fear or control.

Consistent Action

Ensure empathy and accountability are consistently applied.



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