

Politics

I have aired Ganesh's First Law of Politics before, but allow me a recapitulation.

People do not work out their beliefs and then join the corresponding tribe.

They join a tribe and infer their beliefs from it.

The sense of belonging, the group membership, is what hooks people, not the thrill of being right or pursuing a thought on its own terms.

Politics has become a team sport, goes the line on this.

But even that is too kind.

Sports fans are sardonic and irreverent about their own team.

It isn't so central to their identity as to require consistent adherence.

Janan Ganesh, Financial Times, December 2, 2022