Editorial: Democracy, politics and gods

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Sept 15-22, 2003

Democracy is the strongest form of government and the least vulnerable against destabilization and unscrupulous attacks.

Indeed, following a pernicious attack against democracy, nothing is disrupted; democracy remains alive and kicking: Killing an unprotected political leader cannot kill democracy itself. It was once said that politics is the ultimate form of charity and sacrifice. I believe this is true of true democracies. Sweden appears to exemplify this with two very important leaders killed (Olaf Palme, 1986 and Anna Lindh, 2003), with little or no disruption of how the country runs.

During Ancient times and civilizations, political people and leaders were often raised to godly standards, and democracy was not the strongest point of these civilizations. Pharaohs were gods, and Egypt was not heaven for everybody. The same is true of the Roman Empire.

Today, there is a renewed tendency to raise many political leaders to godly standards. Hopefully, those aspiring to this condition may read again, like I did under the advice of Michel Serres, the 'Venus of Ille', by Prosper Mérimée, and realize the amplitude of the risk they are taking.