Spirits in the Material World – *Ghost in the Machine*

* [**THE POLICE**](https://www.songmeaningsandfacts.com/category/the-police/)

“Spirits in the Material World” by The Police

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The Police’s “Spirits in the Material World” seems to suggest that although humans are physical and react only to the tangible, the intangible things in life may be the key to solving our constant struggles.

The song is introduced with the narrator implying that politics alone cannot solve the problems that come with the development of humanity. He also suggests that putting one’s trust in the constitution is deadly. And why? Because it usually changes with time and disfavors a majority of the people it is supposed to protect.

While the writer makes mention of physical attempts by leaders to resolve problems such as conflicts, economic failure and destruction in our world, he strongly believes that humans should rather depend on the ‘spiritual’ to find solutions. By this, he means finding other ways by thinking deeply, mastering one’s emotions, being visionary and seeing the bigger picture of everything that goes on.

Sting talks about “Spirits in the Material World”

In a 1981 interview with [*NME*](https://www.thepolice.com/ghost-in-the-machine/), Sting explained that the song suggests that people must look beyond their condition because no political strategy can solve the problems happening around us.

Read more at: <https://www.songmeaningsandfacts.com/spirits-in-the-material-world-by-the-police/>

Lyrics

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BHOevX4DlGk> (cc)

Oh!

There is no political solution  
To our troubled evolution  
Have no faith in constitution  
There is no bloody revolution

We are spirits in the material world  
Are spirits in the material world (3X)

Our so-called leaders speak  
With words, they try to jail ya  
They subjugate the meek  
But it's the rhetoric of failure

We are spirits in the material world  
Are spirits in the material world (3X)

Where does the answer lie?  
Living from day to day  
If it's something we can't buy  
There must be another way

We are spirits in the material world  
Are spirits in the material world (3X)