***DEMOCRACY IN ANCIENT GREECE***

According to the ancient Greeks today, in Italy, there are about 40% of idiots (which is, more or less, the percentage of our electoral absenteeism).

In fact, for the Greeks of the fourth century BC, "idiots" were citizens with little interest in public life.

For the Greeks, inventors of Direct Democracy, it was inconceivable that someone could not be interested in public affairs.

For us instead, citizens of a State with Representative Democracy, participation is a right equal to abstention.

In reality, even the Greek Democracy was only apparently direct and plebiscitary.

Not everyone was admitted to the management of public affairs.

Men under the age of thirty were excluded, as were those who had not finished their military service, women and, of course, slaves.

However, each of the admitted citizens had the possibility of proposing a new law to the assembly, which was voted on by a majority, by show of hands.

This system, though simple and clear, was not entirely secure when the Assembly was extended.

The possibility of error was so evident that a new way had to be found which would allow the vote to be verified and also to be recounted in case of doubt.

For this purpose, the method of Colored Pebbles was introduced.

Each voter had available White Pebbles if they agreed with the bill and Black Pebbles if they disagreed.

A system of simple implementation which, if adopted today, would make life hard even for our current "Snipers".

The Public Administrators were not elected but drawn by lot and this was a guarantee against ambition and greed.

Of course, by doing so, it was easier for there to be lacks of competence in the various roles, but the Greeks solved the problem by creating Working Groups, which helped the elected in his function by spreading knowledge as is done today with the programs of modern training.

Only for two delicate functions there was the traditional electoral system: for the Managers of large sums of money and for the General of the Army.

The Economic Managers came from the richest families, to avoid theft of public money.

The Army Generals, directly from the military ranks, therefore already equipped with specific skills and experience.

The ancient Greeks were certainly pure of heart and never would have imagined that, after 2000 years, it would not have been enough to come from rich families to avoid corruption and dishonesty.

On the other hand, as Winston Churchill said in 1947:

***"Democracy is the worst form of government, apart from all those other forms that have been tried so far."***