

ON TOP OF IT

RISING ABOVE THE HUMAN MIND

by JIM CLEVELAND

*This volume seeks to rise above 'common sense'
which has often proven wrong,
in pursuit of a higher sense
and greater wisdom.*

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INTRODUCTION

How do we get “on top of it?” I think ...

We yearn for simple truths. We want solutions that sum it up. We want to cut through all of what we call bullshit.

We define that as all the stuff we’ve been told that hasn’t proven true. It’s been self-serving to the teller; it has yielded profits at our expense; it has influenced us by twisting the facts or leaving them out. This all seems endemic in our education system, and in our lives.

In a world of partisans, we find that partisanship enforces ignorance and keeps humankind from growing. It is myopic and destroys critical thinking. Incessant selling is biased and forever pollutes our air.

In a world of individuals who are conflicted about their life’s purpose and confused by competing dogmas, how could we expect social progress for the planet as a whole? We are not globalists, we struggle hard enough being individuals, knowing what is true or not. Education does not teach us cooperation and respect for one another; it doesn’t even teach us to care about one another. It turns out people with hollow

heads and hollow hearts, encumbered with hollow facts and a hollow curriculum. We must teach altruism and a global family if we are to progress, separately or together.

Our education 'system' is broken but there is no reason not to apply the simple realities of the universe to our current planetary conditions and our own lives. It is time to impose and bring on a higher consciousness.

There is also ample reason to attempt this conveyance in a simple way, and not as an academic exercise. The style that comes in this volume should conform to conciseness. The content should be foolproof. Every reader should understand the message. This will be attempted.

Our list, our sharing, should be ordered by importance. Foundations are built before balconies. Know that your authors support the continued Evolution of Truth, Beauty and Goodness as our personal religion and our permanent spiritual quest.

Secondly ...

How do we 'rise above our minds?' Can that be done?

I believe we are here to mold ourselves — into fine pottery, open vessels of love and truth, or into something less.

We humans, they say, have feet of clay. We are apt to fall and fail at any time. Our pottery can hit the concrete.

Our minds are also clay — to be molded from our experiences, and what we learn.

If we were to rise above our material, mortal mind, where would we go? To Spirit.

We would know ourselves as the Spiritual beings we will become, and not the flesh we inhabit temporarily — for its educational experiences into materiality.

We would then remain physically in the world, but not of it. We would assume our higher identity, when we are eventually fused with our spiritual energy, to leave our materiality behind.

Surely this isn't possible in this small lifetime. No. We are who we are in the ascension plan, and where we are in the quest for higher identity.

So can we actually rise about human mind? Assuredly. We can strive to reach its enormous potential.

Normal minds use a fraction of their capacity. There are barriers.

Bias and acrimony intrude on us at every turn — urging our fear and feeling of separation. We could be free of this and think more rationally. In evolution, we are still imbued with animal-like thinking.

Critical thinking is not the norm among the masses, and the masses are important to move the whole.

We can avoid jerking our knees at events and exploring them. Observe, discern, evaluate and judge its values. Do this in order.

The human mind does truly have untapped powers. In times of silent rest and worship, you can achieve an energized relaxation that opens your mind to new insights, new ways of looking at the exact issues in your lives. This is no coincidence.

You can rise above the usually dominating analytical mind as well, by engaging your imagination to see what inspirations and visualizations come to you in the silence and on the panoramic canvas of the mind-scape.

Many minds have untapped creativity. Many great artists are curtailed in their physical manifestations, but they are eternal ascending personalities and their artistic expressions live on with them. Death is only a transition ... a passageway.

While you are here, you can shuck the cacophony of a planet comprised of the confused.

Know that God is Love. This is your daily, hourly Mantra. Dogma scripture has no real value; all the spiritual wisdom you need is within you.

Develop your gift of Cosmic Mind by learning to think with cosmic logic. The Universal Father and the time and space worlds for ascending humans make perfect sense.

Develop your intuitive powers, for they represent the balancing beam that colors your logic and gives it meaningful expression.

Develop the ability of instant Stillness — to quickly go into a moment of faith connection and personal recognition of God and become re-centered on the ultimate reality of your spirit identity. God, the Father, loves your company.

Develop a lifestyle of mental and physical health, allowing your mind, body and spirit to be your source of wisdom. Each of them speaks to you. They live best in balance, an enticing challenge for your life.

Develop a perspective shorn free of the partisan baggage that has been thrown on your life cart from the beginning. Recognize the marketers of myopia, the dupes and their clay feet, the con men, the whores, the punks and the addicts, the zealots of narrow mind and clandestine racism, the ego engorgers and their insatiable appetites. Understand the pitiful hordes of homeless and hold empathy for them, and good will.

This is life, a glorious garden of blooming discoveries. Full of disintegration. Full of new growth.

These following essays on things I believe I've discovered are purely personal. I may have discovered something you've disdained. I may profess a profound truth that you consider a scam.

We both should examine our baggage cart now and then, and see if we should consider a clean start on some of these issues. In history, we have been lied to at every turn. It continues daily, all over the news and all over the ridiculous scenarios of the advertising industry.

It's time we turned to our inner authorities to show us the real truths of life. We are more than happy shoppers. We are more than rubes for demagogues.

Our inner spirit never fails to accurately appraise the situation and urge us in the right direction. Often we aren't listening.

I have listened for a Spirit voice in the quiet times and here are some reflections.

Our Spirituality is more important than all else, and these topics are in section one.

In part two, Society shows itself as a chronicle of madness. Little makes sense and nobody seems to care. Ironies abound and few seem to see them. Mainstream media invariably misses the real point behind every issue and we see readily that their advertisers have bought a lot more than space. Love capitalism. Hate those communist socialists. Yet capitalism has no room for Love, and hatred has no place in any of our lives.

Above all, recent months has seen Orange emerge as the new Black. Fear and loathing ratcheted way high. Hubris with a haughty hair

weave. We could express Horror at Hubris. Humor is likely the more entertaining approach.

The situation changes almost daily, and at this point, so does the manuscript. This is all like an introduction to a merry-go-round of painted figures that simply won't stop and seem to have no clear destination.

I hope you enjoy these many ideas which I see as insights, and may you have insights of your own and open more doors of inquiry, in the world and inside yourself.

Part One

SIMPLE SPIRITUALITY

God Created Evolution

This is foundational knowledge in all the universe. This encompasses billions of planet and trillions of beings. All are evolving; evolution is basic. People on this planet can't seem to figure it out.

Modern astronomers are now seeing all of these amazing worlds being revealed to us in the physical dimension. In the spiritual dimension, we transcend science, which is largely confined to visible and discernible phenomena to our material eyes and our under-educated minds.

Spiritual energy circuits exist within the Spiritual Hierarchy and largely outside our references. There is a God, most often called the First Source and Center, and there are countless personalities having poured forth from this Universal Father of all that is.

They descend from the Infinite Mother Spirit, whose energies permeate the universe and on downward to the individual soul-imbued mortal citizens of all the planets.

We are each a child of this First Source. Within our being, we are indwelled with a spirit of God, a fragment of the Divine Creator. It has been called our soul, our conscience, our higher self, our thought adjuster -- always attempting to adjust our thoughts toward truth, beauty and goodness. Inherently, if we are of sound mind, we know right and wrong and can choose a path.

There seems no reason not to believe this. Here we are. We have life itself, a mind, a body, a free will and an opportunity to use them all. Look around and through the facades of civilization and you see earth, wind, fire, water and sky. Through these gifts you can feel the Spirit of it all -- yourself immersed within the experience. This is basic.

Should we become free of all the human 'baggage' that people have preached to us over the years, our minds would be clean, and centered on real values, not the false ones instilled by politicians, salesmen and the worshippers of wealth and fame.

Opposition to an evolving universe on our planet is rooted in human-created dogma, produced in order to consolidate seekers into a doctrine and therein to support an institution of their creation. None of the so-called sacred scriptures are sacred in any real sense. They are all created by men to serve their ends to influence and control.

The truth of our evolution is unsettling to them and doesn't attune with their purposes for their scripture. Pictures of our cave-dwelling ancient ancestors and the hairy apes of today repulse those who have produced scripture. They opt instead for a magical creation story -- of ourselves in God's "image" by however they define that term. Certainly, God had an image of what we should be and an evolutionary plan for us.

Notwithstanding the inaccuracy of scripture, God's image of our grand evolution on this planet is truly amazing. The Father's creation of the time and space concept worlds and its populations seeking to ascend via a 'Be Ye Perfect' mandate is grander than most Christians can imagine.

And here we are -- with advanced mammalian bodies developed over hundreds of generations, an amazing biology of flesh, blood and bones. We have the Father's eternal presence within, an eternal shining light, going out with us on our exploration of a material world.

We should be grateful for God's evolving worlds. We should be disdainful of so-called scripture that defies this evolution while simultaneously claiming its own perfection.

We all need to evolve. The idea that we should lay back into a cocoon here and wait on some heavenly future existence after we squander this one with inactivity is nonsensical.

GOD IS BETTER THAN THIS

People are forever tearing God down to their level of understanding.

They make God a male, or even a female.

They all exhibit a fatal flaw. They say that God disdains other religions and stands behind theirs.

Intolerance is not a trait of God.

Neither is ignorance. It isn't necessary for humans to show their allegiance with endless rituals, even prostrate themselves on the ground.

God is not so vain or ignorant to need incessant expressions of the same thing. God knows what you think and what you do, and how you invest your time and how you waste it.

It's time to elevate God to a greater understanding. God's energy permeates everything. God created everything — the humans and their sexuality, the splendid natural garden that makes up the Earth.

God created you imperfect. You were born both ignorant and innocent. Your success as a mortal depends on how you feed yourself. Do you look for love, beauty and truth. God provides plenty of assistance to guide your way.

If you don't ask for it, you don't get it. If you do take a step of faith, it will be rewarded. It's as simple as that. God is a mysterious monitor that indwells you. Call God your soul, your conscience, your goodness, your higher self, your indwelling spirit. The language is yours; the reality is God's.

Evolving religions have invariably put themselves above the reality of personal religion. They can only supplement your real and personal religion, they can't be one. They can only socialize spiritual seekers, not control them. They can only provide community, not personal salvation. Religions must know their rightful place.

They do not. They even intrude on diet. Over history they have taken a role in births, marriages, and deaths with human consent, but they shouldn't believe they should have any control over such transitions of life.

Without the religions, where would civilization be? Without the dark ages, where would we be? Without the example of Jesus' life, where would we be? Without the eternal religious conflicts, wars, genocides and inquisitions, where would we be? Without the destruction of the new world Indian

populations, what kind of spirituality would there be in the world? We can but speculate on history while we live in reality of what has happened.

Today, surely we can realize that we are all flesh and blood and bone and our beliefs about speculations should hardly be that important. Better that mankind would have respected and loved each other rather than project all the love they had upon a god of their imagination. They have tortured and destroyed the natural world, which directly represents God, and replaced it with printed page doctrines about their exclusive and imaginary spiritual jurisdictions. They are worth so little that they should be scattered to the wind, and rot back into organic matter wherever they lay.

We must try to understand that God is the First Source and Center of life energy in the universe. God should not be understood as a despot who needs constant re-assuring worship. He wants you to live the life he gave you. Upon transition, you will need to stand up for what you did.

The philosopher Baruch Spinoza had a view of God which I have long ago come to respect. No doubt, Christians, Muslims and Jews would find much here for disagreement. It does not suit their ideas regarding their particular church's power and control over our lives.

From his writings:

Quit praying and beating yourself in the chest! What I want you to do is go out into the world to take pleasure in your life.

I want you to enjoy, to sing, have fun and be blessed with everything I've done for you.

Stop going to these dreary temples, dark and cold that you built yourself and you say they are my home.

My house is in the mountains, forests, rivers, lakes, beaches. That's where I live and here I express my love for you.

Quit blaming me for your miserable life. I never said there was anything wrong with you or that you were a sinner or that your sexuality is a bad thing.

Sex is a gift you were given and with which you can express your love, your ecstasy, your joy. So do not blame me for everything that you were made to believe.

Quit reading these supposed sacred scriptures that have nothing to do with me. If you cannot read me in a sunrise, in a landscape, in the eyes of your friends, in the eyes of your son ... you won't find me in any book!

Trust me and stop asking me for things. Are you going to tell me how to do my job?

Don't be scared of me. I do not judge you or criticize you or get angry or upset, or seek to punish you. I am pure love.

Stop asking me for forgiveness, there is nothing to forgive. If I created you ... I was the one who filled you with passions and limitations, with pleasure, feelings, needs, inconsistencies ... with free will!

How can I blame you if you respond to something that I gave you? How can I punish you for being you, if I'm the one who made you? Do you think that I could create a place to burn all of my misbehaved children, for the rest of eternity? What kind of God could do that?

Forget about any kind of commandments, or any laws, these are tricks to manipulate, to control you, they only create guilt in you. Respect your fellow man and do not do what you would not want to be done to you. All that I ask is that you pay attention in your life, that you let your awareness be your guide.

My dear, this life is not a test, or a step on the road, or an essay or a prelude to paradise. This life is all that is, here and now and it is all that you need.

I've made you absolutely free, no reward or punishment, no sins or virtues, no one has a marker and no one is keeping track.

You are absolutely free to create in your own life a heaven or a hell.

I cannot tell you if there is something after this life, but I can give you some advice: Live as if there wasn't. As if this was your only chance to enjoy, to love, to exist.

So, if there is nothing after, then you've enjoyed the opportunity I gave you.

And if there is something after, rest assured that I will not ask you if you behaved well or badly. I'll ask: Did you like it? Did you learn? Did you have fun? What did you enjoy the most? What did you learn?

Stop believing in me, to believe is to assume, guess, imagine. I do not want you to believe in me. I want you to feel me in you. I want you to feel me in you when you kiss your beloved, when embracing your little girl, when you pet your dog, when you bathe in the sea.

Stop praising! What kind of egotistical God do you think I am?

It bores me to be praised, I am sick of you thanking me. Are you grateful? Prove it by taking care of yourself, of your health, your relationships, the world. Do you feel awed? Express your joy! That's the way to praise me.

Stop complicating things and repeating what you learned about it like a parrot. The only certainty is that you're here, you're alive, that this world is full of wonders. What do you need more miracles for? Why so many explanations?

Don't look for me outside, you won't find me. Look for me inside. I am there, shining on you.

— *Baruch de Spinoza (1632-1677) Dutch Jewish philosopher*

During his time, other philosophers saw God as being essentially apart from the earth, his creation. Spinoza saw God reflected in nature — our elemental gifts, our love for each other. His views are reflected most in the theologies of Pantheism. Opposing views espouse doctrines produced and published by humans which have nothing to do with nature and everything to do with their usurpation of your free thought and free will.

A more enlightened view results in your appreciating each glorious sunrise as a gift of God and endeavoring to see the love of God in all that you encounter. Then you yourself, like God, will be shining outward into the world.

EVOLUTION ON SPEED

Evolution does not move in a straight line and at a consistent rate of speed.

It has been packed with sudden episodic mutations that change everything, and it is constantly accelerating, always moving faster.

It is a bumpy road and our foot remains heavy on the pedal, resting there. Our world is quickening and quivering on the brink of an onslaught of continuing changes ... and no brakes.

We are told by scientists that the sum total of human knowledge on all subjects is doubling and re-doubling again before our eyes. It takes only a matter of days for the collective humankind to know twice as much as it did last week.

While knowledge, and hopefully wisdom, is expanding, scientists tell us that the universe as a whole (the one they see) is continuing to pull apart, to expand to some unknown destination as if we were all flying fragments of a Big Bang. Humans don't know where this is leading.

On our planet, we can be likened to the tortoise and hare race. We are the rabbit, evolving by leaps and bounds. The turtle plods along much at the pace of civilization during the cave man period. Not much of anything man did in that day affected much of anything in the world and the pace of evolution was slow. But on the plus side, there came the most essential and important inventions — language, tools, fire management, community values, parenting.

But in this story, the turtle will never win since our civilization promises to continue running at near breakneck speed, barring some epochal catastrophe. This will be the same mortal personality pursuit of survival, subsistence, progress toward wealth and power. No one stops to take a nap. And the millions of people living on earth today can make evolution run much faster than it ever has in the past with small, uneducated and often oppressed populations.

Yes, God created Evolution. And apparently he made it so that it moves faster and faster and we can make progress faster — for pursuing truth, beauty and goodness, for peace and love on all the world.

We have a distance to traverse but I'm glad to know it's all moving along. I can look at my 78 years and remember my 40 years in public relations, marketing and publishing. There were once no computers at all in the world.

We once made do with mechanical typewriters. Duplicates of documents required interspersed sheets of carbon paper to transfer the ink image from one sheet of paper to the other. Then came electric typewriters and their lightning-like keys, interchangeable balls of type fonts for these IBM plug-in marvels.

We longed for some kind of facsimile transmission machine, and so came the fax. We needed a machine to copy printed documents and Xerox rolled out one. We first used antique linotype machines and flatbed presses and primitive picture scanning devices to publish newspapers. Then the letterpress methods gave way to offset negatives and plates printing, and then into those brilliant computers sitting on everyone's desk. Do all the writing and lay-out inside the genie and then just send it to the press with a button. Computers also control the balance of the four printing colors and manage the distributions.

And then newspapers came to your computer monitor. Why print them? And the world continues to evolve into new wonders.

We knew about the coming of computers in the 1970s and 80s, we thought, but one quotable world expert said he could foresee the need for only a handful of computers worldwide. There was one at the university, I recall, taking a huge amount

of space, with special air-conditioning and reams of paper pouring out on the floor everywhere.

In my brief lifetime in publishing, things have greatly changed. Now humans can access virtually all of the world's knowledge or theory on any subject at all in the palm of their hand, a personal device, one of billions in the world and the number is going up.

Can humans keep up with the pace of evolution? We appear to be supremely adaptable, if we keep our minds open and our hearts exploring new adventures.

I know a sour-faced old fellow who says: "I ain't got no computer and don't want one."

Of course, he doesn't need one if that's the case. And if he doesn't need to take photographs on his phone, that's okay too. The planet still has such things as books, trains, string quartets, and hiking trails. Evolution is adaptable for each of us. There's plenty of everything to go around, and every generation can get by in our country if we will live in Spirit.

And the rapid pace of Evolution will provide much more to see, feel and experience in our sojourn here. I'm hoping to still be there for the second season of "Westworld."

YOU ARE THE HOUSE OF GOD — NOT THEM

No matter your earthly religion, all have built their houses of God and proclaimed them so. This is fine dedication but the territorial, self-serving animal mind of humans invariably leads to a corruption of institutions. It often starts with a proclamation that they are God's chosen, preferred people, as long as they express loyal worship through the ordained intermediaries. It is invariably associated with a money tithe, mandated by God himself.

Over the centuries these religions have disdained or only grudgingly accepted the existence of other religions, other houses of God. What is important to them are the words written and proclaimed as perfect and holy scripture, which are petrified into a belief system. The idea that a universal God shines love on all of his children is elementary, but doesn't seem to dawn upon them.

Even in the 21st century, we have extremist savages who belong in a much older century killing each other over doctrine. The Shias and the Sunnis continue to slaughter one another as one example. It has all molded down to tales of

vengeance and hatred these days, rather than some arcane issue of spiritual purity. It has spilled blood all over our modern societies which want to live at a much higher level of civilization.

Horrible genocides over all the century are laid off to religious differences, our god more powerful than yours. We are believers and you aren't.

Often, however, a religious cause is tacked onto mankind's desires to conquer, rape, pillage, enslave and take over large swaths of land and water. Religion is an excuse. God's supposed will is supplanted by their bellicose temperaments and slathered upon God like a coat of tar. God is on our side, not yours. In fact, ours is real and yours is false. Such infantile arrogance.

God is not a part of any of the evolutionary religions. They are all in our hands as custodians of the planet.

God did make us, however -- a biological marvel of bone and flesh and blood -- imbued with a mind, blessed and empowered by Spirit just for the asking.

We know that God is welcome in our house of his creation. We know that we don't have to go through some institution to reach our Father and have a meaningful personal relationship.

We have seen all the religions as having a guilty history, bloodthirsty and altogether un-praiseworthy, from the sacking of cities and ethnic slaughters to the inquisitions of torture and the killing of innocents by radical zealots even today. Our various denominations continue to evolve slowly, or more likely stagnate with unmoving and unreliable scripture. There are still many thousands of denominations of a myriad of religions.

Spirituality is an entirely different reality. It is of Spirit, not material. It is yours, belongs to no institution. It is the basic relationship of all humankind -- parent to child. It is between you and your God, and God loves you. Doesn't that make you feel good?

PERFECTION IS ETERNAL ASCENDANCY

As it turns out, the State of Perfection is not static. It is the act of evolving and growing itself. It surprised me.

In trying to understand a world that grows and evolves in its own ways, mostly inscrutable to us, we should first grasp that the entire universe is co-creative. In birthing and parenting children, we do what God, the Universal Father, does. But we could hardly do this unless we were in his Dominion. We co-create new life here and we then nurture it with the help of the Infinite Mother Spirit. That is the plan anyway.

As we evolve and grow here, we carry within us what we might call a soul, a fragment of God, a spark of spirit, a reliable thought adjuster, a higher self, a guiding conscience parent.

So whatever we do and whatever we experience, our Universal Father chooses to experience it with us via his Indwelling Spirit, a reliable fellow sojourner in our material life, the serious but joyful side of ourselves that celebrate more truth, more beauty goodness in our experience.

As we fulfill our mission of goodness, we earn eternal growth beyond death; our Indwelling Spirit earns eventual fusion with us to achieve a unified Personality in the Father's ascension plan.

Why does God experience with us? In order to be even more 'perfect' than we suppose the Deity to be.

By incorporating the experiences of vast numbers of ascending mortals in the time and space worlds into God's overall experience, then God grows into a kind of Supreme Being that has truly experienced life as all of his children — one by one and collectively. He gathers vast lifetimes of experiences within his already Divine being.

This is also, not coincidentally, what Jesus did — the incarnated human personality who lived life as humans do, the children of his creation, the vital personalities rising out of the ascension plan. In empathy he lived as one of us, suffered and died as many of us will, but triumphantly passing over the threshold of material being into spiritual and ever-lasting spiritual identity.

Lucifer rebelled against the human ascension plan as a waste of time and resources. Jesus's incarnation proved him finally wrong. He symbolically defeated Lucifer while living the life of a human, and thereby demonstrating human potential.

So God is becoming even more perfect by encompassing our Be Ye Perfect experiences. We are growing together — co-creatively with the Father.

We are following God's example to keep learning, growing and experiencing, as God does.

We are and must be forever students as God is. He must learn from all of our experiences or he would not collect them. We are important children to him or he would not indwell us with a spark of his Divine Parenthood.

God is 'perfect' at one plateau of our existence here — all that we can imagine. But I believe that a truer Perfection must be in a constant state of ascending growth and evolution. Everything else does. Even the physical universe that scientists see is continuing to expand — to where they do not know. Will it all finally just pull apart, they ask.

We spiritualists don't know the fates of galaxies. But we acknowledge and worship a Universal Father in charge. He is not a myth we made up. His Universe makes Perfect sense. He created Evolution, and it's your Evolution that counts in this material world. If you don't evolve sufficiently here, why should you stay on the ascension path? We should be prepared to answer when we transition. How have we devoted our share of time?

DON'T BLAME GOD

God's domain is vast, beyond our comprehension. God does not micro-manage the lives of mortal inhabitants in the time and space worlds. We manage our own lives, that's the plan. Free will is among your greatest gifts.

God does not micro-manage events. We manage the development of the planet. It is ours; God gave it to us. Events are driven by us. God does not abrogate the free will that is given to us.

We have evolving minds and bodies that are controlled by our own free will, and we have a comforting, guiding presence of Spirit inside if we ever learn to access it and utilize it effectively.

If horrible things happen, they are of our doing. If we kill one another, that's what we did. If we call it God's will that tragedies occur, we're passing the proverbial buck.

God, the Father, does not supplant your gift of free will to save you from your actions. We will evolve our own world; the work is ours, not God's. The acts we do are ours; the

consequences are borne by our Universal Father and his wishes and desires for his creations.

We have made war an integral part of our evolution. We have fought over every parcel of land and water continuously over the generations as if dividing it and depriving our neighbors was a mark of progress.

Had our evolution not been accompanied by cultural and racial hatreds over the centuries, our world might have lived in the luxurious balance of good will by now. But we truly must recognize and accept it for the way it is in our lifetimes. This is our segment in the flow of humanity in this world and we should make the most our time here, to make the world a better place, in acts large and small. Life is time management.

Should our lives be cut short by violence, it is a human tragedy, of course. It is also part of a vast universe self-reliance plan for all personalities. We learn by being. We grow in universal empathy with each experience of loss and suffering.

That innate empathy will be very useful in our ascension time as we ourselves ascend to service positions in the spiritual hierarchy. We are enriched by our material experience, and with greater wisdom to employ in the continuing constructions of new worlds. We can co-construct with our Universal Father, the great universe builder. We can do our parts and grow along with the universe.

Those who die too soon continue to live and serve on the other side. And at the instant of their death, they are rescued from their mortal experience and their souls. Their beings, are carried across the threshold to the salvation that God promised.

All that remains is the shell of their being -- a shell to be symbolically beloved and remembered forever by our loved ones, even as our personalities have flown away and into the spirit world. If we're found worthy by our example and our commitment, we can further ascend.

We should carry understanding with us about the human role in our civilization. It is all-important. God and his legions of supporters watch with interest as it all unfolds. Each planet's history varies but adheres to a pattern. Each planet's people make its destiny.

Planets are not toys of the hierarchy; people are not puppets. If we are waiting for someone else to save our planet, we are misguided. We are the ones we have been waiting for, and we should take seriously our roles, and not just pass off everything we see as 'God's will.'

God's will is for us to save our own planet and the indwelling Spirits have many great ideas and insights to share for doing just that.

God knows that we have messed it up; God knows that we have the potential to clean it up and that we have the communications tools in the 21st century to move things along at a much faster pace.

In the cosmos, there has been some wonder expressed that our planet's inhabitants continue to attack each other with ferocity and hatred and kill so many.

With their clear reasoning, they can't explain why the sight of dying and suffering people, bodies torn apart, and widespread misery didn't stop the idea of war on the planet after the very first battle. Can the inhabitants not learn from their mistakes, and continue to inflict horror upon themselves through the generations?

Is this part of our DNA? Is it because we are still too animalistic, infected with acrimony, or is there some 'devil' involved? Why has evolution been accompanied by such tragedy on our planet?

WE ARE HUMAN ANIMALS

Humans detest any comparisons between humans and animals, and we necessarily make the distinction. We are imbued with Spirit and Mind, the ability to reason and make moral decisions. We have souls.

But our temperaments can still resemble the terrible philosophy of survival that originated with our ancient ancestors. They subsisted in caves and natural shelter, they clung together in a world of savage animals driven by hunger to eat, even them.

They were fear-ridden and defense-driven, as fierce as necessary to kill hungry predators. Males were biologically driven to penetrate females in lust, babies were born to uncertain fates. But males became protective and loving toward their female mates, and there grew a love for children.

Above all, survival and the eternal presence of dangerous enemies has shaped the temperament of what we call Human Beings for all of eternity.

Here today, we choose survivalist, suspicious and defensive thinking to much of what we do. Somebody out there may try

to hurt us, beat us out of our money, kidnap our kids, show them pornography. There is danger everywhere.

Yet, there is always a countervailing force of inner wisdom inside us guiding us in ways of Goodness. Love one another. The Golden Rule.

We long to shuck the old ways of fear and dread and open to a new reality of peace between the myriad of personalities on the planet. This will all happen in due time, beyond our sojourn in fleshly and finite experience here.

This is natural, that we yearn for perfection. This is implanted by your indwelling Thought Adjuster. This is all that the Universal Father wishes for you to do.

Don't try to change the world, accept it as the abiding flow of history. Just work to enlighten your perceptions as your Spirit identity rises above it. Remain in the world, but not a creature beholden to it, and its twisted history of misadventures.

Start today, stay in touch with inner Spirit for guidance, and appreciate the progress of humankind since caveman days. It's all truly amazing. Humans rise above it all, and keep evolving.

MONSTERS DON'T EXIST

The 'devil' is a creation of storytelling. It personifies the dark side of our dual nature -- the pragmatic survivalist and the personality drawn to a higher purpose.

Early work of literature such as Dante's *Divine Comedy* and *Pilgrim's Progress* gave voice and identity to stories that took on the serious air of truth. There was so little being published at the time that it became magnified in importance and value.

In much the same way, holy scripture was created to allow man to have a physical representation of his religion -- an observable testament to religious truth. These scriptures have become deified, and that's a pitiable perversion of the path that mankind should be taking -- developing a personal relationship with God, not with a document filled with contradictions and a heavily propagandized content.

Evolving religions have been too eager to accept visions of eternal suffering and torment as the wages of sin. It provides a strong fear factor to enhance their appeal, and their power, and to feed the church coffers.

Humans need to evolve beyond fear as a motivating fear. Do this or get punished. Live right or go to a 'hell' that most often raises up the specter of being burned alive, and constantly. It is incongruous to the active, modern mind that you would truly worship a God that foments such cruelty.

It makes no sense that God allows an insidious evil presence to torment and tempt our lives. To what avail? Our lives are tough enough as they are. Progressive evolution requires commitment and constancy. God does not bequeath us devils on top of all that. They are our own imaginative creations.

God does not send devils and imps out to challenge us. We have our own minds which constantly challenge us. We challenge ourselves.

God does not throw out temptations to us, so that we can prove ourselves worthy of some arbitrary or affixed standard of being. God gives us the mind, body and spirit resources to take on the Father's evolution plan, and help make it work.

Is that vision too grand for you? Does God have a grander vision for you than you yourself do? Do you feel like you're living in quicksand, and there's no way to get on a firm foundation? Do you think your sphere of influence is negligible to non-existent and your life's plan to be relevant in some way has been retarded or outright thwarted?

All of these questions and answers begin and end with you. There are no insidious forces in the world that didn't come from the mind of man. Our mission is to help humankind rise to higher mind -- a recognition that we are each a Human House of God. We can embrace the highest values in the universe, and their seeds lie within us.

This is far from a reality today. Instead, people embrace the same fears that we imagine our cave-dwelling ancestors embroiled into stories around their fires. Some even dote on fear as an entertainment medium today.

It should be instructive to know that no human has ever died at the hands of literal monsters. There are no vampires, werewolves or resurrected walking corpses. There are no alien invaders, bug-eyed monsters or mutant thugs. We are perfectly safe from harm by those things. The casualty rate is zero. There are no such monsters and yet we keep them alive in our minds.

We humans kill ourselves quite efficiently on our own, and not just from the obvious reasons -- war, crime and domestic murder. Misused pharmaceuticals, alleged medicines, kill tens of thousands every year. Poor diet and the health-damaging effects of excessive alcohol and tobacco use kill vast numbers as well. Humankind must do better with its addictions and life management. With less attention to imagined monsters, we can pay more attention to the real ones in human flesh

who lie to us constantly and seek to milk us for profits. They denigrate other races, classes and creeds and focus on their own self-aggrandizement by puffing up their power and wealth.

Make it more real. Banks can be our vampires. Werewolves are street gangs. Frankenstein can represent mindless consumerism. Zombies represent those who have turned their free will over to partisan dogmatists. The Joker reveals our mental health issues. A chainsaw massacre can represent the dumbing down of society. Satan's spawn can highlight our difficult parenting problems on the planet.

While we don't have any monsters per se, we do indeed have some monstrous challenges on the planet.

SOULS ARE EQUAL, PERSONALITIES UNIQUE

Cosmic reality is often too hard for us to imagine.

Every ascending mortal being in the time and space worlds is unique -- no two are alike and none have ever been exactly alike. We are bound to understand this as best we can, perhaps not at all. But it can't be disproven by humans.

Every ascending mortal has an indwelling spirit, a soul, a piloting presence of God, and the evolving religions all agree to this in most respects. We are no more or less important than the greatest souls who ever lived; our souls are equal in the sight of our Eternal Creator.

Those humans who achieve greatness have all been beneficiaries of good fortune, and many, many others with great potential have been victimized and taken away by bad fortune. We each are a child of the Father and some are able to achieve their highest altruistic ambitions. Some fall.

We are still survivalists today, as if we were still clustered in tiny communities, protecting the cave entrance from wild beasts. We are still working on that. We are still trying to manage fire and its derivatives. We are still in wonder, when

we gaze skyward, why it all exists? Is it all for us? Is it all just chance? Can we ever discover the truths about the Divine Hand behind it all?

If you think you are too small to matter, look at the issues that are embroiled in your own family, among your own friends. What are your opportunities for loving service to those you know? Can you develop a good heart and a good attitude about the factors of history which have put you here, in the place you're in? Can you make it work for you and your loved ones? It's important.

It's important to your soul growth -- at its own level. As ascending humans on this small planet, we all tend to be at the same level in the cosmic mind. We make life better however we can, and we move on.

We must not become mentally bogged down by our futility in changing society. We must relax into the level of evolution that exists and concentrate on changing and growing what is most important to our future -- ourselves.

QUIT CREATING ENEMIES

It is common for so-called Liberals to rail against corruptions of Big Business, the Big Banks of Wall Street, and on up into the planetary Dark Cabal, the Illuminati.

It is common for so-called Conservatives to resist Big Government regulations and taxation, to raise fears about it, propagandize you on the joys of free capitalism as the driving force of civilization.

These eternal competitions tend to create eternal enemies, just as they have since ancient times. Find where the other side is being unfair and attack them for it.

As our minds and spirits evolve, so shall we. Our bodies will last as long as our health allows as we each experience the birth to death to transition channel in our mortal lives.

We tend to demonize those on the other side of issues -- in business, government, politics and religion. We tend to look for things to mistrust or dislike in other cultures, races, and social groups. We tend to verify our divisive thinking with some decisive scripture or other.

We need to elevate our tendencies to the ideals that build civilizations -- working together with other cultures to absorb the best in each other, learn to celebrate the diversity of people and societies rather than take them as some kind of threat to our own cave.

This can be preached today, but can only be realized in the fullness of evolution, which includes the evolution of mankind's mind and mission as it navigates through a myriad of belief systems.

So these realizations are for future generations, and we should count our blessings that celestial teachers have provided us with these insights today, in hopes that we can be vanguards for a more enlightened and peaceful world. Knowing the cosmology and our own small but important place within it can be comforting and offer security of mind that our transition from this life will be a triumph and not a tragedy.

Yet as we are able to visualize our potential, we can be impatient, even frustrated by the laborious pace of mankind's awakening. We ask ourselves how people can be so transparently self-serving, spouting political-driven lies and half-lies to a gullible population of compulsive consumers and entertainment junkies. Some of us have railed about injustices, and even written purple prose.

Patience is indeed required, and your enlightenment should provide it and help you maintain it. You, the growth of your soul, is what's most important here. Don't worry about the rest. Evolution on time and space worlds is a massive ocean for discovery, and this human life is like a toe that we stick in the water.

It's fine. Evolution continues. We will do our part in it, our choice or not, and whatever that might be. We will answer for our human incarnation when we pass on, and we should be ready for assessments that will surely follow our tenure here.

Be self-assured on your path of informed faith and, in looking around, see the truth behind individuals and civilizations struggling in ebb and flow all across the planetary landscape. See it as a great story unfolding, a circular, ever-moving epic of a race of diverse people struggling to build a world-wide civilization of communities from the barest essentials of prehistory.

Be an avid explorer of this fascinating world, where we see the battle of good and evil, the clash between animal and spirit surging through the generations.

Be joyful of your blessings, your mind, body, spirit and that union that is You. Then you will know what you want to do -- use your talents and knowledge in service.

Look around. See that the opportunities for service abound. Whatever you can do, there is a need for it. And whenever you provide service to your struggling siblings in this life, you are earning stars in the reality of Spirit.

When you serve pro-actively, there is much less time to fume about enemies, real or imagined, and more time to be productive in building your faith, in God and in the Creation itself.

When you serve, you begin to see the goodness of fellow humans flourishing and rising up to meet you, and your cynicisms tend to melt away. You realize that you can build world community together, one human and one mission project at a time, and it can be very satisfying. Love given is love received. It is circular and reciprocal and revolving within us for our evolving pleasure.

Imagine friends, not enemies, and that's what you will find.

MYTHS AND MAGIC

Wake up. Good morning.

As you face up to each new day ahead, do you feel good about yourself, about your history and your destiny? Do you live in a comfort zone with yourself?

If not, here are some myths you could burst and you would be rid of them from now on. And here are some comforting personal truths to embrace in their place.

There is no search for God. The Creator lives within you in Spirit, so that nothing gets in the way of his Fatherhood of the evolving personalities of his creation. God would not leave you alone with an infantile mind to cope with an array of confusing and conflicting and often warring dogmas which are all man-made.

The threshold to connect with your Father is attentive silence, so that the deep spiritual voice inside can be heard. Be quiet, empty your vessel of nagging, mind-boggling concerns and listen. There is no separation between you and God -- none.

All else is the clamor of time and space worlds, in which life forms are given expression in material, in matter, and are imbued with Spirit presence as they begin to make moral judgments. God created this Evolution and watches over trillions of beings and billions of planets across a vast universe. His desire is that his children all come home to the Father and he lights the way and guides us from within.

In light of a vast benevolent, education-centered Universe, a light of its Creator lives inside us, hearing our calls, leading us toward truth, beauty and goodness.

Rigid dogmas of evolving humans are stultifying to the search for higher truth -- levels that are now, today, within your realm of understanding if you search out all the knowledge and insights that are available in abundance today. All true spirituality is within you, a biological marvel and a house of God in your own right. God created you and did not create any religion at all.

Your eternal destiny depends on your intentions. You have no need to understand beyond this if you truly understand what it means. It is the ideal subject to study within yourselves.

God honors your good intentions, though your mind and flesh may not be able to live up to them. All humans have much to learn and we all start virtually from scratch. Accept

yourself for the imperfect but attentive, learning human that you are. Mistakes and lessons learned are a natural part of your experience.

Forgive your weaknesses and learn not to repeat the mistakes they wrought. Forgive others for their imperfections and try to understand their intentions. Rise above your imperfections as you evolve. Summon new strength and resolve as you go. Know this as your soul growth, which expands incrementally as you find higher perspectives, greater appreciations, and more immersion into a life of sharing love.

Allow your physical self to show your inner Spirit; give it freely, and it will attract love in kind. Love attracts love. Each step of faith in this arena brings spiritual rewards.

Be wary of the weaknesses of others. Discern, evaluate and make necessary judgments regarding your relationships and how they can grow sweet fruit or pull you down to places you don't want to be. Your associations are critical to your welfare and your spiritual growth. The ideal community mantra is to: Love One Another. Fruit trees often need pruning within the orchards of cooperative enterprise.

Long and painstaking worship rituals are a waste of time. God is brilliant and knows the mind of each of us. Show constant appreciation and care for his other children; that is all the worship God needs. Serve his Goodness. Appreciate the

opportunities of life and express them fully. Love your body, your mind and spirit and reflect that love around you. Understand that your fellows are very much like you, and their struggles and ideals are most often the same.

God wishes you to have this experience in flesh, blood and bone, imbued with mind, spirit, free will, and innate needs and desires. Experiential knowledge is like no other and is an important part of our ascension path. The goal is indeed to 'Be Ye Perfect' and with many adventures along the way.

Those who wish to identify a 'False God' within the human experience can call it 'Money' or material wealth.

Observe the world but live in Spirit. There is much that obscures and twists truth, throws up perverse ideas of beauty and ridicules true expressions of Goodness with a cynical air. In effect, they pollute and poison as they are tolerated, and zero tolerance is in order.

Critical thinking is needed more than ever as individuals begin to recognize the global consequences of all actions and the inability of partisans to grasp the overall issues of survival and prosperity.

Be in the world but not of it. Don't be a product of dysfunction. Be an observer who rises to higher insights and

seeks opportunities to share them. Be ever-more confident in that role as you grow in Spirit.

Have a great day!

THE LIFE TENSION

There is an abiding, indwelling tension within you -- a restless uncertainty, a sense of both wonder and wariness.

This is an inherent tension that could be called your life force. It makes you part of a physical existence. We are having an experience in material existence.

Imagine your life as a rope, which requires tension to be effective. Your life is your rope and you have two strong arms and hands and an upper vision to hang onto it and traverse it with steady, progressive effort.

There are many strands in your rope, woven together, much like the various aspects of your personality are woven together to make a whole. Keep your rope taut, your purpose resolute, your steady, patient progress filling out the days of your mortal existence. Your movements are deliberate and planned, one arm and hand at the time, and then the other.

Imagine your rope becoming limp as you become sedated to life, not trying, not seeing its purpose, sinking into a quagmire of mindless entertainment and getting 'high,' losing the

courage to move forward, to learn and grow and see a reward in it.

The rope can become a sagging impediment and you wind up trying to pull yourself upward, and in vain, against a wall that wasn't there before, one of your own creation.

Keep your rope tight and your progress sure. Patience and perseverance are assets. Both are born of faith, which is all important to your life plan.

YOU'RE BORN GUILT-FREE

Don't take on the guilt of your ancestors. You did not exist.

Don't take on some 'original sin' that has nothing to do with your birth, life or death.

Many Americans feel guilty over our slavery heritage and our 'Manifest Destiny' which ran all over the American Indians. Yet the guilt belongs to our ancestors and not to us. We ourselves made no free will decisions on behalf of slavery or to act with hatred and violence.

The guilt of our forefathers is not ours, and Americans should rightly judge themselves on what has been done to make past wrongs into rights — for blacks, Indians and all people. We should be proud for our government's actions on behalf of civil rights, and human rights for all people over the past few generations.

When our Universal Father looks upon our lives here, the evaluation will be of our own intentions, our own free will decisions and the results thereof. Our free will decisions are our sole responsibility, and not encumbered by our ancestors,

be they great, good, bad or evil, and no matter how they were influenced by outside forces of truth or bullshit.

We are free will beings and too many can't understand that responsibility, forever looking for some authority, heaven or earthbound, to help them out, make things right for them, take away those responsibilities and obligations. We rely on schools, churches and social structures and take their guidance as gospel truth when all the guidance we need is within us, and it is true. If we understood more about our free will as a gift of God, would we be more apt to take responsibilities that build our lives, our experiences, our communities, our philosophies and theologies?

Some no doubt feel that their free wills are irrelevant since they're chained to educational, government, business and social structures that make most of your decisions for you — and render you helpless to do otherwise. I can't fly with eagles since I'm surrounded by turkeys. Your friends are likely having the same thoughts.

Best approach is to see that first reality. Any guilt for anything starts and ends with you. Why not exercise your best intentions and remain pure of heart going forward? Then provide a service with your innate talents and incentives and enjoy this mortal, experiential life. A physical family is a great way to enjoy sharing and love, with children of your co-creation.

Living in your higher self leaves guilt behind and empowers you with spiritual insights for daily guidance. But if you do act curtly or unwisely in the demanding, earthly pace, the spirit-led personality will be self-aware, and will amend it with ample doses of love and caring for that person you have aggrieved, and even the forging of a deeper sharing. Love given is love received in the eternal circle. It is a merry-go-round we should be pleased to ride.

The evolutionary religions have made many believe that they can help expiate mankind's bloody history and cleanse their sin-prone nature by embracing their scripture and paying tithes to keep their service institutions going and growing. Few, if any, of these religions give you the respect and responsibility of thinking for yourself, making your own free will decisions, and living your life according to what you believe is right and wrong. They consider you unworthy of such, and that makes them unworthy of leadership.

The institutions opt for indoctrination instead, proclaiming themselves sufficiently educated and qualified to make those decisions while you are not. You can't trust your own mind, they say, because of possible or likely devil corruption in there. Don't trust your mind, trust ours, and lay out all your confessional sins for us so we can dispose of them for you, and learn more of the community's gossip. We are educated in theology and have a direct connection to God's guidance for

you since we are his institution, the one he established on earth to save your soul.

The favorite targets of religious organizations have always been sexual intimacies and intoxicants. Taverns and brothels were much of the competition and could take much of the available disposable income of the people. Sexual activity should be regulated within the church and the church-related governments could control and tax the intoxicants, or even make them illegal. To bolster the alcohol business, the opium business could be suppressed. In some countries, this policy might be reversed.

The decisions that humans make regarding sexuality and the seeking of euphoria should be personal. Those decisions are not a matter of public concern. Humans should be able to make them without a judgmental hammer hanging over their heads over some church-afflicted sense of what is 'morality' and condemnation of the naked body as a despicable thing to expose.

Their charges usually only link to an unjust and obtrusive law related to acts called 'indecent' or 'fornication' or 'sinful' or 'vulgar' or 'obscene' or some other terminology that they themselves have invented.

Start fresh with your thinking. Loving intimacy is a very good thing; that's a good place to start in understanding what is real

and what is doctrine designed to control us. We actually don't need these evolutionary religions exerting controls over our personal lives, our intimacies, our diets, our religious practices, telling us what to believe and that all contrary is false. This is debilitating to the mind.

We are free will children of God and our Father lives within us. Honor your Father and let no man put guilt upon you. They are likely after something.

THE DECLINE OF PERFECT WORSHIP

In the beginning there was this perfect relationship between God and Man.

Our mammalian bodies were well developed through hundreds of generations. From squiggly salamanders finding their legs on dry land, evolution has been relentlessly patient and progressive.

As we reached a time of reason and wonder, we were imbued with an indwelling spirit of God, to guide us in the ways of higher mind and fruitful living. We learned.

And there was God, our Creator, all around us. The stirring, invisible wind that gives us life to breathe. Glorious forests, mountains, seashores, oceans teeming with a great variety of life.

Miraculously, tiny seeds interacted with soil and became bountiful, growing plants.

Miraculously, a brilliant ball of fire and light emerged on one side each morning, blessed the world with its presence as it passed over and disappeared into the night darkness, carpeting us then with a panorama of sparkling stars and a mysterious moon.

The fire served us with a powerful presence that warmed the cold air and drew us into fascination.

The water that fills massive oceans, flows in wide rivers and narrow streams and adorns our land with lakes is also the gift that we cherish in our biological presence.

All these glorious gifts were all man needed to see God, to feel God, to know God. We were given material eyes and here are our gifts to recognize and use in creating a quality of life.

With inner spirit guidance, we are urged to care for one another, each of us a biological presence here under one God, who can prosper by cooperation and community. There is indeed one God, most often called the First Source and Center among the planets of the time and space worlds.

It is our challenge to overcome animus — the remnants of an animal mind not entirely expunged by evolution. These are our tendencies to fear and doubt, fight, steal, dominate, and find acrimony against those of different colors and cultures.

But in its purest, most perfect form, the practice of worship and adoration of God for these gifts of our garden planet and the conscious lives we share on it is a matter of relating our Universal Father with the fruits of his creation. This natural world is spiritually energizing, even today, as we come into contact with the most dynamic and direct fruits of the spirit — the elements themselves and a feeling of our Oneness with them.

Humans can still worship God personally, celebrate a time of quiet stillness that cuts through the cacophony of noises that

command our physical beings. We can learn to turn a slap on the cheek into an opportunity for retaliatory service, and that service is always integral to the spreading of love and community with all siblings, with all of God's creation. I turn the other cheek and offer you friendship.

Beyond our walls of noise and labyrinthian twists of ever-busy mind, there is a solace in silence and the spiritual voice within you will come through.

This perfect storm of dynamic worship has been with us all along. Primitive people experienced God directly because there was not yet any dogma.

And then it came — written tomes that put mankind's stories above God's present realities. Self-anointed people speaking for God with printed documents that proclaim themselves completely true and well worth your financial support to keep their organization going. Your tithe is little enough payment for these holy scriptures we have for you, a family of friends in the organization, and eternal personal salvation. Resurrection from death is the big attraction.

The fatal flaw of all evolutionary religions is their arrogant intolerance of other paths. Dogma divides the human family, makes it dysfunctional and has led to generations of wars and genocides, even over modicums of scriptural difference. Jews, Catholics, Muslims, Protestants all remain fragmented and even at war with one another. Military conflicts take massive amounts of money in the name of killing people and destroying property. This prevailing animus that inflicts humankind must surely stop sometime.

Institutions that get between man and God have prevailed too long because they have this fatal flaw. And they are unnecessary for our salvation. Our Universal Father would not leave us beholden to them to tell us how to think and feel the presence of God.

They have built many large architectural monuments to God that are impressive and displays their spiritual commitment. But none will match the beauty of a mountain stream, a rocky seashore or trees covered with fresh snow.

We purify our worship by making it personal with our Father. We make it special in that it supersedes everything else in the mortal world for time alone with our Creator. It becomes spiritually energizing, for the rest of the day and the rest of our lives. We become centered in an inner nucleus that lightens our step and stands ready for any opportunity of service that emerges for us.

Every step of faith that we take — into the stillness or into the lives of our friends in service — is rewarded by Spirit. As we serve daily we are blessed with incremental additions of truth, beauty and goodness in our lives.

As dogmas pull at us today, we should recognize that, despite their historic corruptions, they have maintained a thread that leads toward disdaining the animal nature of selfishness and developing a spiritual nature.

They certainly haven't lived up to their ideals, but that is the case with most human institutions. They have a higher vision than they can reach due to internal corruptions.

When Constantine adopted the Christian faith, he put it on a flag that led his armies to butcher their foes. The Roman Jesus, a fabrication, led genocides that literally destroyed the pagan cultures in Greece. In time, Popes became evil tyrants, with inquisition tortures, murder and the outright selling of God's favors among their blasphemies.

But the Protestants proved no more honorable when they rose up in war. They destroyed monasteries, tortured priests, raped and murdered nuns, much as had the Viking invaders who raided them on the British Isles.

The Jewish people may have found their 'promised land' under Moses, but they had to battle and kill the residents of Canaan to actually take it over. One wonders what chosen people wander aimlessly and fruitlessly in the desert for forty years. One wonders about their supposed special pact with God that delegates them as 'chosen' over others when they have been the victims of history most of the time. Today, they have a nuclear-powered modern army to face off against their dogma-driven enemies across the Middle East. An eye for an eye; a tooth for a tooth.

Muslims continue to disdain other spiritual paths and even kill themselves over dogma at an alarming rate. Who cares about the differences in Sunni and Shia doctrine? It's inconsequential. Murder is consequential, no matter the reason. It has all evolved now into a bloody plethora of revenge killings.

So many militants can't tolerate other faiths and can't even tolerate sects within their own religion. And God does not justify killing on any terms, given that God does not subscribe

and adhere to the various infantile dogmas that permeates the world.

Would there be greater hope for humankind if there were no dogma at all? Perhaps we should all just agree to the Golden Rule, simple enough, and treat others as we wish to be treated. Apparently, that's too simple for humans, who persist in fighting over wealth and territory.

God is simple; mankind complicates.

God creates humans; they create societies and are responsible for them. God does not micromanage.

God's basic gifts are all you need to invigorate and sustain worship. Your life and your soul mates. Earth, wind, fire and water and spirit. What's not to Love?

Dogma divides — by intent. It retards critical thinking. It instills error as unquestionable truth. And its promoters invariably ask for money. Over history, they have killed vast numbers of people who have opposed them.

Take them with a grain of salt. God is the sweet sugar you need to guide you in your life, and that voice lives right inside you — an inner pilot to spiritual peace.

Religions have helped humankind evolve beyond its basest animal nature but stands bogged-down today by stagnated scripture — stuck in an us vs. them mentality. Much of the world is in the same shape.

Love One Another still hasn't taken hold. And it's really the centerpiece of Jesus's teachings, and every other spiritual prophet of which I'm familiar. The truth is always there, but often deviated by man putting himself on top of it, with his abiding determination to divide and dominate.

Inner wisdom will increasingly encourage humans to rise higher in mind and spirit, and forsake the paths of divide and conquer that have never proved fruitful at all. In the quiet times, God's spirit can speak, and show you that your path is clear.

NATURE: THE BASIC PRODUCT

We look upon Nature and see the amazing gifts of earth, wind, fire, and water and our own Spirit living in gratitude within this pure realm.

The Cancerous Capitalist sees potential products and services, from which can be derived Profit.

Profit is the mission. And with it the Admiration of others. And with that, Power. This is the P.A.P. that this kind of humankind strives to achieve.

Water is essential to life. Sell it. But if it is already in abundance, don't mind polluting all you can with the waste from your enterprises and sell the remaining clean water to your fellow humans for a profit. The less clean water, the greater the demand and the greater the profit off your fellows.

Take the profit in your own institutionalized, bank-sanctioned paper. Be assured that the paper relates directly to the pure gold that the rich have in vaults, separated from the people. They deemed it the standard of value in the first place, and then hoarded it. They want you to help them get more by tapping the earth's resources for their treasure chest.

Today, bottled water is a huge profit-making enterprise. No longer could one safely drink from any river, creek or stream that exists. We dump everything from human excrement to

toxic pesticides into the water — and let the living creatures in that water be damned.

Soil, of course, combines with the wondrous tiny seeds that are ours in profusion. Resulting plants produce essential food for humans and animals, as well as fiber that can create a multitude of products, from baskets and ship sails to clothing.

Clearly, food can be a big profit maker and its various industries drive the planet's capitalist mission. Such a variety to exploit in so many ways and sell in so many forms.

In time they drive to reality the proposition that if you eat you will have to work to pay us for the food. Many humans still cling to gardening themselves, however, if they can pay the price in time, labor, and space, and the seeds and implements and fertilizers they have to buy in our capitalist economy. Over time, family farms of all kinds have been taken over by corporate interests.

The marketability of fire has been one of the most profound streams in our evolution. Consider steam boilers, welders, electricity, coal furnaces, kerosene lamps, automobiles, jet engines and spacecraft. Fire and its heat has made a profound difference in our society, including the development of war armaments today in quantities that stagger the imagination. The U.S. is said to have around 1,400 nuclear missiles and the Russians a higher number. A mere handful of those could destroy the entire world. Perhaps this product inventory is just a bit too large.

Also don't forget the humble kitchen match, which has been manufactured in vast numbers and has propelled the energy

needs of humans for many generations. Candles, too, have been a big-selling product throughout history.

It isn't easy harnessing the wind and selling it for profit. But wind power has become a driving force in energy generation. We market oxygen tanks, propellers, air compressors, hair dryers, wind turbines, and blowers for heaters. In urban areas, we have severely polluted the air with industrial waste pouring into it. Water and air are both polluted, and they don't want to talk about their toxic dumps and massive landfills — tons of waste created by humans who are hardly even mindful of it. They put it on the curb and it disappears.

The overseeing Spirit of humankind may not seem a means for profit on our planet. But the ruling religions of the day would argue otherwise. Man's spiritual beliefs are definitely for sale and there have always been people who have produced writings that they have deified as the perfect hand of God and they are the god-chosen organization to wield that hand.

Man's great wondering mind has always sought answers to eternal — yearned to overcome the finality of death and believe in a wondrous after-life. They are ripe for exploitation. They can generate a profit if numbers of them can be accumulated. The scriptural story must be convincing and must be dramatic — fear-inducing, and with the lure of peace and love.

Mankind has built great edifices to their religious proclamations, from ancient Rome and Greece to the modern-day Catholic, Muslim and Christian worship places and shrines dedicated to their particular God within the trio. Each

of these religions is guilty of slaughtering vast numbers of the others through history, but no one ever mentions that. It just goes away. The genocides are regrettable but why bring them up now? We can rationalize them or forgive ourselves or whatever, but let's move on.

Religion has been a matter of convenience. When slavery was a legal industry in the country, churches in the South were flexible enough to support their member slaveholders and preach their distorted views about Noah, the ark builder, and a black son named Ham. If you haven't read it, don't bother. There is no stigma on the black race and there never has been.

The marketing of our elements and their derivatives have truly driven civilization, but a pertinent question today is: Where have we arrived, and where do we go from here?

Pope Francis recently blamed the "god of money" for extremist violence in Europe and the Middle East, saying that a ruthless global economy leads disenfranchised people to violence.

"Terrorism grows when there is no other option, and as long as the world economy has at its center the god of money and not the person," the Pope told reporters. "This is fundamental terrorism, against all humanity ... I ask myself how many young people that we Europeans have left devoid of ideals, who do not have work. Then they turn to drugs and alcohol or enlist in terrorist groups."

"There is war for money," Pope Francis said. "There is war for natural resources. There is war for the domination of peoples."

Some might think I am speaking of religious war. No. All religions want peace; it is other people who want war."

Francis makes a pertinent point. Countless wars have been cloaked with the righteousness of religion and turned into a mission of God but were never really about that at all. He admitted that, through history, violence has been committed by fundamentalist sects of all religions, and all religions have suffered from it.

Today, we surely should turn more strongly toward the spirituality of nature. The elements have clearly been here for our domination. We have been given the free will to utilize them, exploit them, renew them, and sustain them for generations to come, our children. This remains the eternal challenge and opportunity. If they are only tools for profit, we fall far short of our goal of a truly civilized, spiritual, caring civilization that can live and prosper as community and has nothing to do with taking profits from our fellows.

JESUS: A Supreme Empathy Unextended

Spiritual revelations have often been misunderstood and have even led to evil acts.

The recalled and recorded life of Jesus is a good example. From this story came a long and bloody history. The world has suffered from the evil reign of the Borgia Popes in the Catholic hierarchy, the dark ages of religious domination and persecutions, endless religious wars coming down even to present day, and some present-day preachers who pillage their donors with righteousness rhetoric and count their successes in their bank accounts and white-pillared mansions.

Right wing political protestants still call up this much-admired man to stand with them in discriminating against non-Christians, disdaining racial equality, and carrying the banner of the rich man's political party because the other one is more tolerant of other religious ideas and personal freedoms.

Jesus, of course, represented none of these doctrines, including the Jewish scriptures he grew up reading. He chose the messages that rang true to him according to the voice of his inner spirit. He preached those true verities; he disdained all the trappings imposed upon truth by a self-serving church hierarchy. There is a direct link here to his execution.

Some say he didn't really exist in history, being a legend perpetrated like some others of a savior who rose from the dead in three days. This doesn't explain why so many authors in the New Testament. They didn't write about a myth. The apostles who wrote and represented him into martyrdom didn't do all that for a myth.

Jesus was real, all right, but like other revelations, humankind hasn't yet grasped the meaning behind his adventures on earth. Here it is.

There is a First Source and Center for our universe of universe. We are now beginning to confirm that there are billions of planets and likely trillions of inhabiting personalities in that domain.

The origin of the incarnation of Joshua ben Joseph on our planet starts with the First Source, the Universal Father, Prime Creator, or simply God. From this nucleus comes the creation of well over 1,000 Creator Sons who go out and create local universes. Ours is called Nebadon, and it includes well over 600 planets with citizen residents.

For a Creator Son to earn his right to sit at the right hand of the Supreme Creator, to be deemed a worthy ruler, he is required to have seven incarnations of living the life of his creations. In his seventh incarnation, this Creator Son, now called Christ Michael, was born into a humble household within a race of people that had realized the truth of a one supreme God.

He lived and served the roles of student, worker, family caretaker in his formative. He fused with his indwelling spirit

upon his symbolic baptism in the flesh. In the end, like too many humans, he suffered ignominy and ridicule, torture and murder. This all amounts to a supreme empathy, to live as a mortal sojourner on one of the more embattled time and space worlds in the local universe.

He showed not only a magnificent Empathy for all mankind, but a statement of complete faith in the Universal Father's plan to resurrect the faithful and bring them into eternal salvation. He demonstrated that one can live a life of empathetic caring, compassion, and mercy for all of his Father's children, and die a noble death of strength and forbearance.

His incarnation life is a fine pattern for our lives. This is how you please your Universal Father, by representing him well with the love and goodness that went into your creation, and the creation of the earth garden you live, and the creation of a massive plan for ascending mortal personalities in worlds of time and space.

Most don't care to explore this high level of cosmic reality. They are more concerned with the realities of their daily lives here.

Are we empathic as was Jesus, our supposed model? Do we have empathy for other races, creeds, agnostics, atheists, the poor and perverted? Where does our empathy start and where does it end? Can we empathize with people by at least attempting to put ourselves in their skin, to find the origins of their twisted lives?

Do we arrogantly think that we, as humans, have the right to sit in judgment on most things and place ourselves in the right, as we see it. It would be wise to be forever open to new ideas, insights, inspirations and living examples all around us, and continue to grow and expand our intelligence and not sink it into some partisan mire.

The counter-argument to all of this: Empathy does no good for a person in the absence of Ambition. He must assert himself. So do we have empathy for those suffering from Apathy?

The issue of Empathy was behind Jesus' incarnation. It is a constant issue in our lives today.

And, of course, it takes root in the lesson for all mankind, the Golden Rule, which is an axiom in every language. Give what you want to receive.

INVOKING GOD: The First Sin?

Who was the first human who dared to speak for God? Who invoked his name to get something accomplished?

Today, many speak on his behalf, though God's identity varies somewhat in the various stories. Manmade religions say that God is behind their creation and stands with them in building membership numbers today.

God is the origin of Jews, Muslims and Christians, both Catholic and Protestant, building sizable organizations that face off against one another in their presentation of divine truth. It is divine because it comes from God and they have made it their doctrine. It is not divine if it expresses another view through another organization.

If humans dare to speak for God, then they should be very cognizant of the responsibility they are taking. If you represent God poorly and you gravitate to your own wealth and power for your own ends, then your sin seems to be effectively doubled. You sin, and then you claim to speak for God in hiding it. Pretty serious.

One suspects that this is all a cut-and-dried reality in modern times. No one questions whether these religions actually speak for God and we assume that they think they are. But it's difficult to impossible to represent God when you don't

acknowledge his love and respect for all of his children in all religions, and those without religion too. God is for all people on this small planet, and division by dogma is an infantile idea that mankind would do well to shuck.

And who was this first person to speak up for God and represent him with truth? One likely would go to pre-history, primitive times when mankind huddled in caves, formed tribal communities and divided responsibilities for their collective welfare.

In that time, the powers of the elements would hold great import. It is truly meaningful that the sun comes up with light and heat. Rain is a blessing from some higher power. Storms reflect the anger or displeasure of that higher power. A man's vivid imagination and dream world might easily combine with natural phenomena to make him believe he has received a celestial revelation, a message that he must share, a mission that he must lead to help the tribe develop its spiritual acumen.

In a sense, man has been putting himself above God in a great many ways over history. Their houses are a mandatory place to be. Their dogma is pure and true. Their preachers or priests or rabbis are oracles and speak only truth. The one true God is theirs. Through history, they maintain this fatal flaw of exclusivity.

And even so, there appears little unity in the religions, only divided segments clinging to segments of dogma that they have gathered and have little meaning in one's salvation. It's how you live that saves your soul, not the doctrine that you believe or don't.

The Center for Global Christianity now lists 43,000 different sects of Christianity in the world, up from 1,600 in the year 1900. We don't seem to be coming together under the light of God. We seem to be making sausage out of prime rib.

There is one God and that one God essentially represents one thing: LOVE. Learn that and the world comes to Light for all of us. There has never been a reason for us to continually kill one another, especially over religious doctrine. What we believe of a spiritual nature is most often less important than our intentions, our service to incremental development of Truth, Beauty and Goodness on our sphere, our willingness to cooperate and work with our human siblings.

If we want eternal salvation via our Universal Father, we had best use our talents to do the Father's business. That business is and always has been around the principle: Love One Another.

And invoking God to have humans follow you, and then falsifying their journey for control surely must be a sin that will require some rehabilitation in the afterlife.

COMPETENCE

We all seek fame to some degree — to be a best-selling author, to have the reputation of being the best plumber in town, election to the school board.

We want recognition for what we consider to be achievements, especially if we are achieving something for the common good — the most delicious muffins on the buffet, our courage in running the squirrels out of a lady's attic, our record during our first term as a Congressman.

Fame, however, is hard to find in any large measure. So many are looking for it, and it has all fallen under a hierarchy of control driven by the profit motives of the controllers long ago.

This capitalistic control of all arts and entertainments results in this array of aspiring creators coming to them for entry into a very small doorway. Want to make it in movies, publishing, theatre, journalism, you find a long, tough road which isn't really likely to result in much fame.

Fame is fleeting, they say, and that axiom is meant for the ones who ever achieve it in the first place on this mortal world.

Competence, not fame, is the goal. This is the mission you carry forward. So you won't likely be a famous writer, actor or chef. Create your art anyway; it's for the purpose of being very good at it. It's for the purpose of your own satisfaction of

achievement. Develop your talents and enjoy them; you don't need fame.

Believe it or not, there is an afterlife. Your soul, as it is found worthy, carries forward and into the spirit world left to our faith and imagination.

Imagine a First Source of Goodness, a Universal Father of the heavens and earth. Are you developing the competence of being a human. What do you represent here? What is your face to the world? Do you look for love and hope to share some of yours?

Or are you a thick-skinned and scowling, numbed down personality with an unchecked cynicism and a serious lack of appreciation for your life, disdainful or fearful of others, wallowing in selfish defense, and not honoring the environment which needs to be kept clean.

Heaven does not await many people. But I do believe that transitioning humans come face-to-face with their records, and the impenetrable mindlessness they showed on the human plane. I believe there is opportunity for redemption, through the lifeblood that runs through all our lives — service. The time and space worlds are built with service to our fellows and our societies. Many humans contribute not to the building of our world but to its destruction. Is it done by evil and sin or is it done by animal-mind ignorance from which mankind will eventually, generation by generation, evolve? This is an eternal question; how does it mix in our own unique minds? What do we create while we are in materiality, and of what eternal value is it?

Do we become competent humans while we are here? That question goes beyond what fame this ever-moving civilization might give to you. It's all temporary. Have you been a loving and successful parent, developed your physical skills and mental capacity, kept your generously endowed mind open and learning, done good deeds all through your life, shown kindness to others, reached out to help a troubled and confused brother? We choose how we live our lives and becoming competent at living this human life is all-important.

As we stand in evaluation, discernment and judgment for what we did and what we intended to do in our human lives, be assured that our attitudes will go a long way. As we experience a new reality we likely didn't imagine, we see everything in a new perspective. Our mortal identity was just a beginning; humans are the babies of the universe. We can stand ready to admit our shortcomings and work to redeem them as we go forward in an educational system that spans the universe. It will be really nice to remain part of it. We've all made mortal mistakes of judgement and we can learn from all of them and continue our ascension to 'be ye perfect.'

Achieving competence in this life is a first step.

GOD AND MICRO-MANAGEMENT

First must come a foundation of truth from which we investigate just how closely God is watching over us.

We have free will on our planetary home. We can give God the name we choose. We can conceive God however we wish. Religious institutions develop conceptions for us and ask us to join and accept their doctrines, all written by men. We can choose to stay away from them.

As individual creations of God, we stand amazingly unique from one another, our own personality mix of mind-body-spirit and the experiences and environments that shape us. There is no other personality exactly like us.

So there is a specialness to each soul in God's vast domain, even though there are trillions of evolving personalities in billions of inhabited planets. Our astronomers are seeing more of this reality every day, even as some humans lag so far behind in mind development that they wonder if there is any other life on any planet at all. They have not even grasped that the evolutionary plan for these worlds is a creation of God so that each world and every soul upon it can grow.

The great realization that we need is that our lives will always be unfulfilled unless we follow the spiritual urge to service, to use our talents to further humankind, our societies, and improve the lives of all people around us.

Does God micromanage our lives, then?

Some say that he can and does — with miracles that can happen at any moment, saving human lives from death, turning away storm winds. God is in charge and things happen with or without his consent.

Others say that God does not micro-manage our free will lives or the civilizations that rise and fall over the hundreds of generations that have lived here. Genocides and wars are constant. The dark ages of almost impenetrable mindlessness came and went. We humans are the ones who will save or destroy the planet and God will not intercede in the fate of either us or the planet.

And some say that our planet is racing madly toward some serious reckonings with climate change and global warming, stores of nuclear weapons, oil companies fracturing the earth, massive wealth inequality, wars and terrorism all across the landscape. In these worries, they believe that God will perhaps intervene and save us from the worst of ourselves. Prayers are going up.

I believe the micro-management truth lies somewhere between most of our ideas.

We are indeed micro-managed by an indwelling spirit of God, called variously a conscience, a soul, a higher self, a spiritual voice, an angel. In truth, this is a God-given spiritual pilot for your life, to guide the constant decisions you must make toward the symbolic Light — shining rays of truth, beauty, and goodness. These are your goals in all matters, the ideals you seek. They are all achieved through service to our human

fellows, all created and hopefully cognizant of the same indwelling spirit that we are.

Service brings happiness. And happiness comes from within. Our indwelling spirits will lead the way.

Spirits? Yes, I believe that the incarnated Jesus left behind an additional Spirit of Truth that indwells us — a spirit of conviction, a guide stone for making value-driven decisions.

There is also the eternal energy of the Infinite Mother Spirit which permeates our being, and is strongest when we takes steps of faith and service. This strength within us grows as we step out and need it.

One might also reason that the vast universe of universes and the attendant higher learning universities that abound within them are thereby connected to the living spirits within each of us, one of those ascending mortals who are charged to 'be ye perfect' and hopefully will become so in the far-reaching journeys ahead.

Is there micro-management for the time and space world civilizations that rise and fall? I think not. We haven't seen it. We've seen the planet working out its own fate from the first implantations of biological life to the present day. History of our habitation has been jagged and violent, filled with animosity and greed, the rise and fall of empires, and always the human determination to survive, rebuild and follow their dreams.

I believe that God watches this unfolding and ultimately will see that each of these self-governing worlds come to a great

realization of God in their own right, as we will. But this is up to us. We have our living presence here to make of it what we will. We must overcome our own obstacles, and may not. We must learn not to create our own obstacles and to progress surely and confidently with the guidance of the Spirits within. We are not micro-managed by them, but they are consultants with great knowledge of true realities.

We inhabit human, mortal bodies. We are having a material experience, gaining knowledge and insight that we couldn't get any other way except by the experiencing. We should recognize our true identity as the one that will ascend beyond your mortal lives.

Our future progress will be determined by how well we have lived here. Our mortal lives, as the real babies of the universe, are important foundations to a resplendent path of ascendancy and should be built strongly. Fortunately for us, rehabilitation is an important part of education. We make mistakes and false judgments in our lives because we do not understand much about our lives or our purpose and harbor false beliefs that stymie our growth. Upon transition, we will have realizations that we couldn't consider before in our ignorance. We can put aside our false beliefs and see God's path for his mortal children more clearly.

So we can have micro-management from Spirit in our lives if we choose to follow it. It's our choice.

On the other hand, civilizations will rise and fall without God's forceful intervention, and none of that truly matters in the eternal sense, in the reality of trillions of beings on billions of planets, all unique and all seeking their purpose. We are the

micro-managers, though God has advice built within us. We build and destroy civilizations on our own.

Importantly, we must know that there are great learning experiences in adversity. It isn't punishment from God. We make these fates, and they bring out courage, bravery, patience, perseverance, and greater appreciation, love and support for one's family and friends. A stable world of loving friends is the end goal for the planet; getting there encompasses vast numbers of soul-growing experiences over hundreds of generations. We prove worthy to carry on with our intentions and our efforts here.

We can take comfort that the world's evolution is quickening rapidly so that exciting world-changing events will occur in our lifetimes as the globe shrinks, people merge, and we realize how all of our fates are intertwined.

We are micro-managing the planet for God. It's our decisions that make civilizations rise and fall.

If warlords continue to proclaim that God is on their side, then they continue to be liars since the one true God does not condone his children killing one another for any reason at all. Our micro-management of the planet should preclude our doing that, and our Indwelling Spirit will tell us this every hour of the day if we simply ask.

Here are some views on our Human Will by a celestial teacher in the 11.11 movement, transmitted in Alabama on October 15, 2012.

Thought Adjuster: "Our Father could have created a universe

of puppets, but He didn't. Will is what gives originality to your being and it is an important feature of your personality. Originality and variety in the universes are only possible thanks to this individual will. When we talk about yielding human (or celestial) will to the Divine Will, we are not talking about following it blindly. This is simply to always choose the best path — the path with the most love — which is the best way of doing things that provide a greater good for the biggest number of beings.

“Human beings have been granted free will and it can be used to decide to learn the best path. This path has already been created by the Father and is available to all, so each one can decide to follow it and thus achieve success in eternity. There would be no value in choosing to consecrate your life to the highest ideals and trying to become increasingly perfect if the possibility of making the wrong decision or choosing another path did not exist.

“Your will is what allows you to rise by your own efforts and by your own means above the animal nature to become a perfected spirit. This is how a human being reaches the level of God, a miraculous transformation that amazes all those who have the fortune to observe the interesting and varied lives that are lived by the creatures born in space and time.

“Free will is not a trap set by a capricious God to make His children falter. It is instead the way in which our Father empowers His children, allowing them to choose for themselves what our Father knows is best, adapting in a better way and with sincere interest to the discipline of the universes — adopting the attitude of always searching for perfection and for a higher and more beautiful expression of being.

“It is by constantly choosing the path suggested by your Father that you start to understand Him better and discover the reasons why the universe works the way it does. This represents the highest knowledge to which any being can aspire — an increasing knowledge of deity. Through exercising your will, you collaborate with your Father creating yourself into a newly perfected being, achieving the rewards of eternity.”

I TOLD YOU SO

We've said it and we've heard it.

It brings up bad connotations to me. It makes me think that the sayer may have greased the way to becoming right by undermining and sniping against the person who has chosen the other way.

There is a human urge to do that, and I've experienced it. It's hard to get around your feelings when you are convinced that your way would have been better. And sometimes you think you should be outspoken because the results of a right or wrong decision are going to be impactful. Then you tend to sabotage the other view with what you say and do and help make failure a reality.

Of course the importance of such conflicts can vary widely. We should have gone the other way, and went a few miles out of the way. Not much lost. Or our Defense Department decides to share nuclear arms technology with Pakistan, with far-reaching consequences.

Invariably, it is reasonable and spiritual that we turn conflicts of all kinds into teaching learning and growing experiences. Instead of dropping such matters like hot potatoes, emotional hot buttons, we need to be brave enough to explore the aftermath of our decision-making. What were the results, honestly, without the need to defend what was done?

Learn as you go how we can all be right at times and wrong at others. Learn to appreciate the various perspectives that others bring to the table, and measure them by your perceptions as to their own objectivity. Does he think fairly or is his thought forever colored by his own self-interests? We question motives and suspect ulterior ones. We ask whether sincerity is being faked for self-interest.

We learn to become personally-engaged psychiatrists and psychologists in one way or another, as we forever question the thoughts and actions of our fellows, family members, friends, acquaintances and all people of fame. Forever ask questions. Forever entertain doubts and fears. Forever hope for the best.

This is life as we know it. And it will remain this way as long as humans seek to have relations with other humans. We must try to be wise and make caring decisions.

And we should be ready to apply a learning lesson when our friends go astray despite our best efforts to guide them. “I told you so” but with a positive spin — I love you anyway and we grow from our mistakes and we will continue to grow together based on our good intentions. So take this as a learning and growing experience. In fact, everything is a learning and growing experience, and don’t forget that I told you so.

Take the sneer out of “I told you so.”

Take the sneer out of your life.

POLYTHEISTS AND THE MASKS OF GOD

Those of us who believe there is one God — one First Source and Center — may tend to think that others will fall short of the heavens in our Ascension plan.

In truth, the adoration of a pantheon of Gods can hardly be condemned when the person seeks righteousness and lives a kind and caring life. There will be polytheists in the mansion worlds, those who saw many faces of God in their mortal lives.

In prehistory, man had only what he could see around up and over him. The Sun became a powerful, light-giving benefactor and when it went away and storms blew over the land, it was taken that the Sun God was somehow displeased. But the rains, of course, were considered a blessing as well.

As mankind developed concepts of Godly power, they developed human-life personalities around their deities and began to grow the roots of all religion, all spirituality on the planet.

In whatever age man is born, there is the choice to do good or evil, to choose caring over contempt, altruism over acrimony, goodness over gain, sharing over stealing, and work toward community progress with others. They can hardly be blamed

if they came along before the one God concept, the First Source and Center reality, came to be.

Good people of all kinds and in all places have the spark of God inside them. If they make good choices and cultivate goodness, the Universal Father will give them their place in the ascension plan for mortals.

There is still a strong tendency for humans to put their God above all others. But there aren't any others. And there aren't any religionists on the planet authorized to make judgements upon human souls or the paths they take.

Even the Christian bible makes it clear that God claims ultimate judgement of all things and we need not bother with all the responsibility we seem to take to judge other people all the time. Let them be. Share your love and insights with them, and let them be.

God the Father takes the responsibility for all his children. Humans need to learn to focus more surely on their spiritual growth from inside out and allow God's plans to work as they are willed to do — with the Father's will and our own wills working cooperatively.

In this life quest, our best advice, of course, comes from within our own walls, within our own personal spiritual hierarchy that leads us better than any humans or their institutions have done. The universe has a vast education system since education is the primary activity. As we can tap into it, we can supersede the evolving but still judgmental human-built institutions that want to help with our righteousness. We can

be righteous without them, and that's something the evolving religions have often failed to be.

Our Indwelling Spirit of God, our indwelling Spirit of Truth from the Jesus incarnation, and our empowering, inspiring Spirits in the Universe Evolution are all accessible and reliably preferable to preachings of institutions that represent themselves and not the highest concepts of a Universal God.

Spiritual Wisdom comes directly from within, without the incessant middlemen who all make their human smudges upon it. It can come to you from many places, even the next person you meet, but the Mother Lode of this gold is within you since all else you see is material. Your Spirit and your personality are both eternal if you wish to make it so.

Namaste.

May we see and respond to the Spiritual Joy that can be unleashed within our brothers and sisters of the planet.

Part 2

SIMPLE SENSE

From *The Urantia Book*, paper 70, published in 1955

The nations of Urantia have already entered upon the gigantic struggle between nationalistic militarism and industrialism, and in many ways this conflict is analogous to the age-long struggle between the herder-hunter and the farmer. But if industrialism is to triumph over militarism, it must avoid the dangers which beset it. The perils of budding industry on Urantia are:

- 1. The strong drift toward materialism, spiritual blindness.*
- 2. The worship of wealth-power, value distortion.*
- 3. The vices of luxury, cultural immaturity.*
- 4. The increasing dangers of indolence, service insensitivity.*
- 5. The growth of undesirable racial softness, biologic deterioration.*
- 6. The threat of standardized industrial slavery, personality stagnation. Labor is ennobling but drudgery is benumbing.*

WTF! Observing Madness

Why aren't the people screaming from the roofs about the insanities? We seem conditioned to ignore them. One can go on on on — and on so many subjects. Isn't it all supposed to make sense?

Why are the banks collecting up to 29% on interest from you and giving you about 1%? Why are they making millions a year on late fee penalties, essentially tapping struggling people with little money? How did the top banks come to control virtually all of the credit business, with fees and interest that essentially keep people in debt up to their ears.

When you get a mortgage, why is your first payment 99.99% interest and your second payment is 99.98% interest and your third payment is 99.97% interest and on and on? Has anyone ever noticed that the deck is stacked to put people into economic bondage and building equity at the pace of molasses?

Has anyone noticed that virtually all the wealth of the world is concentrated in the hands of about one percent of the people? Giant corporations have gorged themselves with takeovers and only a handful control virtually all of the food we eat. A few giant media conglomerates feed us a version of 'news' that never includes an iota of mention of critical world issues that are anti-capitalism and therefore are to be swept under the rug.

The corporate media is often choked with silly gossip issues and ridicule of public figures, who are constantly and eternally under prudish judgement based on some self-righteous Victorian code of snobbery. They wallow in politics but only in its personification of scrubbed-up cliché-spouting mannequin type personalities. Serious issues are rarely brought up in presidential campaigns, replaced with only a collection of lip service clichés and homilies that melt the issue down and drown it in corn syrup.

Is anyone aware that capitalist forces in the U.S. forever seek to weaken government and turn its services over to private profit-driven businesses? They're selling out our prison population as helpless customers to private companies who are incentivized to keep them there, since they are paid by the head. Does anyone care about that? Are prisons out of sight, out of mind? Do they care if the authorities reward skinhead Otto to go undercover and start fights with inmates who are up for release. Such violence stops the release and keeps them there, where their counted heads can continue to make money for the private police goons.

Is the public becoming aware that pharmaceutical power companies have pulled the political strings to keep medicine prices high and people on a treadmill of economic futility for many years, and have demonized a medicinal herb plant that you can grow in your yard that relieves stress and pain and relaxes your nerves. It's free, so it's illegal. Medicines are supposed to be for sale.

Are people beginning to see the free flow of political money that commands our government and our economy? Political

parties gather rich private interests and try to take over the presidency and congress with sweet smelling oratory, then they serve those interests in making and breaking legislation. Candidates run in order to get on that gravy train and control the electorate with elaborately constructed personalities that are supposed to ring all the voter bells. Then they work for the powers — the ones with the money. They want some of it. They want to have their cake and eat it too.

People don't seem to notice how well skewed common logic and common sense are in these times? Perhaps they are self-centered, self-absorbed and self-serving most all of the time? Shouldn't we be more worldly, this being a small planet in these days of ultra communications?

It seems that our worldliness starts and stops with mass purchasing of cheap electronic goods, made in sweat shops that couldn't operate in this country. Forget our standards, and forget the welfare of American working people, they say, if we can produce time-wasting entertainment electronics with cheap foreign labor and hasten the flow of money out of our country and the decline of rural America's job markets.

Can anyone put all this together? We are strangling our own economy with a silk scarf, likely assembled in the slums of Bangladesh. Globalism works well for the rich, when they want to exploit cheap labor and take away our jobs, when they want to set up paper entities and global cohorts to avert U.S. taxes, ship wealth overseas and hide it in offshore tax haven banks.

Is anyone noticing all of this? Are we waiting in vain for some politician to say some of these things to actually make them

real? If you hold your breath for that, you wind up suffocated dead with a symbolic blue face.

Until this era of Trumpery, politicians didn't want to insult anyone at all. This non-politician now running things makes it a necessity in order to keep his brilliant tough guy ego pumped and his steam calliope on the road.

How could anyone at all with a sense of what the Presidency is all about vote for this man? Millions did. He was within three million popular votes of the candidate who should be the winner. I always thought that Hillary would get more votes than the white backlash but little did I suspect another minority president.

Which brings to mind the Electoral College and the apportioning of our governmental representatives. In the U.S. Senate, the 50 states get two votes each. Wyoming's 2 million people get the same representation as 40 million people in California. Is this the way we want it? Do we want to protect some kind of Wyoming state values? Insure that the beef industry gets heard?

In the Electoral College, if a candidate gets one more vote within that 40 million in California, he wins all of the electoral college votes, on paper anyway. The recount battle would likely never end and neither candidate would ever take office.

Are these desirable safeguards to preserve some kind of sovereignty for the individual states? Or do they undermine legitimate popular vote winners like Hillary Clinton and Al Gore? It has historically created the climate for intrusive third party candidates who can't win but can swing a close election

— such as the Dixiecrats of 1948, the closely-related states rights and segregationist candidate George Wallace in a civil rights era backlash, and economic maverick Ross Perot. There have been other split vote hijackings through history, most especially the one that delivered up Rutherford B. Hayes over Samuel Tilden.

Is this the way we want it to remain? Do we do nothing in remedy because of short attention spans? Of course, we must remember that the recipients of the two recently hijacked elections had no incentive to use the Presidency to support any kind of reform initiative. They won. In the case of George W. Bush, there was hell to pay, with a ruined economy and another war adventure invasion travesty. With President Gore, history would likely be a lot different.

On the business side of things, are Americans unhappy slaves to deep debt and addictive consumerism, or do we enjoy it all enough to make our credit-driven economy okay? Are we the debt-ridden victims of a capitalistic economy that encourages and rewards domination — the taking of it all, the power, the money, the prestige and the glory? Or are we getting our share of the wealth and don't care about the big picture?

The real American way to the admirer of Capitalism is domination, not equality. That term was just lip service in a real world that shows little of equality anywhere. We have one in the White House now who would be a dominator — on his own behalf first and also ours. He supposedly speaks for our nation. But I have never heard him say a word on behalf of the equality of souls and the welfare of all people, and not just the dominant.

Everything is a business deal in his real estate mind, but hundreds of thousands of poor and homeless people in our country don't have a dime to deal with, and spend their time salvaging scrap items to build shacks and windbreakers. What about them? Is anyone aware of the massive numbers of homeless in our streets? Politicians don't want to bring them up.

Capitalists find it difficult making them into customers or in developing any kind of pity for these wretches. They often dismiss them as just drug or alcohol addicts, which should raise many more questions rather than being just a term of disdainful dismissal. These people suffer and die in need; does anyone care?

Does anyone notice or care that the military budget takes 57% of our money, while some war industry politicians cry for rebuilding our military to enrich their investments? Is it really logical for government-castrating Republicans to cut the budget sliver that goes to food stamps since that is actually food in the mouths of needy Americans? We have military bases worldwide, surrounding virtually every country in the world. We reportedly have nearly 1,400 nuclear warheads? Do we need more? Do we need to get into another war to expend our firepower so that we can buy some more from the war industries?

How close are we to insanity when we continue to pour our resources into armaments for killing and allow our own citizens to suffer with inadequate income to raise a family, heavy college debt loads from trying to educate our children, and one major illness away from bankruptcy in a bloated health care system that is massively over-priced.

Why is it necessary for Americans to shed blood fighting for a dark ages fiefdom where warlords are well entrenched and democratic principles are sheer nonsense to them? Why would these people accept a centralized government in Baghdad or Kabul when it is clear and unquestioned by them that ruling parties take everything of value and denigrate or destroy all opposition. One party rule is the ideal and the mission, and across the world, ruling governments impose it — no opposition. Why in the world would it be allowed?

Americans need to stand up for our own values and not submerge them in physical battles between primitive people with primitive ideas, especially in their denigration of women. They involve oppression, death and suffering and they are not worth one human life in our country. In these parts of the world, they will continue to kill one another until they evolve to higher purpose. But I don't think we can drag them up those golden stairs, and certainly not by sending soldiers to help them kill the other side.

Should we not be the world's largest arms dealer by far, and likely the world's largest user of armaments, then our constant cry for world peace would mean more. If our own citizens weren't so immersed in a money-sucking defense industry, then maybe we wouldn't find as many incentives to war such as our misadventures into Viet Nam, Iraq and Afghanistan.

Fortunately, President Obama has greatly pulled down our involvement and our casualties in Iraq and Afghanistan and has been wise enough to avoid the Syrian bloodbath that now engulfs the Syrians, Russians, Iranians and Kurds. Let them have it. Let them fight and die and may we continue to use

drones, bombs and aerial targeting to take out our terrorist cell enemies.

But will we plunder into another war with a President of such troubling temperament and infantilism? Can we learn nothing from our ruinous invasion escapades of the past, or do we want to when we can swagger like a bully and blow up things. Will Trump get into a tweet war with another child-like ruler in North Korea and throw us into war? Will they need to instigate another gunboat incident to do it? Will the American people support it all once again, and, once it starts, be transported into a soldier adulation mode — to honor the troops and forget the idiocy that sends them to their death.

When U.S. soldiers and veterans are killing themselves at a faster rate than the enemy can do it, then the system, whatever it is, isn't working. Since so many soldiers return mentally traumatized and demanding drugs and getting addicted and still committing suicide, then we have a national tragedy on our hands. And the government-hating Republicans still want to castrate the Veterans Administration so they can get their grubby capitalist hands on veteran health care. This is part of the GOP mantra. Privatize and Profit.

Maybe American soldiers aren't prepared for a state of constant stress, boundless evil and chaos, bombs blowing apart children, shattered corpses all over the streets, explosions and bullets flying, secret bombs blowing up innocent food shoppers, killer buses ramming through their barricades and exploding. their friends in arms dying left and right, the futility of it all coming up more and more into the consciousness and finally screaming in frustration that this

horror is killing all of me, my heart, my mind, my senses, my hope for any kind of salvation from the madness.

Are our soldiers not prepared for this because we have reached a much higher level of caring and sharing civilization and we shouldn't send them back down into a world of savagery from which we have evolved?

So what of the helpless, innocent people living under those cruel dictators, dying in those incessant uprisings and civil wars? Do we care? Certainly our hearts ache for their suffering. America should be the hope of the world that we envision and work for greater societies which show community and sharing among its people — not armed camps facing off against each other or some other neighboring country.

This is a great ideal. But we have not been successful in killing confrontations to get there, nor should we expect to be. Taking the side of the Sunnis against the Shia is pointless and nonsensical. Neither of their doctrines is worth a human life. They are only statements of primitive beliefs, which should be classified as opinion.

In a world with all these insane contradictions swirling through our lives, do we notice them or just take them for normal? Do things have to make sense for us to accept them? Is our normality what we make it? Does our self-service take precedent over anything and everything so that it doesn't matter if it really makes sense? Do we just shrug and complain and say we can't change things when we certainly can, and often do?

So many things make so little sense, but they pervade our lives. Now we have done the inexplicable, electing an inexplicable candidate to take over our country in a swirl of inexplicable false realities. He worries the hell out of 65 million people.

Or, given that Trump lives in his own separate reality, will he drag us over there, and what will we find? I'm sure there will be no 'political correctness' there, unless one re-defines it with a new reality of what that means.

Engorging the Ego with fat is likely to be the main activity in the White House.

ABSTINENCE FROM EXCREMENT

I've always heard this in Mississippi. "He don't take no shit off nobody!"

He is indeed an admirable fellow. He is tough, resourceful, self-reliant and armed too. He can shoot a deer and "dress" it. Got his first one at age 6 and his name and picture in the paper, cradling that dead, bloodied, blank-eyed deer head and smiling for the camera in triumph.

This man can build a fire. He is proud to have played football.

He asserts that they "ain't takin' my guns. Hell, I'm gonna buy more!" I wonder if his family could use some of that firearms money.

He is always defensive because he thinks the world, generally speaking, is trying to shit on him. He must fight back against the "system."

Excrement is on his mind. He is especially critical of the government since they impose taxes on him and grant special favors to the minorities to get their votes. He knows that he and his race are better than any of the minorities. Christians are preferable to Muslims and Jews, neither of whom can be trusted, but for different reasons entirely.

The truth is: this fellow is more full of shit than anything he rails about.

But here is the kind of guy who exists in the millions and they got their man with President Trump.

He likes it that Trump isn't a wishy-washy politician, says what he thinks, stands up for white America, knows how to make money and get beautiful women. He likes pussy as much as the next guy. So what? And he takes no shit from nobody.

It seems different realities emerged during the political campaign. Hillary Clinton saw a more polished reality and a 'high road' and got nearly three million more votes than the electoral college's winner of the race.

Trump mined a vast undercurrent of voters who actually admire the man.

There I thought that no one would want a man like this in the Presidency, not at all. But ... sure they do. At this writing I can say that political tumult will ensue now and never end.

The people who want this kind of guy to be President will get to see him right in front of them everyday. First will come the honeymoon, their blind defense of their man. They will see him attacked, day after day, and it will never stop. The majority of Americans and their progressive organizations will line up for confrontation and it will surely come — from a man who can't let the slightest personal insult go by without a blithering of late night tweeter turds.

It won't take long for most of his supporters to learn a valuable life lesson. This is not the attitude and mindset that we need. Not by any means.

So I think it will be much more of a learning and growing experience for our society than another Democratic President (Clinton) facing the constant obstruction and acrimony of a Republican-controlled Congress. We've had this for several years now.

But the cards have been shuffled. The candidate the Republicans didn't want, won and is now President. We bear in mind that Trump has never been a loyal Republican; he has been loyal to his own ego and self-interest.

We also have the Democrats, awakened from their 'high road' disdain and inspired as I haven't seen them before. Progressive Liberals have needed to be more inspired, motivated, even scared and enraged, to get them on the road to social progress. They haven't been willing or able to fight the entrenched oligarchy since most of their politicians are on the donor payrolls too. But we are in a new day and the streets are going to be filled with protestors.

Bernie Sanders has never been a political party member because he won't allow his mind and his vote to be controlled by the wishes of the donor lists, who invariably insist on their way in legislation or the money goes away. They even sponsor and write the boilerplate legislation they want these days and feed it to their congressional conduits for enactment.

Bernie, Elizabeth Warren, Joe Biden and even Hillary Clinton will be looking quite good in the public eye in the months

ahead while the little big man at the top tries to grapple with what he can do, and all that he can't — with a collective opposition massed against him. He keeps showing a daily ignorance of what he can and can't do it, and he should never expect the Congress to be compliant. There is so much hatred there.

The man can't spend a day without insulting somebody personally or even large interest groups. He is headed into a brick wall of sound and fury and he will ruin the Republican brand, lose the Congress and put the country in a new direction — away from him and his kind and into the kind of Populism that can cut off the corporate welfare spigot and govern actively and passionately for the people and not the special interest rich.

We will then say: We've been Trumped; we didn't like it. And we can't let the 'take no shit' mentality of the uninformed, unworldly and defensive-minded anti-intellectual people elect anybody else.

We are the fan; the shit is coming. We the "American people" they're always talking about need to send it back where it came from.

THE CAPITALISM CANCER

There is an invisible God that rules over everything we do in the United States -- Capitalism.

No one dare speak against it — no one in any American institution at all. It IS the institution.

There is complete belief in its towering superiority over any other economic system in the world. The profit incentive drives the world, we say. Free enterprise must be free and even enabled by government funding and action. The government must support and abet its expansion throughout the world, especially the undeveloped parts. We must not have taxes or regulations of any kind that slow its onslaught.

Colonialism is one part of the Capitalist story, the drive for world dominance financed by their own big banks and supported by the military of countries which they control, principally in the U.S., its primary anchor in the world.

Other stories run closer to home. It has resulted in wealth inequality which is staggering to behold, but swept under the rug by God Capitalism.

Capitalism creates and controls its own designated money and uses it to corrupt everything, all of our institutions. Capitalists are empowered and enforced by a phalanx of system-smothering lawyers, two-faced accountants and media-

controlling advertising contracts to support them and retard any investigative reporting.

They buy political parties as best they can with steady contributions, subject to either grow or to dry up. The Republicans have a pedestal for these super-rich entities and their needs will always be met by their elected operatives as long as the money flows.

As usual, every bright eyed young idealistic politician we send to Washington gets dragged into the party's political obligations before he even takes office. Don't forget who got you here, they remind. The party backed you; now you back the party. The party must have its backers. Many candidates run for office in large part just to get on this gravy train. They can't run at all unless one of the two parties takes them in, and then they have obligations to the powers that run the party.

So political parties can evolve into pressure groups for the rich, and they can carry that same stench with them into Congress as they get elected. Or maybe the party was created by the rich to begin with, or the representative organizations they have created.

The arms industry has its National Rifle Association; the doctors have their American Medical Association; the Chambers of Commerce have far-reaching tentacles, and on and on. Political support is always for sale.

Even as they corrupt Congress and our governmental institutions with their money, they also work to silence the mainstream news media by either granting or withholding

advertising contracts that can be important to the survival of the media itself.

If the media embarks on a conflicting line of investigative reporting, there is also a payroll force of lawyers to pull them into court battles that sap their resources. Once you get into court, they have ways to keep you there that are liable to leave you broke and battered.

And, of course, they just buy the media, and then editorial decisions come from businessmen who have no interest in some fantasy called journalism ethics. It's a business. You can blanket the world with the bias of Fox News and call it "fair and reasonable" and too many are not the wiser.

Our society is basically anti-intellectual because open-minded learning takes real effort, and critical thinking is rarely promoted, even seriously discouraged. The clandestine powers seem to want to dumb us all down so that we will be debt-ridden, non-thinking, compulsive consumers. And they have grown to massive size and power. You can count the conglomerate companies who control world mainstream media on one hand.

Special interests flood the world with their own brand of advocacy media, and facts don't often stand in the way of the pitch. Ironically, they think like the communists they condemn — the end justifies the means. As long as you can make money on it.

So, with Capitalism perfect and sacrosanct no attack will be tolerated by the capitalist media. The Sacred Cow Oligarchy

ever tightens its grip on intellectual thought. It leads to near complete control over what is termed the 'traditional' media.

MEDIA BLACKOUT ITEMS

Here is a list of important subjects which will either be ignored completely or downplayed from the usual public discussion as best the oligarchy can.

These subjects are vital to the nation and even the world but Capitalism doesn't want to talk about them. So the corporate news media avoids them and so do the politicians running for office. The least said the better for ...

* Fracking, rupturing the earth's foundation with uncertain consequences to its stability and its water reservoirs, pressure injection of chemicals. No one in Congress or the media seems very interested.

* Bee population decimation, critical to eco-balance and food supply. Large fish and bird kills happen, but we never hear much about why. Just as does the subject matter, the story just dies off. How about considering ...

* Contamination of earth water and soil, even California wines, by the pesticide Round-Up, one of Monsanto's killing chemicals.

* Global Warming. Scientists agree. Major contributors to it don't. Politicians have to check with the oil and gas lobby and the air and water-polluting industries to make sure they maintain their money channel. The collective power of industries that pollute the water, soil and air and don't want

to clean it up have some kind of control over the media. As long as they seed convenient confusion in science with studies they fund and interpret, and shroud all ideas in more questions, they will apparently not get a strong stand by the media on behalf of immediate corrective actions. Those things cost money and corporations will continue to scream how unnecessary they are and brand them as a governmental intrusion. Concerned scientists get little or no coverage in the mainstream media.

* GMO's. Genetically modified crops are a major concern in much of the world, banned in some, but not here. This is never mentioned by the usual corporate media because the corporate oligarchy determines the news agenda.

* Homelessness. Hundreds of thousands are out there, getting sick and dying, but do we care enough to even talk about it? No presidential candidate will mention it. No one will discuss its implications in health care costs, crime and human survival.

* Wealth Inequality — no 1% or 99% mention at all. Those words are blacked out. The 'system' didn't want to acknowledge the Occupy movement ever existed and hopes to make the subject disappear. Fortunately, Bernie Sanders preaches the message and millions are hearing it.

* Rural Economies in Collapse; towns drying up. All across America, the small town is dying. Wal-Mart commands the landscape where family merchants once survived, and they barely pay a living wage. Workers even qualify for food stamps. The taxpayer winds up subsidizing the obscenely rich Walton family in what has become known in underground

circles as Corporate Welfare. That term is not mentioned in the corporate media.

* Export of Jobs Overseas. There should have been a full black-out of this subject but both Sanders and Trump have brought it up, the latter only briefly and to no consequence. Still, the corporate media won't pursue the topic with investigation. We have been bleeding jobs to cheap, overseas labor for decades but it's okay, it's Capitalism. The people are supposed to support free enterprise, unrestricted capitalism, but it hasn't supported us. It detests our labor unions and loves Asian sweat shops.

* Tax Havens Overseas. Another topic that would have been ignored by the media except for Sanders making it an issue -- and Trump picking up the mention and then Clinton. The issue has promptly died and will stay dead.

* Trade Bill Impact on Jobs. There are those who now curse NAFTA and opposed the Trans-Atlantic Partnership, and most are without solid statistical information. The media does not pursue it, which leads one to believe that it actually does hurt the American worker. If these agreements actually helped workers, they would be extolling it, and they aren't. Very likely such agreements benefit American business for certain, but not necessarily American workers ... the help it might provide them is on a circuitous, speculative path filled with projections, suppositions and uncertainties. Some kinds of businesses are helped and some are hurt, not a uniform picture.

* Corporate Welfare -- such as oil and gas subsidies, needing to supplement underpaid Wal-Mart employees with food

stamps, businesses dumping full-time workers and hiring part-timers to avoid health care insurance. All those tax lawyers hired by corporate interests are busily finding and even promoting new loopholes which their companies can squirm through. Support the government as little as possible and find new ways to support it less. And their enabling media, owned by business, just shrugs off the ethics and honesty of it all by saying endlessly that “it’s just business” and lighting up with an enabling grin.

* Grow Social Security; return GOP borrowed war money: The media echo a story that social security is in financial trouble just by reporting that GOP leaders said it. They raided the fund to pay for the Iraq War and notoriously fought the whole thing ‘off budget.’ This is madness, but it has never been reported. Is it because war is great for our war industries? It certainly is. Business and industry powers have been egging on conflicts since the Spanish American War and the Mexican War at least. War is a money-maker for the military-industrial complex. There is an endless stream of military officers in the Pentagon going to work for defense contractors and everyone involved gets a real kick out of explosions and heavy armaments.

* Privatizing takeover attempts on Social Security, the post office, any government service they can assimilate and build in some profits. The media gives these sweet-talking capitalists much time and space to espouse their plans, but very little to those ‘socialists’ who want to maintain our public services. They wail that government programs are inefficient then strive to make them so and take them over.

* Jobs to rebuild infrastructure with money saved from corporate welfare. The media makes no linkage here and is not looking for one. If need be, they stand ready to launch the GOP's 'liberal tax and spend agenda' counter-attack. It holds no water; it doesn't matter since the media is a sieve, rambling from one catchy topic to another, day by day, polluting the air with trivia and blown-up molehill to mountain issues.

* Veteran Services. Targeted for private takeover by underfunding and then blaming current administration when it can't do the job.

*Public education deficiencies. It doesn't sound good for politicians to talk about this so they generally don't. The Capitalists had just as soon let the public schools sink and turn to a private, for-profit school system for children -- if you can afford it. Weaken the public schools to feed the profit schools. Cloak themselves in Christianity in the South by flocking to build private academies for their bigotry, starve the public schools and then complain that they are failing.

* Education that works at all levels and makes us leaders in the world. No one wants to talk about our fast-falling statistical standings in the world. We are far from being the best educated people in the world. We lag in health care and solar energy development. No one wants to hear that.

* Earthquake and seismic dangers to nuclear facilities, tens of thousands of oil rigs and an outdated power grid. Don't wave that red flag. All of these are businesses; don't be anti-business. One hates to imagine an earthquake that ruptures a major fault and lays open nuclear power plants and bursts open a dozen or more oil rigs and shuts down major power

grids and sets off uncontrollable fires. When you do imagine this, you see a modern-day chain-reaction apocalypse of catastrophic proportions.

* Rebuild and modernize our power grid. Experts say it's deficient; public discourse says nothing about it. It would be derogatory to our power suppliers.

* Wind, water and solar energy development. Neither the media nor the politicians will be champions for this because of the extraction industry influences. Fortunately for our money-driven system, other businessmen want to provide these energy sources for whatever profits they can get out of it -- solar panels, wind turbines, and hydrology systems. It's all coming; the media will follow along, as usual, with their day by day headlines and sound bytes which quickly evaporate to nothing. Their owners say that they exist because they sell advertising to all kinds of capitalistic corporations.

* Medical Marijuana is a miracle medicine. Legalize it, promote it, and market it to the world. It's an opportunity, a bandwagon to leap upon. But image is everything to a politician and a news network, even if its blatantly false, so they follow along. But those who see a multi-billion dollar business opportunity will be producing cannabis products for medicine and recreation for millions of consumers in a growing market.

* Breaking the Big Pharma grip on prices. Our drug prices are among the highest in the world, kept that way by the drug oligarchy. Making medicines shouldn't make a corporation a sacred cow, untouchable while they foster a near epidemic of opioid addictions and take excessive profits on new formulas

simply because they can ram through beneficial legislation silently through a pliant and complicit Congress.

They can do such things as double the numbers of years they can charge proprietary prices for a drug before it becomes generic -- from 10 years to 20. Congress passed it. Who noticed? The federal government is not even allowed to negotiate the price of pharmaceuticals that it purchases for its welfare programs.

For an important diabetes and fibromyology drug named Lyrica, they can simply reclassify it on January 1 to ram up the price. Even with insurance, it goes up suddenly from \$80 to \$150 on your monthly budget -- an annual \$1,120 hit. They only explain that it was 'reclassified' as if this explained something. It's all a matter of them charging the maximum penny that the market will allow based on whether they face any price-influencing competition. The ability of many sick people to pay the price is irrelevant to their bottom line. If they are called out for their callousness, they fabricate discount programs for the poor, whereby they get all they can at any rate while feigning generosity.

* Health Care -- real solutions that curb the massive inflation in prices that are required from having to care for millions of people who are not in the system but still get sick, get hurt and die. The system has been turned into a business; it is broken and no one wants to deal seriously with it. Any attempt at any resolution runs head-on into organizations that are driven by their own profits. That's what you get when you make health care a business. All of the issues become business issues, instead of health, security, living and dying issues.

* Elimination of campaign spending by providing free and live media to candidates -- doing away with influence peddling, insider trading, inner-party extortion, bribery and the other putrid results of a system built around people trying to get rich. This topic is not on that amorphous, capitalist-driven list of approved subjects for public discussion. And free media to candidates means somebody is not making a profit out of every candidate's every move. Election season is when the media makes its biggest advertising profits. It is highly advantageous to both politicians and their donors to keep the money channel flowing with contributions and to minimize or eliminate any thought that those contributions would influence bad policies. In reality, the corporations draft much of the legislation themselves. They argue that they know much more about their business and its needs than do the elected officials. They are correct in that respect but their motives are invariably one-sided.

* Gang violence: Our cities are washed in violence and gangs are breeding grounds for criminals. Don't we need stronger families, more community values? But this is not really a topic for the news or the politicians. Capitalism doesn't want to spend money to build families and communities; they want to fill the jails, privatize those jails for profit, and build more, with corruption-laden contracts.

* Military suicides. American soldiers are killing themselves at a rate faster than the enemy. Post traumatic syndrome afflicts many veterans; others come to use it an excuse to get drugs. While they use drugs to deal with their problems, they get hooked on the drugs and run out of money before they can pay their bills. Why so many suicides? Our military is

obviously doing something wrong but certainly doesn't want to talk about it in public. Why aren't our young men prepared for the savagery of this war? Why are we sending them there? Is it really necessary? No comments forthcoming.

- * Opioid and alcohol addictions, which are claiming many lives and bringing suffering to millions of families, has not been a topic of discussion. Politicians won't talk much about it, and the media will likely be subdued as well -- it reflects badly on our pharmaceutical champions who are developing medicines to save lives. They preach the best and ignore the rest. Recently, however, as various parties see money and profits in it, the Congress wants to throw money at the opioid addiction scourge. I expect to see new and profitable pharmaceuticals that battle these addictions, and a new wave of profitable drugs that promise better.
- * Charitable organizations and progressive social movements get little coverage of their activities in the media. Their causes invariably stack up against corporate interests and powers, which will not allow the mainstream media to give much voice to them. The media doesn't much care; they follow the money. They won't be getting a dime from good cause demonstrators but their corporate advertising contracts start in six figures. Occupy was condemned as 'socialist' and they raised the corporate anti-communism flag they love to wave.
- * Huge dead zones in the Gulf of Mexico caused primarily by run-off of soil and chemical fertilizers starting up in Iowa and the midwest. They suck oxygen out of the water, depriving sea life over thousands of miles. You don't hear about it much. In Florida, algae blooms, also mostly due to

sugar industry crop run-offs, often kill river life and block oxygen. It's bad "public relations" for the state's important tourism industry and so gets little media. Dying coral reefs up and down Florida and the problem of garbage dumping into the waters are all issues of serious contention that get swept under the rug. Minimize this and maximize tourist dollars.

* Corruption. This is the overriding issue in all of the world's countries. Most governments and institutions have levels of thieving corruption that cripples their effectiveness. But this endemic condition will not be recognized by the media because it is a totally unflattering picture of our societies.

The Money Trail

From this list, I see little or nothing that was discussed during the recent presidential election. The reason is that Capitalism is God, and you don't question it. If you do question it then Capitalism rears its head against you.

They control the courts because money controls the courts. They can run you out of money with endless delays, jamming up the legal system, and pressure you at every turn to sell out and take a pay-off and shut the hell up about any injustice you happen to know about. It is often protected as 'proprietary' information.

Pharmaceutical and agricultural chemical companies have lots of money and perks to woo academic professors and researchers, and dangle big research grants and speaking honorariums in front of them. Tenure and academic standing

is based on how many research dollars you attract and the number of academic papers you publish. The research projects have their desired conclusions or the money dries up. Then the professors can't generate a paper at all.

These people have used money pressure to pollute research, thereby twisting the truth in formerly well-respected academic journals. The past editor of the *New England Journal of Medicine* says that its content is now contaminated with corporatized conclusions. When will their incessant corruption of our institutions end?

The GOP has been their traditional party -- developed to represent Wall Street and business interests, and to fight against any excess in governmental regulations and taxations, while worshipping Capitalist values of competition, profit incentive, and get-rich potential.

But going back as far as Eisenhower, the Republican Party platform had planks that directly affected the working middle class, the voters they wanted to win from the Democrats, and did. These planks advocated a living wage, safe and healthy work conditions, the right to join unions, unemployment benefits, health care, support for social security. They wanted to appeal to everyone.

In stark contrast, the Republicans of today make no pretense of going after the middle class vote with promises of social and economic assistance. This has all disappeared from the party's facade, just as businessman candidate Trump has ripped off the party's House of Wax mask and revealed a monster.

Eisenhower's party for Everyman has become a charade of mishmash and no hope at all, unless voters would somehow elect a blowhard with no record of service, no real program, no service to the party in all of history, and so petty that he has infantile Twitter brawls. The party has evolved from seeking everyone's votes to a party of Alienation and White Nationalism. Day by day, the alienations continue since his poorly received convention and his canned doom and despair and 'I alone can fix it' speech.

And yet for all the stark differences we saw in the presidential campaign, we can also see the near absence of our earlier list of important topics. They are still off-the table because the corporate agenda controls everything, both party's platforms, and is driving the Capitalism God down our throats. Both candidates, all candidates, must be worshipful of Capitalism and never, ever suggest something else might be better.. They have defined socialism as evil and liberals as dupes. Somehow, we have to gag and spit this up and stand up for Liberalism.

We must face up to the honest fact that unchecked Capitalism has driven our economy to ruin numbers of times over history, even recently, and can always amass the power to do it again by building paper castles for us, luring us inside, and then pulling them down. We must not worship this economic system as being godlike and not to be questioned at all. Its excesses can destroy us.

We must surely remember the total collapse of the economy called the Great Depression, and the four administrations of President Franklin J. Roosevelt whose policies drove us to recovery and provided a plethora of safeguards so that the

rich would never again take everything of value and leave a worthless trail of over-hyped paper in its wake.

He was reviled as a Socialist and some still wail that at Bernie Sanders today, but we have a strong and stable federal government since the New Deal and it's here to stay, fighting tooth and nail with the Capitalists who still want it all -- and in recent years have made no bones about hollering 'socialist' in our faces. I'm happy to own that title as I can relate it to every progressive liberal president in our history.

I support every Liberal president that we have ever had. Lincoln was very liberal, even freed the slaves. Teddy Roosevelt, who bolted from the GOP corruption. FDR was a great and capable liberal. Truman, Kennedy, Carter, Clinton were all presidents who cared about people, even though they and all liberals have had to either fight or compromise with vote-controlling big money interests for their whole careers, often as a minority in an obstinate Congress.

They've rescued us time and again from reckless GOP spending for corporate welfare and war profiteering, which has led to economic depressions and recessions time and again. The GOP is fiscally irresponsible for America because they give everything to the rich. We were literally bankrupt when Obama took over and they still today put up a wall of obstruction to any government program designed to help things. They must castrate government programs, make them ineffective so they can replace them with private businesses for profit.

But this truth has now been unleashed despite the conspiracy of traditional media black-out. There are new media, on the Internet, and even progressive socialist ideas.

With their new blatant trumperry, the GOP is just about dead nationally -- suicide by cancer and from a foolish welcoming mat for anti-government kooks. The whole thing blew up from within. Who did it?

* Segregationists: They flocked over from their 'courthouse gang' bases all across the South when the Lyndon Johnson era Democrats seated black 'freedom' delegates instead of their usual white groups. For years in the South, many people in the enormous voting bloc we can call White Backlash were required to vote for the Republican candidate for president and then switch over to vote for the old gang (white) on the local and state Democratic ballots. Over the years, many old guard white Democrats just changed over to the more friendly confines.

*Libertarians: They've had a token voice in the GOP for years, with Ron Paul, son Rand Paul and the overriding and controversial philosophy of Ayn Rand whose body of work, including *The Art of Selfishness* fuels the thought that all of our overseas military bases should be closed, national parks are not necessary and private businesses should be able to serve who they want and discriminate against whomever they want as well. These believers have never had a legitimate place in the GOP but it has given them a sounding board and tied up a place on the debate stage. They could never be nominated; the GOP donor base would not allow it.

*Tea Party. These noisy hybrids showed their colors early on and have established their champion within the party -- Ted Cruz, who ran remarkable interference between Trump and legitimate Republican candidates. They claim Christianity but also bigotry. They hate big government but not a word about big business. They rage against Obama as a dictator and their own horrible fate of having to pay taxes. Soon taken over by right wing kooks with organizing and fund-raising abilities, they are mostly forgotten but Cruz remains, hoping to pick up the pieces of the Trump rubble left after the election.

The old South confederacy white backlash 'Southern strategy' helped the GOP get the presidency several times but it has anchored a growth in the angry white man constituency that now has given birth to a primary electorate that openly embraces arrogance and acrimony and a blatant bigotry that more fully identifies the new Republican Party every day.

So it ultimately blew into smithereens in the presidential election and the GOP will have to re-build with a positive program, not negative fear mongering, and offer actual proposals to build Main Street and the engine-driving middle class. As in nature itself, we see disintegration and then regrowth.

Should we expect our political parties to ever question the corruption and waste embodied in corporations today -- obscene millions in dollars and perks for the corporate elite, the hidden machinations of price fixing, bribery, and hostile takeovers?

No. These powerful entities have a Godfather deal over the heads of every politician. Take the money and represent us

well or reap the whirlwind because we will become enemies. Such is often called “The System.”

I am hoping that our ongoing system of business-financed government and its charade game of politics can improve the quality of life for everyone. The rich and powerful must surely realize, by now, that all the people within an economy need to do well to make the system work well.

Without some kind of system, there is chaos; so make it a better one. Without an international banking system, often derided as the Dark Cabal and the Illuminati, humankind would be obligated to develop an international banking system. The best idea is not to destroy a vital institution, but to make it work well for our societies and our communities.

We can't demonize Capitalism and get anywhere. It is our core of being in the U.S. and we must work within it to make it serve the people well. Capitalists must learn to co-exist with progressive social programs for the millions of citizens who want government to protect them from excessive profit-taking.

Is there Goodness in the hearts of Capitalists? Can a new generation show us some more of it? Look around today and we see great service being provided to the world by any number of millionaires, all of whom want to see a strong nation and a stable economy.

Can the GOP gravitate back to its Chamber of Commerce, Main Street, decent and religious people roots? Has it been totally ripped away by a demagogue who represents none of those things? Has it been lured away by a global philosophy

that allows them to hoard their money overseas and provide their jobs to third world sweat shops?

What about the 2016 election? Before the November vote, I wrote the following:

It hardly matters this year to the nation's wealthy, and to our largest corporations. In lieu of the arrogant blathering of Trump and his total lack of a plan of any kind, they will be going to the Democratic standard bearer with every dollar and every bit of influence they can provide. It's over. The Democrats are, at this writing, hoping for some control of Congress since it has obstinately and effectively blocked the previous administration at every turn.

Trump will be gone from the GOP but will continue to be a noisy carnival barker for years to come, increasingly being marginalized and scrutinized, the butt of jokes. The Trump name he used to license will mean something else entirely. The Trump University scam will crash all over him.

Ironically, in the beginning, he sought to build a brand; turns out he is destroying it.

But I didn't count on a surging dislike for Hillary Clinton, large-scale belief in lies about her, and the Trump wave capturing Ohio, Wisconsin and Michigan by a narrow 1%. No wonder Trump wound up two million votes behind in his winning campaign but used the outsider influences in the rich man's GOP to pull off a victory. Those voters in the states which knew Trump the very least carried him to victory. He won Wyoming and Mississippi but couldn't be elected anything his home state of New York which knows him well.

The GOP got hijacked. The Donald made mince-meat out of their other candidates just by being non-political and outspoken. What he said to many voters was less important than his attitude. Now the GOP suffers through him in Congress, as do the Democrats and all other Americans.

CUCKOO CLOCKWORK ORANGE

In the beginning it was a grand ploy to build the Trump brand, enhance his image as one of the Republican Party's candidates for President of the United States. This is true stature, and enriches the brand name for future licensing and exploitation.

It was no pioneering act. Others had done it to promote themselves, like Herman Cain, Newt Gingrich, Mike Huckabee, Rick Santorum, Ted Cruz, and Rick Perry. Ron and then Rand Paul were Libertarian mainstays on the debate stage. He could stand up there too, and was smarter and more resourceful than the lot of them in his mind, with the boldness to speak out underlying truths. He believed that earlier candidates Mitt Romney and John McCain were not nearly as capable as himself.

Standing on the stage with such politicians as Jeb Bush, Chris Christie, Marco Rubio and Cruz must have appeared to be a real opportunity to shine like a TV star. He would be a real man, not a politician. Voters are hungry for somebody who tells it 'like it is' whether or not anyone can determine what that means. It truly means that politicians have a history of dancing around issues and not dealing with them or providing a straightforward answer, and people are sick of it.. On the other hand, Trump means business, and whatever may come up he will be tough and straightforward about it. You're fired.

While the election was ongoing, I was under the impression, with many others that he was killing himself with his vacuous and vile demeanor. I wrote:

But that kind of toughness and candor has brought nothing but contempt upon Trump day after day as he scrambles to produce something to which he never gave adequate thought — a campaign for the presidency, an organization, even a boilerplate speech to set the mission with clarity.

None of those things existed because Trump truly didn't believe his votes would come in these numbers, enough to outpoint the splintered field. But jovial, likable Jeb Bush soon folded with his lackluster campaigning and family name. Rubio showed himself unprepared and easily goaded into recess fighting with bullies who have spent a lifetime in the practice. The GOP establishment saw Cruz as an outsider, as well, strongest with the government-hating, closet-racist Tea Party crowd, who were organized in the first place to oppose the big bank bail-out and hardly represented the GOP's core beliefs.

When Trump's early speeches were literally filled with his celebration of poll numbers and vote totals, it mirrored the candidate's own amazement at what he was seeing. The Republican primaries were overrun with angry white men, vestiges of the Confederacy and the Tea Party and the anointed candidates went down in a severely split GOP base.

Trump was as surprised as the Republican Party, which watched helplessly as an arrogant outsider who had never done anything for the party emerged as the party's standard bearer for the presidency. All, including Trump, could well consider that the base of American voters who participate in GOP primaries is small, and

inconsequential in a presidential race unless it can be significantly expanded. Instead, the candidate's continuing loose-lips buffoonery has regularly alienated, not just individuals, but entire categories of voters, and any number of foreign countries.

It has been an epic struggle inside Trump the man to re-shape himself from this lark of a candidacy into a serious contender to become one of the most powerful men in the world. This was never his intention, but can he not adapt to the task? Can he not use his style of making decisions on the fly day-by-day fit into the schedule for the rest of the world? Can he survive with his big ego and blatant demeanor intact until November 8, when it will blessedly be all over. Does he really want the job and is he relieved to not win? I think so.

How did my analysis fail?

It was greatly aided by a growing dislike and distrust of Hillary Clinton, fomented throughout the crude Trump campaign and it drew blood. Middle America rust belt working voters turned against the Democrats in significant numbers when her campaign failed to ignite any optimism for more jobs and a better deal for American workers. While Hilary rolled her eyes at Trump's outrages and vowed to stay on a high road, she sealed her narrow defeat. There is no high road in politics; when attacked, you must counter-attack or look like a loser, and make yourself one. Importantly, Bernie Sanders lit a fire in the Democratic Party and she let it go out. It proved extremely difficult for her to get his votes, much less any enthusiasm for her middle-of-the-road pablum.

This narrow sliver of a victory for Trump in the controversial Electoral College raises many issues and questions. But it all

actually happened, and the country is having to deal with the man and his separate reality.

Finally, I do believe that he didn't think he had a chance to win in the beginning, and week by week while some of us thought he was losing votes with his mouth, he was, in fact, building a patchwork conspiracy of the country's fiercely anti-intellectual and simplistic people. He himself continued to be surprised and amazed and spent lots of time on the podium marveling about his numbers and bragging about his emergence. A dumbed-down electorate loves you Donald, at least by a very small margin in the ramshackle Electoral College.

I believed that Clinton, on the heels of a highly respected Obama administration, could get the votes to win, and did so until the artifact-old political college stepped in again, and cost another popular vote winner the Presidency. I did not anticipate the ill feelings about Hilary and that people would take to heart the e-mail sham issue that was foisted upon the electorate in the final days. Good grief! Everyone deletes e-mails.

This false issue was blown up like a Trumped-Up dirigible, and too many people fell for it. Much of it came from Russian internet trollers and was designed to whip the Clintons and sow discord. Our electorate rubes ate it up.

Donald has proven himself to be the biggest con man in history; nobody will ever beat his ascension to the Presidency and this country will never live him down.

HILLARY WINS! WHAT WOULD HAPPEN?

In my anticipation of a Trump concession speech after the debacle, I hoped to take on the role of speechmaker for this losing candidate, one who can put the best possible light into his tunnel of defeat, providing a means to save face and still stand tall for our ego-driven icon. I used all means possible to constrain myself away from satiric humor in this offering, and I try to imagine it as a speech that the Donald would love ... since he would be paying me.

Imagine this Trumpery, post-election:

“Thank you thank you. Thank you so much. I feel the love in the room.

“And it is especially appreciated on this sad day when too many timid ... restrained Americans have voted for my opponent, and truly against their best interests — They don’t know it yet! ... for the status quo and not for bold and positive change keeping us on a slow road where many of the economic realities of life work against us.

“Okay, I do congratulate Hillary Clinton here tonight for her resourcefulness in capturing those votes, but I say to you

today, and irrevocably, we are a force for the future. We are in the wings for now, but we are here and we are strong, and we will remain united to work for a greater America in the days ahead. Though I don't know in what venues I will serve in the future, I assure you that our cause for a greater America is just and right and true and we will not abandon it.

"I can only pray for the safety and well-being of our people in the next administration when our enemies are everywhere. They are pouring out of the middle east to terrorize us. They are infiltrating our societies under the guise of seeking asylum. And they are subverting our Christian culture and our capitalist foundation with their twisted ideas of a pseudo religious culture that promotes division and hate. We will continue to oppose them with every ounce of energy we can lift up.

"And so I step aside for now, wishing for American greatness, settling for another administration of the Clintons. We will be watching.

"In the meantime, I salute you all, my loyal supporters, one last time. We are all winners still in upholding true values. We are not losers, we are not defeated, we are as right as the rain in our higher values and our higher quest. We will be heard from again ... and again and again. We are a voice for American Greatness and we will come again. Stay turned for an announcement from our new America First Coalition, which will take the world by storm. It's gonna be great ... fantastic ... for the American people. Get ready for thunder and lightening everybody as we gear up for the long battle for American Greatness once more!

Thank you.

Nice job, I thought. Maybe I should start up a Devil's Advocate company, or maybe a speechwriting service for everybody, no matter what they want to say. I don't mind saying it eloquently for them and I can also infuse within my creation all the things that they should say. I can do the prose and fill it with wisdom for them too.

I managed to get to one of Hillary's operatives and after a chat, he was able to inform her on various options for response. Together, we could choose the optimal one. My friend sent this.

MEMO: To HRC

Once again, an opportunity to respond from Trump's self-serving sign-off. Here are several options. We could mix and match as you wish.

#1: Yes, I did hear Mr. Trump, and can only call it his usual hot air and bluster. He can continue to be a voice, or try to sell his voice, for as long as he wishes. He could be another Rush Limbaugh or Drudge Report. But he has been repudiated and disdained by a huge majority of the American people, and maybe he should take a little break and reconsider what he's been saying because it hasn't resonated. He has become one of the biggest losers in the history of presidential politics.

#2: Yes, I did hear the Donald's non-concession speech. Seems he and his fractional band will fight on to supposedly make America great again. Such rot! His whole fear-driven trip is

smoke and mirrors. The United States has always been great and continues to be greater all the time as we continue to work — and work hard — to make our Democracy more just, more fair, more sharing for everyone’s welfare. We represent a unified America and one that is growing in wisdom and goodness with each passing generation. His vision is more like watching a dumpster fire.

#3: Well, yes, I heard Mr. Trump’s empty head and snarling mouth one more time ... and now maybe the news media will give us a break. He’s over. The American people saw through him and kicked his ass. Now we need to get to business with our improved standing in Congress to drive forward some legislation that makes people’s lives better. Let’s forget this guy and move on. He’s likely going to be busy with his Trump University fraud charges for a little while anyway. Maybe one day he’ll have an orange suit to match his hair style. How about a reality show from Leavenworth?

end

So lemme know what you like or don’t re the above, and we’ll get on it or off it or whatever — and rock on to the White House! See you at the staff party. — Charlie

Of course, there was no party and sometime later Hillary had time to enjoy walking in the woods. The country, meantime, is deep in the woods. And Trump is wearing his fuzzy gold bedroom shoes.

CANDOR

He's a tough guy. I like him. I always thought he had a role in politics.

But politics doesn't want him. Being candid means you express your real thoughts. You hurt people's feelings, make them mad. They won't vote for you.

It's good politics not to offend people. Give them oatmeal, unflavored.

But people get tired of pabulum. They admire candor; it is a hidden weapon in politics.

Sure, politicians have tried to fake candor. But they only launch flatulence-filled balloons against targets the masses would approve.

Voters were sick of politicians in the recent presidential election. Our new president has little respect for politicians and the manner in which they get things done — and especially the way they don't get things done.

Trump vanquished 15 other GOP candidates who fit the political mold, as well as a neurosurgeon. While Liberals pronounced that his candor would kill him, it only advanced his cause. Democrats coasted along, smugly thinking that he was driving nails in his own coffin. He was actually building

theirs by emboldening and mobilizing many discontented people who might be short of I.Q. but long on acrimonious passion.

Candidate Sanders lit a populist bonfire in the Democratic Party and it was raging along with a strong message for many of these people. These populists observed that the traditional Democrats in a planned Clinton Coronation killed their candidate and poured water on the fire. They saw the Democratic National Committee as a protagonist to Sanders — not a Democrat, but an Independent. Many were embittered that the DNC and Hillary had finally overcome their uprising by unpalatable and suspicious means and sent the party sagging back into the corporate quagmire.

Where Sander had raged against the machine and preached against corporate welfare and wealth inequality, the Clinton camp let the fire go out. I sat enraged at her pussy-footing campaign over the last weeks where she adopted only a single catch phrase from Sanders' powerful appeal.

They used a line, we will “work for an economy that works for everyone and not just those at the top.”

That's it. Anything beyond that cliché that might irritate the Capitalist behemoths who control politicians with their contributions, also known as bribes, coercion, influence-peddling and corruption in the world of candid reality.

Yet we now see a pushback in the party, with Clinton out of the picture and the Democratic National Committee's concentration on taking money from the rich for favors sounding too much like the GOP for some emerging new

leaders. They want to subdue corporate influence, become more populist in tone and policy.

Sanders remains a leader and will go not gently into that good night. So is the irrepressible Senator Elizabeth Warren. A new Democratic Party will emerge and fight to take Congress in 2018.

Candor will perhaps be embraced as a weapon now that some major differences in the two parties have been more sharply identified and a newfound willingness to just concede the other side its rhetoric and just outvote them. Can't appeal to everyone — a reality.

Candor's effectiveness can't be overestimated. Voters everywhere agree with its values, using terms like: Speak the truth and don't mince words. Tell it like it is and let the chips fall where they do. Call it what it is and don't sugar coat it. Don't take no shit off nobody ... or any shit from anybody.

People like this, many millions anyway. The GOP embraced their champion of candor while the Democrats squeezed theirs out, and quenched his anti-corporate welfare, anti-Wall Street corruption Populist message. Only Hillary was left standing from the primaries, with a batch of political cliches. The Clintons are well-known across the South, Sanders barely known at all. But Bernie did, in fact, capture those Rust Belt states that finally went to Trump and turned the election to him.

With the Sanders fire gone, it only left Trump's economic message in the field — and he promised to stop corporations from hiding money overseas, exporting jobs, moving factories

and using globalism as a cheap labor source. Sounds like Sanders. Hillary stayed timidly with her corporate support, fence straddling, with rolling eyes at the candor, and promising to “go high.” Alas, many economically-frustrated voters don’t care about “going high’ above the candid truth of these matters that Trump brought up forcefully — a new economy with more jobs and, as Hillary said, works for everybody.

I’m a great businessman, not a bought-off politician, he said. I know how to make better deals for the American people. I’m not beholden to special interests. I’ve got all the money I need. It rang true for many.

No government or public service experience? Didn’t matter. He wasn’t another politician, self-blinded to the many problems being caused by their political donors controllers, and determined to straddle the fence and say nothing, while making it sound good.

The public has been deluged with candor all over the social media in recent years, and the kind of nasty name-calling that fits right into the Trump personality. Now we have a Twitter blowhard in the White House. Even as President, he is likely to continue insulting people like a third grader. We will see if his act grows old, and how fast. Exciting times ahead.

And I think about some earlier years when I longed for politicians to embrace Candor, use it to make strong points and capture the votes of people who appreciate the cause of Truth and its expression. Beyond the swamp of self-interest and greed that permeates much of our government.

So then comes Trump, with all the candor I appreciate, and rode it all the way to the presidency. Yet my candor man seems shallow, self-centered, arrogant, and prone to pettiness and outrageous lies so blatant that millions are taken aback. Candor should have a foundation of decency.

Most voted against him; he lost the popular vote. But he built a strong base of support from disaffected people.

They include the deep South confederacy bloc with its strong segregationist, state sovereignty and anti-federal government traditions. The South was formerly a Democrat stronghold, called the “Solid South” in the days of Franklin Roosevelt.

But when President Harry Truman saw black World War II heroes being denigrated and murdered in the South, he was spurred to present an anti-lynching bill in 1948. This spawned a rebellion from the party into a racist “Dixiecrat” movement that split the vote, and it looked like a Truman defeat for the Presidency. He upset the prognosticators and won.

This was a prelude to meaningful and long-overdue civil rights legislation under President Lyndon Johnson in later years. In response, the GOP adopted a ‘Southern strategy’ and went after those disaffected Southerners. They had a bloc of votes, it’s about winning, and the Republican Party wooed and welcomed them.

While the Democrats still controlled county and state governments across the South, white people began to split their vote — a Republican for President but all of your old friends in the other local races. Eventually, most of those

Democrats of yore just switched parties as both voters and candidates. The Democrats were the black party.

Then later, the Tea Party movement people, incensed by the big banks bail-out in 2008, also found a home within the wings of the GOP, ironically the party of choice for the banks and the rich through history. But Obama was a black liberal and he was part of the bank bail-out too, they said.

He inherited the huge mess and the vital bail-out when he took office and soon afterward got saddled with it by the Tea Partiers. They were the type who would boycott a town hall meeting designed to discuss problems to stand outside with placards, screaming that Obama was a Nazi. These people have likely supported Trump in large measure, and I wonder in amazement that they would deface Obama's poster with that little black Hitler mustache. We shall see how they like the Trump Kingdom that they helped inflict on the GOP and how close to Nazi Germany the country can sink.

With the Republican party thus bloated to distortion, even with some fringe-dwelling Libertarians, the situation was ripe for a demagogue to sweep through the primaries against an array of anointed politicians with nothing to spout except party pabulum and empty homilies about the state of the economy and what it needs. Playing voters for dumbed-down servants to their propaganda doesn't work well any more. It became a shocking and surprising reality in the election.

Trump might be a playboy millionaire with a real estate empire, but his voters surmised that's the kind of leader we need after looking at the dismal, unattractive showings of

lightly-qualified candidates like Rubio, Bush, Cruz, and Christie, plus their failure to beat Obama over two terms.

None of Trump's debate candidates were prepared to deal with the powerful persona that he presented. They were shocked at the level of denigration hurled at them by what they considered to be a fellow Republican. Soon enough, they realized that he isn't a Republican in any real sense. They thought his candidacy would doom the party to defeat. They were wrong. He won. Now they scramble to make sense of it all.

Here it is: Mealy-mouthed politicians, playing both sides and saying nothing, are finished. Call it polarization if you wish. The clear and present danger to the Republic of our very own 1% — the richest entities in the whole world — is now in the open. We have seen the enemy to our republic and it's us. We can't let the rich Capitalists take it all and blame our problems on the weak and poor, even while they are creating problems for the weak and poor. It won't work anymore.

The voters who elected Trump see it. So do the progressive liberals who voted for Sanders.

And I finally got the Candor I wanted from a political campaign — out of the mouths of not one but two candidates. I chose Sanders because I see his candor wrapped into a high level of intelligence, a caring for people to have good lives, and a program which could develop a fruitful government-business alliance, working together for progress with good minds, good hearts and good spirits.

As for the other Candid Character, I don't see these good traits in Trump. I see a coming era of Trumpery as defined in the dictionary. We will have an administration of tumult and controversy, and with many millions of losing voters both worried and angry and deeply concerned for their futures. They are standing strongly today, poised to strike back against what they think is coming. Trump has mobilized the country's liberal progressives very effectively for ideological and practical battles ahead.

As one who lived through George W. Bush's years of corruption, war and economic destruction, I have been concerned about another GOP looting and pillaging expedition out of the White House.

But as the days go by, I am beginning to believe that Trump is not truly a Republican. He was no supporter of the Bush administration. He just used the bloated GOP electorate to get into the White House and now he's the party boss in name only.

So here is The Donald today, making over the party he inexplicably took over, and ruling over a major base in the electorate — the white nationalist voters, once called the 'white backlash.' It's bigger than ever. And the electoral college along with politically gerrymandered districts continues to drive it along.

The Candor that we see from our President will be unprecedented and we can't see where it all might lead. My desire is for Candor to be blended with brilliance of mind and spirit, but I may have to settle just for Candor in this guy, who is certainly no gentleman.

Older politicians tried to be gentlemen. This fellow doesn't.

Older style politicians need all the money they can get from donors and act accordingly. This guy doesn't. He is all about making money.

Older politicians tried to unify people and bring in new voters. This one thinks polarization is fine and actually uses it to get votes.

Older politicians were loyal to their party. The new President plans to run the party and tell it what to do.

Older politicians don't generally attack members of their own party with such ferocity and call it fun — not attacks on policy but on personal character. This new President has made it a point to do so. He then tends to blow it off as rhetoric. But truth is truth. Lies and distortions are what they are.

Truly, we see a new order to things in the White House. Trump pulled together a whole new bloc of voters who believe candor is just a means to insult, demonize and lie about the opposition. The term 'gentleman' doesn't command the respect it once did before the advent of our world of internet blowhards and single-issue partisans.

Trump cultivated himself as wise and resourceful on The Apprentice TV show to a large segment of people, and when he took to the political podium they were with him. He threw up fear flags against Mexicans and Muslim refugees who have been bombed out of their homes and that really got the attention of the white nationalists.

Eventually his constituency built itself to face the final countdown weeks of the campaign. Trump's team barraged rust belt states and hung the blame for lost factories, boarded-up businesses and dying small towns squarely on the shoulders of politicians like Clinton, the same old D.C. song and dance that he will end, that he alone can end.

While Clinton criss-crossed and carried her limp, poorly delivered message of homilies and buzz words across North Carolina and Florida, losing both, the middle fell out of the Midwest. Her campaign seemed to think Trump was forever sinking his chances. But he was delivering depth charges that blew out the Democrats in several key states. Sanders is surely disappointed that his strong and decisive working class message got watered down and washed out during the supposed Clinton coronation march.

Clinton showed no Candor at all.

It's too bad that Trump can't temper his candor and tie it more closely to his level of intelligence. To be candid: You're the President now. You're speaking for all of us. Sober up from your Egoism. Don't let your mouth overload your ass when you're representing our nation.

AN ANTIQUITY ANCHORS OUR ELECTIONS

Is the Electoral College an outdated relic, ripe for replacement, or an important safeguard to our Republic? I think so.

Why did our forefathers create a band of candidate-committed 'official' electors to vote on behalf of the states of the new union? Why did they assign the number of 'electors' based on the state's population?

The answer seems to be within Benjamin Franklin's quote that our new country was a republic, and not a democracy. There's a difference.

Within history, our ancestors could see the turmoil within fragile, ever-failing governments in Europe that relied on a more 'pure' form of democracy. A network of self-serving entities will no doubt collide and, without a decisive majority, a labyrinthian and ever-changing network of coalitions would attempt, in vain, to give a country a stable majority rule government. Prime ministers would rise and fall with regularity.

These would be some international considerations. On the domestic front, our ancestors saw the need to apportion a number of rights to the sovereign states voluntarily making up this new union. Hoping to create a means of power-sharing

between the agrarian cultures and the big money interests of New York, they worked in safeguards against the huge population centers outvoting and dominating the agricultural core builders of our country.

In a new Congress, they set up a House of Representatives of the people, apportioned by population numbers. They set up a Senate patterned after England's advisory House of Lords, but with real voting power. To help with this balancing of power, each state would have 2 Senators. Those two who represent a few million people in Wyoming today have as much power in the Senate as the 40 million in California. The College still does its job.

With the Electoral College members determined by state populations, Ohio gets 18 of the official votes that the Constitution requires to get the Presidency. If a candidate in Ohio wins the state by one vote, he gets all 18. Highly populated states like New York and California have tens of millions of voters participating in an all-or-nothing campaign.

Such a disgrace that Hillary Clinton gets some 3 million more votes than Donald Trump and still loses. With an electoral college to deal with, it could be expected that candidates would devote their time and money to the big population centers, and likely not venture into sparsely populated regions, and the people in Wyoming and Mississippi and Idaho have their own issues and needs that may not be well understood or supported by the massed voters of Manhattan or San Francisco. We have a diverse nation and it's good to have a sensitivity to all of it.

So the founding fathers bowed to some guaranteed rights for the states, and particularly the right of a large portion of their citizens to own slaves. Two votes in the Senate, just like the big Eastern population centers would spread the power and control so that the frontier interests would be heard and represented. Curiously, it would become a counterweight to majority rules.

The creation of an Electoral College for the Presidency came in the day of primitive communications. Couriers on horseback were common, such as the famous Paul Revere. There was no telegraph, no telephones, no postal service in this new world, some small amount of printed material, mostly political polemics. All of this was to come. In the meantime, the apparatus for official electors to come to Washington and cast their votes made a bit more sense than today. They were the official bearers of the voting results and they came by horseback and carriage.

Both the College and the Senate has served as equalizing balances to preserve the identity and the integrity of the various states — each with its own interests that it wished to manage on its own. Our states have never wanted to cede all their rights to a central, federal government. This has been most pronounced in the South, where state political and business interests fought to preserve slavery, then to preserve segregation, and now to fight on even today with its innate underground issue of white race superiority — all evidence to the contrary.

There is still too much uninformed acrimony between the races in the South, but that's also true for other regions. The blending of ethnic cultures across the world could be a

blessing but for the alienations fomented by our basic animal mind and abetted by organized and divisive religions. The Golden Rule seems out of reach for most.

From these points of history can we decide that the Electoral College is a not a fail-proof device in expressing the majority will of the people — two failures within memory with Al Gore and Hillary Clinton.

But there have always been other issues with the American vote. It really doesn't seem to have been too democratic at all. It was not a right in the beginning; it was a privilege. The founding fathers entrusted a vote only to male property owners. Slaves were considered 'property' and not worthy, civilized human beings. Women were then largely relegated to subservient roles in society, and even within the home, where men were supposed to be masters and rulers, and women fully beholden to them for their livelihood and the important decisions of life. Too often, husbands asserted their will with violence but women had limited legal recourse.

Women have certainly changed that reality, but males, former slaves, actually got the vote before they did. The gender has had a long, hard struggle to get the vote in our country, and even to protect themselves from domestic violence.

Back in George Washington's days as our first President, it was only the educated class that was deemed worthy of critical voting decisions. Many people were illiterate or nearly so, having no books on their shelves except maybe the Bible.

Thomas Jefferson seems to have largely borrowed the concept from Europe that noble people have an obligation to lead,

especially so in a fledgling, weak new country that only included some white-populated areas along the eastern coastline. The remainder were Indian 'nations' which were more aptly described as the tribe's hunting grounds — zealously defended. These 'nations' stretched across the vast continent, through the mountains to the giant Mississippi River and beyond, across the plains, over or through the massive Rocky Mountain chain, across more deserts to the lush and magnificent land of California.

All this lay there before a small collection of colonies huddling on the East coast, confronted with massive challenges and/or opportunities. We were a small, third world power and really didn't snap out of our isolationist identity until the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, launched our entry into a world war and started the building of a huge military structure that stands tallest in the world today. I recently noted that we have 25 military bases surrounding and in the proximity of Iran alone. We have a gargantuan world military presence, but when the Constitution was written we had no army at all.

The Electoral College remains steadfast today, even as suffrage has encompassed non-property owners, blacks and women. It is a safeguard to a multiplicity of parties and lack of stability in government. It has resulted in a de facto two party system whereby third parties can never win, but can and have seriously affected the results of many presidential elections, actually changing the winner.

If a third party can do that kind of damage, what could a plethora of special interest groups that would splinter the two existing parties do?

The States Rights Task Force would likely get Georgia, Tennessee, South Carolina, Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas and Louisiana for members. They would control a bloc of votes designed to effectively impact the policies of whichever party would seek their alliance. They have a long-standing grievance against the federal government telling them what to do in racial affairs. With their status denigrated in these states, black migration has always made their populations decline in places like Mississippi, thereby nullifying much of the gains in voter registration.

With the Electoral College gone, high population areas would have their own decisions to make, tired of being overcome by rural hegemonies of people out of touch with world realities. They ask why Wyoming's two million people get the same number of Senators as California with 40 million? They ask why all these unworldly rural yokels can drive the election of somebody like Trump. The Empire Coalition in New York will hold a big batch of votes in its bosom.

It does seem like rural America vs. urban America right now. The battle goes deep even in a blue state like Oregon. Urban areas outvote a lot of red counties that are out there and not liberal in any sense. How will the Rural vs. Urban dichotomy work itself out in our political future? The economy under Obama seems to have rebounded and worked out much better than in rural areas which are plagued with the same decades old problems.

We've lost jobs to cheap overseas labor and we've seen our infrastructure fall apart while billionaires rake in obscene salaries and perks and use loopholes to avoid paying a fair share of taxes. They sell out the country and when it starts

failing, they blame the government that they've severely weakened with overseas tax havens and business fronts that drain our money and our jobs.

The two political parties are special interest collectives and they populate the entirety of Congress, except for Bernie Sanders (I) of Vermont. This government body then is an extension of special interest groups who provide the big money. Big money is what the politicians are after, and they align with the party that can get it for them. They get a ready-made boilerplate platform of beliefs that support the financing elitists and go from there. Then it's only some charisma and a lot of homilies, cliches and bromides that sound good.

On the other hand, members of the Electoral College are predominately unknown. Who knows who they are and who cares, given that they are pledged to their robotic task, largely symbolic and extremely critical to the future of the Republic. It would be a different world with President Gore and President Hillary Clinton. The majority has spoken; they don't count. This mechanism to balance the rights of the individual states has bitten our Republic in the ass, twice now.

Our best course may be to dump it. As our urban-rural split continues to widen, we could get worse results yet with it. Already, third party candidates have confounded it by splitting votes throughout our country's history. This has changed the results in a number of Presidential elections. Now, with two minority presidents changing the whole course of history, it's really time to think about this.

I believe that in our incredibly connected world where vast amounts of information can be found right there on your palm

device, the needs and desires of our ranchers in Montana, our horse owners in Kentucky, and our cotton farmers in Alabama and everyone else will surely get their due date in Washington — with their Representatives, their Senators, their federal courts and their President. And, like every other interest group that cares about the success of their agenda, they can hire a lobbyist too.

Your Senators and Representatives likely know very little about your cause and your business — unless you go up there and tell them. If you want to insure good legislation and fair regulation for the country's soybean growers, there is the American Soybean Association to join, and to represent your interests. Better invest in it, these politicians are poorly informed on your issues, including exports.

Lobbying is an industry in D.C. On the one hand, it is used to inform our public servants and promote good regulations and legislation. Critics argue that it is something else entirely — a place to tip the scales, corrupt the system, and make the most money possible.

The Electoral College is not corrupt. It has just corrupted the majority rule system and changed the outcome of too many elections over the years. Get rid of it. If a third or fourth party can arise to challenge our big two, let it happen. It seems likely that both parties can inflate themselves big enough to go after and encompass the key paths to progress that we know.

DUMBING DOWN

“They want to dumb us all down,” my friend railed, “make us all happy little shoppers, compulsive consumers. Don’t think, just buy like an idiot and get yourself in debt up to your ears with their plastic shit.”

I couldn’t argue with that, but it seems other people and all parts of society have been trying to dumb me down my whole life. In school, I was a bookworm; today I would be a geek. The athletes proclaimed their superiority with brawn and sometimes good looks and a cock-sure attitude that their ‘wussy’ schoolmates had best avoid. It still seems that way.

Football is the big money tail wagging the subservient academic dog in most universities today. Even small historically black universities can’t wait to invest their money in a football program. And unlike the giant football machines, these programs will forever be red ink.

Anti-intellectualism is a lifetime reality for me. I still find it hard to fathom but I think it relates to what is best called “animal mind.” This sees us as a creature, a personality of evolution. We have a well-developed physical mammalian body. We have the gift of human mind and an indwelling spirit which supplements our physical reality. We are imbued with the means to tell right from wrong, good from evil, love from hate.

But we use only the animal mind when we are content with life as an animal, not striving for higher purpose, higher mind. Like a wolf in a pack or lion in a pride, we want to fulfill hunger urges by eating our fill of what we like best. We take rest and sleep and fulfill sexual urges with what appeals to us most. In animal packs, this sexual pleasure and the choicest cuisine as well tends to go to the strongest, most assertive creature who establishes some kind of temporary dominance. As animals reproduce themselves — surprise! — their urge is to love, nurture and protect their offspring and build a family core of mutual support. This is what humans do, although we learned long ago the link between coitus and childbirth and have even attempted some management activities.

This is very much us. We use our animal mind constantly. But we have the potential to go beyond this, with higher mind activity that leads humans to build civilizations, and not just satisfy urges, then rest and sleep, so we have the strength to go fulfill more.

Today, we even consider global issues, interplanetary exploration, philosophical questions about consciousness and the life force. Unless we just use our animal minds, like those people who belong to a huge, amorphous force of Anti-Intellectualism who permeate their lives with the quest for satisfactions and an inherent animal laziness that helps them achieve peace of mind without any higher aspirations.

Some of us, however, have restless souls, to learn more, discover more, be more, experience more, and find a purpose of service and sharing that we know will make us feel good, even satisfied sometimes. The process of 'taking' in life, without giving and sharing what we have is just too limiting.

Some say there are dominant forces in society always trying to dumb us down — a concerted, diabolical plot. More likely these ‘they’ people are trying to recruit us to their point of view, whether it’s political or to sell you an opioid or an ostrich. Don’t think of it as a conspiracy but only our rampant, driving, never-ending quest for wealth, which we have crystallized into a currency that buys everything we want. We unconsciously ‘worship’ money in a real sense, and we incessantly deny it.

We need to rise above our animal minds and learn analytical, critical thinking in order to grow and develop successful lives. We need to develop a meaningful, continuing contact with the spiritual voice that speaks from within us and will guide us, individually, beyond the lower animal ways of fighting for territory, establishing dominance, killing enemies that we ourselves create and filling our beings with fear and acrimony. We have minds of great, unused potential and internal spirits which can lead us wisely. When we achieve a reasonable balance of mind, body and spirit, we will make our most progress.

Some other points to consider:

* Partisans are never more than just a part of anything, and intentionally ignorant about the rest of it. And when you take sides, you invariably get only one. Partisanship can blind you. Myopia will stress your logical/analytical mind.

* If you can’t see the various sides of issues then ask for illumination from the Spirits while in your quiet, stillness time. Listen intently with an open mind. As you hear other

human arguments, once given the perspective of spirit, you can more accurately assess the truth of your own, and expand into a deeper level of insight that can help mold you into a higher reality for yourself. Truth lives in many layers and is ever-advancing as you go with it.

* Can we not see our own missions reflected in the missions of others? As we grow older don't we see the futilities hidden to young dreamers? Don't tell them their hopes will be dashed again and again. Perhaps they won't. Hope prevails, even here, in the experienced cynic.

LIBERAL ENERGY and the CONSERVATIVE CON

OK. I'm now finally fed up with those so-called Conservatives — those who claim to be hard-working, church-going, family-oriented rural people who are the backbone and conscience of our country. They are arrogant enough to tell you that and hold judgment against their image of a lazy liberal like me, out of touch with reality, and sipping lattes while the working white people suffer.

They call me a bleeding heart; I'd rather bleed than coagulate into a selfish clot.

A recent New York Times op-ed piece featured such a person who lamented that rural America has been left out of the prosperity, with dying towns, closed-up businesses, jobs gone overseas. Urban America may be doing fine but we've been forgotten and left out. The politicians take care of the urbanites and leave us in the cold.

He totally forgot that most all of these problems were caused not by President Obama but by our GOP-laced business giants who have destroyed their mom and pop competition and flocked to third world sweat shops for many of the products in our market. The Fortune 500 supports the GOP and lines up against labor interests. Wal-Mart decimates rural America

and pays less than a living wage so that employees even qualify for food assistance. The Waltons vote Republican.

The presidential election of Donald Trump was supposed to be their answer to rural discontent — a billionaire playboy with a string of bankruptcies and court suits who surrounds himself with ostentatious glitter and trophy women. He shows a nasty, defensive personality with sentences that could come from a third grader. I doubt that he has ever set foot in rural America or has any understanding of a struggling debt-ridden family trying to survive, with one job loss or major illness away from bankruptcy.

But here he is — an example of anti-intellectualism running rampant in the nation, and finally dragging us all down into a Trump presidency. The intentionally dumb have really done it to us now. But how about liberals?

First of all, liberal people have far outpaced others in the growth of our country. It takes hard work to earn advanced degrees, to develop a lifetime regimen of learning and exploration. Liberal minds dominate the universities, the media, journalism, philosophy, the sciences, computer technology positions in Silicon Valley. This all takes dedication, perseverance, hard work, and an intellectual mind. Liberals can get out there and do it.

These people have had the guts and drive to leave rural homesteads and go to urban areas where there are jobs and opportunities. They have gone to strange places, met and interacted with other races and ethnic groups, learned that people are basically the same and moved on to problems and

challenges of real import. Liberals are courageous, open-minded and anxious to find friends.

Rural people, unworldly, tend to look at things that are different with antagonism, as potential competition, as dangerous enemies. They tend to avoid reading any books at all in high school, or college if they make it there. They tend to revel in down-home common sense and disdain book-learning, especially with people who have 'their heads buried in a book' and who 'ain't got no common sense.'

Translation: they can't change spark plugs, shoot and dress a deer, or hold down a tobacco chew, and 'all that book learning ain't gonna get you nowhere.' They teach their kids to be defensive and 'don't take no shit' from nobody. They forever bitch about the faults and the doings of 'they' without ever explaining who the hell 'they' are. They are forever irritated because the public schools are integrated. They would like to afford the Christian academy instead.

These people are lazy in developing an intellectual mind that can sufficiently understand the workings of government, political parties, corporations, the stock market, government agencies, the tax codes, banking, the health care system, wealth inequality, environmental challenges, religious doctrine issues, medicine prices, education debt-load, or sustainable, renewable energy sources, just to name a few. I'm tired of these people dragging the country down. We are fortunate in many cases if they don't vote. And more than half of Americans don't vote — they don't want to take any responsibility at all, only bitch about the system that they purposely don't fit into.

Liberals spend a lifetime learning; Conservatives fight to conserve what they have — which is often little or nothing of real moral substance. Liberals want to lift everyone up and will share to get that done; Conservatives want to conserve all they have, accumulate more, and make up excuses about not sharing that most often reflects on the worthiness of the persons in need. If they sufficiently denigrate the poor and downtrodden, they won't be obligated to help them at all.

These people form Chambers of Commerce to put business profits over everything else. They segregate themselves as possible from black, brown, yellow and red people, believing that they are a superior race overall. As capitalists, they strategically develop an enemy to focus on while they concentrate on their profits. That has to be the federal government, which imposes taxes which are always too high and unfair, and which hampers business development by imposing regulations concerning safe working conditions, air quality, and dumping of pollutants into the air, water or earth. Over-regulation bogs down the economy, they say, but if we cut taxes and regulations on the richest corporations, they will grow the economy and provide jobs.

They still preach it, but they abdicated on that long ago with the excuse of globalism. Put Americans out of work and take those jobs to the Philippines, China, India or Bangladesh instead. Their trickle-down mirage became an outpouring to other countries — damaging our economy beyond measure.

The Conservative religionist in rural America often ignores moral living and Jesus-like behavior but goes to church every Sunday in order to be seen — good for image, good for business, good for sales if they're a local agent. Or they don't

bother going to church if it doesn't suit their image-making, but they nevertheless preach what they call Christian values in exile. Right wing preacher politician fund-raisers continue to influence them against dastardly liberals and their nonsensical tolerance and respect for other races, religions and creeds.

Such lazy, ill-informed and often animus driven people have finally dragged the country down to their level, electing Trump and branding liberals as unrealistic bleeding hearts with little common sense and a naive trust of people with whom white nationalists see nothing in common.

Trump built his campaign around a trip to the Mexican border and the demonizing of would-be Mexican immigrants, all wrought with lies and twisted logic. He then railed against lax vetting of immigrants from countries that we are now bombing or have recently spent billions of dollars bombing. There is no lax vetting; there has never been a crime involving this desperate band of refugees. Liberals will pity these people, and care about them. Conservatives will fear them and disdain them as Muslims.

Trump divided America as best he could, stirred white backlash nationalists, and mobilized high numbers of fearful, uninformed and instinctively divided Americans. Combine this with the perception that Democrats welcome blacks and gays, pass civil rights legislation and promote a welfare state, and you have a near perfect storm for these voters. It's made more perfect by Trump not being a career politician at all, but a highly successful (they say) businessman. That's exactly what they think the country needs in the White House — not an intellectual person with political and government

experience, who knows that the country is not a business and his job is not to make profitable business deals.

His supporters think that it is. They think that they have common sense. But they have little intellect. And it is a fact that intellect is needed to make sense of anything and everything. Too many people never bother to develop it. They are busy trying to make money and raise a family. Their common sense can be witless. They build it on a false foundation of what they want.

We are into what will be a tumultuous four years as cultures clash all over the country. It will surely be more exciting than four years of President Hillary Clinton and a Congress that refuses to do anything that might make her look good. We've been there and just done that.

Finally, when we examine liberalism, we should look at American history, and especially the Republican Party, which emerged in the ashes of the civil war and ruled over years of corruption fomented by the government and the rich. It battled the rebel Teddy Roosevelt and was interrupted briefly by the Woodrow Wilson administration, but then the party came on strong again to lead the country into the great economic depression. GOP President Herbert Hoover's solution to the impending crisis was to cut taxes on the rich so they would lead us out of our ruin. It made things worse. President Reagan would resurrect the corporate welfare mandate called 'trickle down' economics years later and it didn't solve any problems at all.

After Hoover, it took four terms, 16 years, of a liberal, try almost anything presidency with Franklin D. Roosevelt to

bring the country back from the economic bottom. It virtually created the federal bureaucracy — the realized ideal that the government can actually provide economic and social support to the people.

Abetting the recovery was the advent of an unavoidable world war that was also a beginning of a permanent money-driven budget behemoth defense industry. No longer would we have to mobilize to wage war. We would have a standing military with enough weaponry to attack an enemy at a moment's notice. We would build an invincible military machine and many fortunes will be made.

In a short time, this became the country's largest budget item by far and the GOP quickly leapt to take advantage of it. Represent the interests of these industries and get their votes, simple. Invest in them and reap the profits when you vote for war.

No less than Republican President Dwight Eisenhower, a celebrated Army general, would bemoan the huge amount of money required for this seemingly necessary defense industry, funds that could be spent feeding hungry children, he noted, or other beneficial social programs. But the Cold War with the Soviet Union was an inconvenient reality that built more than a few military arsenals across the world in a fierce arms race. Billions of dollars are tied up and wasted in thousands of nuclear warheads that we hope never to use.

In recent years, we've seen just a few too many Republican administrations. The economy fell apart again in 2008 as the George W. Bush administration left their sinking ship and took loads of money with them, and into overseas tax havens.

Amazingly, they were allowed to fight the Iraq war off-budget and raid social security funds to help pay for it.

President Obama had to clean up the economic mess while facing near complete obstruction which slowed everything down, so that the resulting dissatisfaction could put the Republicans back in charge of Congress, and they put up a high wall of obstruction for six more years.

When they obstruct the President at every turn, they believe that his failures, and more importantly the false perception of failure that they harp on, will put them back in power soon enough. It has worked very well. Bill Clinton overcame them for re-election, but was severely hampered by Congressional obstruction and a gold-digging female intern who was altogether too persuasive.

Over the years, I've honestly considered supporting candidates in both parties despite the history. But when eight years of near flawless leadership from the Obama Administration gets condemned by a do-nothing murder of crows who constantly lie and take no blame at all for the mess they left, then the die is cast.

Our country must have a traditionally loyal opposition to make any progress at all under our two-party system. When a party halts a critical judicial appointment based on partisan politics, they have put their party collective of special interests above the good of the country. When they refuse to approve a Supreme Court judge, or even hold hearings, based on his being appointed by a progressive Democrat, they drag the court down into their self-induced political morass.

The GOP plainly needed to clean up its act after these years of obstinate, juvenile jousting and posturing by the likes of John Boehmer and Mitch McConnell. The people were fed up with it.

The expected assortment of GOP partiers were like warmed-over leftovers for their primary voters when Trump took the stage to berate them. Those primary voter rolls were swelled beyond the usual Fortune 100 board room executives who provide the party's base. The party had welcomed in recalcitrant Libertarians, unrepentant segregationists, and Tea Partiers who got their foundation by opposing the big bank bail-out, which the party embraced.

Given these renegade voters and the tired old party line of the GOP and its idiotic Congressional record, Trump was a shoo-in. It was stupid to repeal the Affordable Care Act continuously over the years, right into a wall of futility — and with nothing to replace it. It suddenly became so apparent to so many people that the Republicans were speaking wholeheartedly for the insurance companies and with a sharp stick into the eye of reason.

It should be apparent that insurance companies want to insure only the people they want to insure and consider that a basic freedom in the tenant of Supreme Capitalism. Why should they be forced to insure people who are bad risks to stay healthy? They want healthy people paying them every month; anything else is detrimental to the bottom line. HMO CEO's are among the most lavishly paid executives in the world.

It was also infuriating to see Ted Cruz's radicals fight the usual GOP suspects to actually shut down the federal

government, a petulant, idiotic act that cost the country a lot of money once again.

So Trump, never a Republican, took over the party while Bernie Sanders, an independent who has never joined the Democrats or hustled for the corporate dollar almost took over the other party. Alas, the traditional Democrat, Clinton, managed the nomination and promptly let the populist fire go out while she reverted and stuck to a homily-filled say-nothing script that backed away from even a sentence on income inequality and corporate welfare abuse.

But neither the high road or the middle road or the say-nothing boilerplate speeches could do it for Clinton. People were so sick of politics and obstruction in 2016 that they drove a big change. The frustrated rebel intellectuals voted for Bernie; the frustrated rebel anti-intellectuals outvoted them. They have great numbers and the idea of intellectualism, however they fail to accurately define the term, is a bad thing in their limited mind. Thinking intellectually, philosophically, objectively, altruistically is not something they want to do, and many feel that liberal professors are even detrimental to their values.

I've got news for them. Urban centers drive the country in every way. Rural America, on the other hand, is a drain on America until it can be rejuvenated with the money that's now flowing overseas or to huge corporations headquartered elsewhere.

Red states need a lot of federal support because of their economic failures brought on by pro-business, anti-labor policies. Blue states drive the economy because they

understand the unvarnished truth about economics — we all rise or fall together. The GOP obfuscates it all.

When the 1% rich have 99 percent of the wealth, you bolster the 99% with enough money to keep supporting the rich — buying goods and services, houses, automobiles, media, entertainment, household goods. You don't cut taxes on the 1% to help the 99% by proclaiming that more corporate welfare will incentivize or require them to hire people. They don't want to hire people; labor is the greatest expense in most every business, and the one place where they all focus on cuts and belt-tightening — and they always cut from the bottom so that the need for cutting never reaches the top.

I can almost hear it: “We will discuss our austerity program at our management retreat at Hilton Head next week.”

The remarkable thing about the Trump presidency is that he doesn't reflect the Republican Party and they don't reflect him. They won't tell him what to do, and it remains to be seen if they will take orders from him.

One thing for sure. Liberals in this country may be in the minority but they are generally angry, frustrated, fearful, and ready to stand up and fight. If they have to fight the President, that's fine. They'll do it. Liberals are motivated as never before.

The wall Trump wants to build is likely going to be between him and huge numbers of honorable, intellectual and progressive people in the country, those who matter and make themselves matter. And even while his rural constituency, short of knowledge and intellect, short of vision and

imagination, short of spiritual caring, short of common sense, short of any influential connections, do little for him except continue their incessant bitching about how bad things are and how he's going to do something for them.

"Ask not what your country can do for you. What can you do for your country?" — John F. Kennedy

RATIONAL AND POLITICAL

In the beginning, our political parties were people bound together by a common cause, such as the concern and fear that our new government might prove to be oppressive, inflicting unreasonable taxes, requiring unnecessary benefits for their workers, imposing costly regulations. These are all legitimate concerns and they could find a ready ally in the Chambers of Commerce, and a major contributor to their mutual cause.

As a party gathers its donor list, it shapes its beliefs and its positions to align with it. If there is an issue involving their constant benefactors, they side with their foundation of support and would be hard-pressed to stand against it for any reason. Party Whips keep the troops aligned with their special interest supporters, not always an easy job.

When a party captures the loyalty of the board rooms of the major banks and the pharmaceutical, insurance, armaments, and health care companies, the taxation and regulation of those power groups becomes decidedly lax and their profits soar. This has resulted in a massive wealth imbalance in the country today, which simply has to be reversed to some degree in the years ahead.

One can see rationality falls by the wayside and ultimately has little to do with this history; it has been a matter of self-service as with everything else in society. What is rational is what serves me best. It is political.

So people look to political parties to represent what's good for them, whether they are wealthy or never destined to be. If you're a working person, struggling to stay in the middle class bracket and not be bankrupted by job loss or health crisis, you tend to vote for the Democratic Party today, which unofficially represents the worker just as the Republican Party assuredly represents the rich. Those in board rooms nationwide tend to vote for the business party, while the Democrats represent workers demanding a living wage, good working conditions, respect, some sharing of the wealth. The GOP generally respects the American Ethic to get rich; the Democrats see a stacked playing deck in which those who already have the most are those who get more and push every working family into deeper debt.

In this classic face-off between management and labor, the rich and the working poor, the "conservative" capitalist and the "progressive" liberal, there has been one issue that has driven a wedge right into the middle and caused much political conflict.

Race is the issue, of course. Over the generations from slavery to segregation, white supremacy to civil rights, the white citizens have struggled with it. Are we not better than these black people I see around here? Or are we not superior given equal opportunity? Do we not have a responsibility toward them? Do they not have souls? Why should they ruin our public school systems with their inferiority? Is it logical to have special benefits only for black people? Why are these savage rednecks committing racial atrocities and all of us in Mississippi getting a black eye for it? Why is my granddaddy still fighting the damned civil war?

As the Civil War wound down, the new and untested Republican Party included many of the abolitionists who stood up against slavery. With President Lincoln's assassination, they were left with the dubious leadership of a tailor with an appetite for strong drink. The resulting Reconstruction era in the South was one in which yankee opportunists stripped much of the wealth that survived and enabled stooge black people into governmental offices. This era of degradation for the South spawned the counter-force Redemption period of history — during which white supremacists re-took the governments and imposed a wave of terror on black people who found themselves disenfranchised and beaten down once more.

With the Redemption era, the South became a bastion of strength for the Democratic Party — known as the Solid South and a major political force for the New Deal of Franklin D. Roosevelt. Blacks would no longer be voting in the South. At that time, the so-called Grand Old Party Republicans had become a longtime haven of corruption and big money control, demonstrating their irrational and greed-driven thinking during the terms of several inept presidents.

But the South's white Democrat control finally cracked apart in 1948 when the rebellious "Dixiecrat" faction of the Democratic Party stormed off in the face of a civil rights platform provision against lynching to run a so-called "States Rights" campaign. Their battle cry of "sovereignty" of the various states to confront federal over-reach would ring down through the years to a final armed confrontation of America's ongoing civil war — the battle of Oxford, MS in 1962 over the integration of the University of Mississippi.

The Democratic Party was built upon the needs and desires of working people, as a buffer from the kind of big business and political corruption that had long plagued the country. It was fitting and honorable in this era to represent the interests of the ultimate working class, and those most oppressed by capitalistic corruption — the Negro.

So the segregationists no longer had friendly confines in the Democratic Party. When the uneasy situation came to a head in the 1962 party convention, the party finally opted to seat the black-based 'Freedom' delegation of Mississippi and put aside the whites-only traditional party leaders. In the Civil Rights era, President Lyndon Johnson himself lamented that these steps to justice would cost his party a vast number of white backlash votes all across Dixie.

A split-level accommodation soon came in Southern politics — vote for your usual white friends and neighbors in the local 'courthouse gang' but switch to the GOP ballot for the presidential race. This flipped the South vote to whomever the Republicans would run, because they would stay far enough away from the race issue that they would be the obvious majority vote choice across the Old Confederacy.

This polarity shift in presidential politics was surely accelerated by the Republican 'Southern Strategy' to tap these voters with a natural outgrowth of their concerns. In this way, the party of the rich, the privileged and the profit-driven could be lap-welded with the social and moral concerns of a major part of the American electorate. This would require striking a moderate and mostly silent racial tone and to preach their mantra of state's rights — preserving a 'way of life' in places like Alabama that meant white control, of power, jobs

and money. The GOP's shiny white candidates in the South would be molded by Chamber of Commerce concerns and mindset. The white backlash vote is strong and permanent and will only grow stronger as blacks migrate from the South, in disgust and in search of more opportunity.

The strategy means embracing the white Christian religion — to demonize abortion, abhor sexual deviancy, and characterize the other political side as less moral and more decadent. They take the word liberal and completely re-define it, then use it as a curse word of their invention.

For some years, we have seen this unholy alliance between the CEO and Fortune 500 party with several ludicrous and illogical political alliances. The Confederate States have been there since the Goldwater debacle. Then came the Libertarian Ron Paul, then the Tea Party and its recent champion, Ted Cruz. Herman Cain showed up to sell pizzas. Dr. Ben Carson became a brief mythical figure who floated away like so many waves of smoke.

The party's image, after years of transparently illogical and political obstruction efforts came to be known in the faces of John Boehmer and Mitch McConnell, constantly wailing for budget cutting in the face of real human needs and holding themselves arrogantly above any legislative need at all. They even threw a hissy fit and shut down the government, at heavy cost to the taxpayer. And with nauseating regularity, they threw Affordable Care Act repeals into the wall of futility for years on end, and offering no alternative.

With Trump in the White House, their proclamation to 'repeal and replace' the ACT with corporate welfare cosmetics has, at

this point, failed miserably and the truth has emerged that health care legislation must involve both parties as well as the interests of the working Americans who are having to pay dearly for it.

Who can wonder that the GOP is bankrupt? There was an opportunity to build new party leaders over these years, but it hasn't happened. The Bush name, this time Jeb, was bankrupt. Neither the Tea Party wing, with its unappetizing Ted Cruz preaching, nor the Libertarians with their Ayn Rand altered reality, stirred much enthusiasm given that their goals and philosophies are diametrically opposed to that of the big banks and corporations. How did the Confederates get in this party, and these other people who don't really belong?

It goes back to the race issue, as usual, and the wooing of aggrieved white Southern voters into their ranks. As the Democrats embraced the liberal view on "race mixing," these people became de facto Republicans in the national elections. They would vote on anybody, from McCain to Romney to Trump to George Wallace.

To expand the party base, the GOP could welcome the white South based on white business values, free enterprise without government interference, which has forever fueled the big banks and corporations party. Chambers of Commerce were all in line. Civil rights legislation was not needed, they professed, and the rights of the states must be upheld against the 'communism' represented by liberal people.

Along this same time, the party would welcome in Ron Paul and the Libertarians, built around their common views of a very limited government, in civil rights matters anyway. It

truly bothers Rand Paul that people who own a business can't serve who they want without government restrictions.

Later the Tea Party could find a home in the GOP stew in their rebellion against bank bail-outs, big government and tax-and-spend liberalism. Sure take them all in, no matter that the GOP represented the very bank bail-outs they were protesting against. And those bail-outs were fomented by the Bush regime even as Obama was barely being installed in office. But Obama was in power now, and was also black, very likely born in Africa.

But in the Republican primaries of 2016, the party found dramatically that these combined diffuse elements within their ranks had no appealing philosophy to share, and the clown car of posers and pontificators rose up to bite them and virtually wreck the party.

Only a fraction of the U.S. populace votes in Republican primaries, and within this finite corral, the supporters of a radical anti-government view, haters of the usual politicians, and acrimonious at heart, can take command. One could win the presidency with only about 25 percent of Americans supporting you, given that more than 50 percent don't vote at all. It happened, and it has been a shocking wake-up call.

With 17 GOP candidates on stage, the one who could and did attract the most popularity was the one calling for business solutions and down with politics. He proceeded to cut down and destroy each contender for command — lying Ted ... do-nothing Bush ... quirky Carson ... little Rubio. His 'mad as hell' support grew as his opponents dwindled.

He showed a bastion of power in the states of the Old Confederacy, who are only in the GOP since they are less insistent than the Democrats on civil rights issues and proved once again that they will vote for anybody who isn't a liberal Democrat, and all Democrats are too liberal.

In November, the GOP's mad alliances still comprised a minority of voters, but they prevailed by less than 1 percent in several key states, took all the electoral votes there and managed to win. It has truly been a shock to the 'system.'

Republicans in Washington now reap the whirlwind of this massive dysfunction. It seems unprecedented in American history. Given that the President exhibits psychotic behavior makes the future altogether uncertain.

But if the Republicans truly want to re-build a great party with business priorities after Trump's impeachment, they need to concentrate on improving both sides of the management-labor conflict. Capitalists need to develop much greater concern for employing Americans in order to generate the overall prosperity that everyone needs.

Americans need more jobs, they don't need them to migrate to third world countries. Our own country needs investment above and beyond global concerns and not be afflicted with their offshore tax havens. American business needs to pay a fair share of taxes and take a fair share of responsibility in the welfare of their workers and the growth of our economy, and quit dodging taxes and shifting their big money away from our many needs.

If the Republicans want to rebuild themselves as the American business party — the one that best represents the interests of American business — then it needs to shuck the anti-business and white supremacy elements from its current midst and concentrate on its mission.

This also requires a disdain of any globalist activities that supersede the economic and quality of life needs of our own nation. Workers are part of American business and should be part of the platform. When an American business sets up global arrangements to utilize cheap sweat shop labor, often children, they should be in conflict with their own American Business party. These are the kind of American Republicans that we need, and they will have resounding success with the American voter. The focus should on creating American jobs and giving up their globalistic greed.

But this is a rational solution to the Republican dilemma. It remains to be seen whether it emerges as a political one.

PROFIT

Profit is the bloated despot that inflates capitalism and turns it into an over-indulgent monster like Jabba the Hut ... with the captive beauty of Democracy in chains, a princess turned into a house pet.

Profit is what we take from our fellow man and there is the forever question of what is fair ... and what is affordable ... and how much the market can bear ... and how much can we charge and how cheaply can we make it. Can we cut costs and beat our competitors with price? Or can we produce a higher-quality product and get more for it?

These eternal questions of Capitalism over the generations have resulted in the more resourceful by whatever means becoming rich, and then so rich that the overall economy collapses. This invariably takes down a political party with it. Leadership changes and improvements come in social welfare programs from our government — social security, unemployment insurance, food support, medical insurance, aid to dependent children, safe working conditions and many more through our history. But then the political power of the rich eventually holds sway again and the government begins to serve their needs, certainly not those of an under-engaged public. There has been a lot of inflated boom and inevitable pre-programmed busts over the generations.

The issue has always been striking a balance between Capitalism on the one hand and Democracy on the other — two hands of the same body but with entirely different

missions, goals and objectives. People are wondering all over again today if there can be any sensible compatibility between these forces. The question is being widely asked, of course, because of the 99% and 1% wealth inequality schism brought to life vividly by the Occupy movement, and amplified in the presidential campaign of Bernie Sanders.

Candidate Hillary Clinton and her forces, of course, wanted to stay as far away from that term as they could, since it sounds like an attack of the one percent rich, and they are the ones who hold the power, in whatever circles you may enter. Money is power. Power is being God. Wealth is the Mission of Life because it is the Empowerment.

Capitalism has no mandate or incentive toward the 'general welfare of the people,' which our forefathers directed the new government to consider. To make that constitutional point as muddy as possible over the years, capitalist interests have fought to erode its meaning and simultaneously make people distrustful and fearful of over-reaching government authority. They argue, in effect, that people should want to navigate for themselves in a free market society and let the buyer beware. The government only guarantees taxes for you, they complain, and that likely turns into welfare for someone else. The best government is the one that governs least, and allows business to flourish.

In fact, however, the government provides salvation time and again for capitalism's excesses, the repeated bloating of the economy to unsustainable, blimp-like, Jabba the Hut proportions. The balloon then bursts. Values collapse because they've been built by excessive profit-taking, sand castles that fall apart.

Profits have no intrinsic value — they inflate the actual value of a product, and when profits are taken at every step of the origination, development and marketing process, there is a mountain of profit which can't be supported by actual value. Sometimes a recession can destroy the inflated sale price of a house, and a recession can cost so many jobs that foreclosures mount obscenely. The whole Capitalist house of cards, built on corrupt, collaborative profit-making tumbles to rubble and has to be re-built again. And they rebuild it in the same alienated way.

Profit-taking needs to be regulated according to product value and vaporous 'products' don't need to be created out of air to poison the system. If Capitalism is going to continue boasting of its superiority to any other economic system option, then it should place some restraints on its most evil practices. Clean up your own act and don't worry then about the government having to do it for you.

Curses of Excessive Capitalism

1. Its philosophy is to dominate and destroy the competition, creating a monopoly in which it can name its price, control the supply and the demand. This is its Nirvana. It is not compatible with values of a sharing and caring family, community or government. The lives and businesses wrecked by bankruptcies are all American tragedies. Failures represented by empty houses and businesses dot the landscape of the country.

2. There is an incessant demand to control labor costs, at all costs. With globalization, companies see fit to go to Taiwan, China, Bangladesh, India, the Philippines, Pakistan and other third world textile and clothing sweat shops to produce clothing. The U.S. textile industry was largely replaced in the world market by this cheap labor many years ago, but the Capitalists win in the end. They have no national boundaries. They believe the undeveloped world is ripe for their exploitation and they believe our government should represent them actively in this regard.

3. Capitalist businesses in the U.S. often dodge as many taxes as possible — setting up off-shore tax havens which exist only as paper corporations. They do as little as possible to support the government with taxes.

4. At the same time, the Capitalists target branches of government for attack and takeover. First, castrate the government bureau by withholding funding, then

complaining about its incompetency to argue that private business can take over the service and do it better at less cost, and even reduce taxes. But every Capitalist enterprise, unlike government, has to build in a profit margin and that does nothing to improve either the product or the service. Currently, the Capitalists would like to privatize the post office and turn Social Security into a system controlled by banks and corporations.

Why not? Old folks are a customer base. They would like our banks and corporate controlled HMO's to take over your health care needs as you age, with Senior Care Total Comfort Plans and other such rhetoric. In fact, each person on their plan becomes a customer base, either a profit center with the drugs and surgery they can control, or a loss center where they have no incentive to keep you in the database. Beware of privatizing your life to those who exist to make Profits and are better off when you're dead.

5. The incessant demand for new customer bases has been a bane. They've created new markets out of college students who have to borrow to afford the inflated cost of an education, winding up with degrees of dubious value, often with no job or clear career path, and an enormous debt driven by interest payments to the banks. It is a disgrace to make our children's higher education into a business and shackle them with heavy debt before they even enter the workplace. Then they find it difficult to get into that workplace because businesses are incessantly cutting payroll by a myriad of means.

6. The pharmaceutical industries denigrated a medicinal herb, cannabis, for generations in order to develop and promote generations of dangerous opioids and other addictive drugs.

They traditionally rip the active ingredients from natural plants and develop their own synthetic concoctions that can be patented and marketed for major profits.

7. Oil and gas industries constantly deny the realities of their pollutions, and the great potential of solar and wind energies in order to hold up their profits. The coal industry launches a sham of 'Clean Coal' propaganda. The petroleum companies start fracturing the earth's foundational rock and infusing chemicals to extract oil from our shale, with great public concern for our water aquifers and earth stability. But we see little attention from government or the media — it might seem anti-corporate.

8. Controlling the market means controlling the public attitude, developing their respect and loyalty, and how best to do it except the media. They dangle big-money advertising campaigns to avert any mainstream news discussion of issues they want to avoid. They have a phalanx of lawyers to confront the media regarding any perceived slight or slander. Capitalists are intimidators, they push their way with money. They corrupt everything they wish with money.

9. Monsanto has stirred international alarm over its GMO crops and its pervasive pesticide Round-Up. They and other corporations maintain a veil of secrecy and only release sanitized puffballs of information that sing their praises. Capitalism is infested with secrecy and suspicious activities involving profits over the people's welfare. They put up a wall between themselves and well-meaning citizens in a Democracy.

10. Capitalism has long considered the world to be a dump — waste goes into our streams, black smoke smothers the air, paper mills stink up the whole area, toxic pollutants get buried into our precious soil, rendering it useless, oceans become receptacles for the worst garbage we can produce even as these waters harbor a precious food supply. Capitalists smear themselves onto the beautiful gifts of nature like so much toilet sludge. Huge dead zones in the Gulf of Mexico and elsewhere are the deadly, oxygen sucking aftermath of chemical, fertilizer and soil run-offs as far north as Iowa and Minnesota. We don't hear about it; no one wants to report it.

In Florida, we are currently inflicted with a scourge of smothering, uncontrolled algae blooms in our waterways, caused directly by the dumping of inorganic fertilizers by the politically connected sugar industry.

11. Congress and its two ruling parties have become a service agency for campaign donors. Each party has a list of its benefactors whose needs and desires in the Congress will be looked after. Each bright-eyed young lawyer candidate for Congress must have a party sponsor and that comes with their list. There is a Party Whip to pop off at young Congressmen who might want to think for themselves on certain issues.

Some Congressional candidates are now running for office primarily to get on that gravy train, that party-sanctioned list of donors to solicit and expect support. In a bizarre turn, some corporate lobbyists now complain about the politicians who are always there in front of you, another election, and their hands out once again. Who is corrupting who on the money trail?

12. The air of dog-eat-dog and excuses of 'it's just business' permeate our atmosphere in the U.S. and works counter to our best ideas and ideals in regard to caring for one another, working together to build society and meet people's needs for food, shelter and health care regardless of one who is there to turn a profit on it. Business is cold-hearted on its face, and it requires compassionate people to make it anything like a blessing in our society — and not a curse. Compassionate Capitalism would be a turn for the better.

13. Waste and Excess. While we don't have kings, queens and princes, we do have a corporate royalty class which has been transferring company wealth from the bottom up for decades, starving the lower echelons, even cutting services and people, to bulge the real wealth at the very top. CEO's and their executive court, supported and embellished by collaborative shareholders, make obscene millions in salaries, and various luxury perks.

14. Corporate executives long ago quit thinking of long-term benefits for their companies in favor of short term gains — get rich and get out. When they depart, they take with them so-called golden parachutes that sets them in luxury for life. Vast numbers of Americans struggle to get by with social security payments, and this insurance has barely been able to keep up with the cost of living increases.

Some of this great luxury could be foregone to allow the country's middle-class to have fewer struggles, not one illness away from bankruptcy, unable to afford a college education for their children, and chained to an outrageous mortgage debt that will keep them under control for many years. It is

instructive that a bank mortgage for a new home will start with a monthly payment that is some 99 percent interest. It goes down by a mere fraction with each passing month, and your equity grows at a snail's pace.

They have to stack the deck to cover their greed at the top of the system. They have to deprive people of decent pay and benefits to support their inflated income and Jabba-like indulgences. In short, Capitalism incentivizes corruption to reach the God of Wealth, and it's just business. We are supposed to celebrate it as the best system on earth.

14. Capitalism raises up a false god. Wealth will bring happiness, they maintain, because it will provide luxurious living, security, absolute freedom and an estate to carry forward in our families. The only hitch appears to be that given all that success, it doesn't seem to deliver on the true happiness part of it — eternal bliss and peace beyond restlessness.

Rich people are often disappointed with their wealth and feel unfulfilled. We are seeing more of this in their charity. We eventually may learn that our human goals in life should be higher than the accumulation of material wealth and power since all of that will be gone with our transition and the intake of pleasure is somewhat limited. Inherently, we know it all means nothing and are not sure what does.

More than a few wealthy people of this generation have learned the limits of wealth and happiness and are experiencing the personal joy that comes from charity and activism for a better world. We see them in the news, if we look. As these people of means become attuned to building a

better world, we will have more champions to develop values higher than Profits, which are most often achieved on the backs of one another while crushing many individual dreams in the process. World communities must be built on working together, not competing, with respect for our differences and support for our commonalities, not just some blind obsession to make a monetary profit off the other.

15. This is our madness. Big companies eat up little ones. Big corporate farms crush the small family operations. Big stores destroy the small town merchants. The incessant demands for domination and profit continually re-shape the business landscape, making many a family tragedy via bankruptcy, many a bank foreclosure to feed that wealth back up into the top-down corporate hierarchy. Small towns dry up. Jobs go away. The Fortune 500 expands and so do the welfare and government assistance rolls as business investment, especially labor, goes overseas.

So can we see how these two systems are not compatible unless some restraints are added against the rich taking absolutely everything, with most everyone else struggling to stay above water?

Perhaps an enlightened Capitalism will rise up out of the extreme inequalities between a corporate royalty and a huge population of people just getting by — or not.

Here are some ideas for progress, what can be done.

1. A successful political party should make a compact with the American worker, a partnership that stresses living wages and provides a wall of protection against businesses that

needlessly export jobs to foreign sweat shops with incredibly low living standards. Support a plethora of discouragements to U.S. companies seeking to relocate overseas or to put money into offshore tax havens. Stress American investment.

This will forge a mutually beneficial political pact between our chambers of commerce, working voters and the party. Our business communities in stagnant and dying small towns across the country know that we need a vibrant new economy that creates new businesses and jobs and doesn't kill off towns, and they are as fed-up as anybody with the massive drain of money and jobs and loss of infrastructure building revenue for our own country. When companies dodge taxes with multiple loopholes in the name of a global economy that benefits only them, they deprive our government of revenues it needs to provide important human services such a medical care and security for the aged.

If the titans of business can't support these goals and don't support the party, then turn it against them in the next newscast. Their money can't buy everything unless you give in to it. It's a fact that Trump didn't get much support from anyone and still won the presidency. Some may think that money can buy anything and everything, but they're absolutely wrong.

2. Everyone gets sick and dies and should take responsibility for it. We need a universal health care program that includes everyone to pay as they are able per their resources, and into a direct health care fund designated for them. This would also free business employers from being responsible for — of all things — the health care of their employees.

Saving your money into a fund for you and your family's own health care is a common sense solution, and such a fund could help us re-establish a realistic scale of values for services — no more heavily inflated medical costs because of high profit demands. No more massive write-off losses in health care because of those high numbers of people who can't and don't pay in the end and others have to make up for it. No more confusing prices over procedures and products which have no stable value. There should be pricing standards and a stable economic environment. There isn't.

Workers at the Wal-Mart or a fast food franchise don't need to see their full-time job become part-time in order to dodge the employee's health insurance requirements. People have health needs and life-or-death crises no matter their condition of employment, and it isn't logical to tie our country's health care network into the workplace.

3. We need, not a minimum wage, but a cost of living provision that matches the incoming and outgoing money channels that seriously affect our lives. Employers should pay a wage that allows people to support themselves. Food stamp programs should be designed for those who are unemployed; employees should be able to buy food and not be supplemented by taxpayer dollars. If Wal-Mart doesn't like paying a decent wage, the people's government should have an avenue to recover those food stamp-welfare benefits that fell upon the taxpaying public.

These various incongruities need be worked out of our system, and as the working man benefits, the political party that champions these middle-class improvements will reap the benefits. The GOP would do well to re-capture its Main Street

America business appeal and disdain the rampant corruption that their global attitudes and entanglements have brought on, especially shipping jobs, money and wealth overseas.

Americans are awakening to the real forces that hurt our country, and they are all from Capitalists. Both the GOP and the Democrats need to excise itself from culpable involvement in exporting our wealth and our jobs, and represent all things American in the world.

So my conclusion has to be that the natural evolutionary inevitabilities of uncontrolled Capitalism has brought many curses onto our society and is driven by cold greed and not people's welfare. But there is also potential for Capitalism as well, since it has the wealth to do many good things for people's lives. A good citizen's political party should be leading him in this direction, appealing to our higher selves, to a level of sensible generosity in a nation that cares about all of its people, both lost and found.

That party can't consider Profit to be god. It should recognize profit as inherently inflationary in a system built around true values — in products, services, and their honest presentation. Those values are felt in the heart and expressed in kindness and caring, which, in turn, produces more kindness and caring. And care given comes right back to us in soul-satisfying ways, in a reality where money has nothing to do with it.

A political party that captures this spirit in its mission will appeal to a huge majority of Americans who see the ugly side of Global Capitalism and want to see more comfort and

security in their own lives as they try to raise families and pay their way.

IRAQ AND RUIN: A Cut-the-Shit Story

When you peel back the events of history and see them without all the partisan puffery, they begin to clear up considerably.

The Iraq War was a horror story visited on the American people in the name of vengeance and profits.

We had an oil and gas millionaire as President and a defense industry millionaire as Vice President. They both used the offices to build upon their millions and dictate many of their decisions.

In the beginning, swaggering Iraqi dictator Hussein claims the area of Kuwait, owned by rich oil sheiks, actually belonged to Iraq. He seizes all of it. President George Bush the first is a close ally of the Saudi Arabia oil sheiks and the family's business is oil and gas. He puts together a hurried international coalition force that drives Hussein out of Kuwait.

The dictator populates his front lines with teenagers who barely know how to shoot a gun. We wipe out the pawns in great numbers while his elite Republican Guard retreats and

regroups, still in power, in Baghdad. The international coalition only approves getting them out of Kuwait.

Bush II is later stung by criticism of unfinished business, a dictator still boasting, and with a tile floor with his father's face on it. There were reportedly 56 Hussein castles around the country. A wise choice would have been to destroy them all first, instead of destroying the city of Baghdad and all of its facilities. This would be a strong deterrent that wouldn't drive the whole country into chaos.

The Bush invasion was based on trumped-up and unreliable evidence. The W. wanted revenge and the bigger penis. VP Cheney and his associates wanted the enormous profits accruing to the war industries and the contractors rebuilding Iraq. American Standard produced large numbers of toilets for the ruined country and its occupiers. Manipulations that lead to war are accompanied by manipulations in the stock market.

In the takeover of Iraq, citizens saw heavily armed white Christian invaders in tanks actually commanding the city by military force. It drove out huge numbers of alienated Baath Party members and their considerable arms. In retreating into enclaves around the country, they raided an American arsenal to take a huge amount of additional weaponry. They scattered across the countryside and began organizing resistance cells.

Of course, the Sunnis still hated the Shias and vice versa, enormously complicating the situation. Rival clerics vied for control of specific areas and put together armed militias to defend them. They have been fighting one another ever since the death of Mohammed with no end in sight.

These tribal people would have great difficulty adjusting to a democratic parliament in which various sects would argue, and even then still lie under a strongman puppet who simply assimilates himself and his gang into the usual corruption, thievery and murder that is an endemic part of the society.

So we build a green zone fortress within Baghdad that is constantly under attack, while bombings and massacres across the country belie any idea that the U.S. is in control. These people don't want the U.S. to be in control and all things festered.

Our mercenary contractors at Blackwater are responsible for a wild shootout which killed more than a dozen innocent people and they are thrown out of Baghdad by the puppet government which must, in the end, answer to its people. With their founder under indictment on serious charges, Blackwater later became Xi and are headquartered in privately-owned Dubai. They proclaim that security is their business and they have contracts to protect embassies and other entities all over the world with trained soldiers.

Meantime in Iraq, they wanted us gone. In a ceremony regarding our pull-out, President Bush has to duck a flying shoe, the ultimate sign of disrespect. Iraq was tired of our chaotic misunderstandings and manipulations and wanted us out of the way so they could run things their way. Much later, the Republicans would spawn the story that President Obama pulled out too soon and it created chaos. Politicians feel free to re-write history and seem to get by with it all the time.

Over time, the Iraqis have found it very hard to govern themselves and maintain control over religious sects who have

vowed to destroy one another. Under President Obama, we have thankfully pulled back from combat in any of these forever embroiled middle east fiefdoms. It is really beneath our dignity as civilized residents of the 21st Century. We can't fight their battles for them because we live in an entirely different reality and we actually have a modern civilization.

We need to preach to them the insanity of having battles at all.

True religion and spirituality are about peace and the sharing of love. People who kill people on behalf of their religion have no real religion at all. When they claim that God endorses their murders, they throw down a lot of boulders onto their road to personal salvation.

Today, we see Iraq in its usual conflicts, as well as Afghanistan. Religious pilgrimages, church services, weddings and funerals are all targets for madness massacres. After all, such events conveniently put your generations-old enemies into one place so more of them can be killed at once. Is the concept of Honor dead as a nail in such places?

Syria is now the hotbed for the factions, including Russia's rescue of their puppet regime and arms customers in Damascus. President Obama wisely chose not to participate in another boots-on-the-ground fiasco and was able to strike and destroy terrorist cells all over the world with our drones, bombs and special non-invasive forces with few casualties.

The location of the bloodbath seems to change periodically but the bloodbaths continue. Egypt, Bahrain, Yemen, Libya, Lebanon take their turns being the genocide of the day.

Our military stands ready to kill the enemy long distance, best possible way, and they should not argue to send our young soldiers into such a quagmire again. More American soldiers are dying from suicide than from enemy fire. That means something is wrong.

Are our soldiers not ready for this level of depravity, gore and violence? Should we train soldiers who can sink to that level and deal with it better? Or shouldn't we keep them safe and prospering in our American homeland, rise above savagery and not get involved in it? Quit sending our young people into worlds of horror. We should spend our time helping refugees who are fleeing from that barbarity and we could use our troops to help construct safe havens and new towns and villages.

The GOP and their war industries seemed cowed at the moment by the massive confusions and uncertainties of their wild card President Trump. But in society, there seems great adversity to the idea of hotheaded war industry politicians dragging us into another tragic and expensive war that we can't afford and would be a total waste of money. It remains to be seen, at this writing, whether they can churn up another invasion.

It appears doubtful, especially since the Russians have entered the arena. They will be satisfied to egg up another 'cold war' in which we can spend vast sums of money to match what the Russians are doing. Perhaps it will stimulate the economies of both countries to spend money on vast arms stockpiles ourselves and in our recruited satellite cold war partners.

We spent the Soviets into bankruptcy last time. We may face off again if the political hawks and their business partners have their way. But every dollar spent on weaponry is wasted as far as making people's lives better. And a lot of people sure could use some help.

For them, 1,370 nuclear warheads is more than enough. There is no realistic 'missile gap' for them to fill because the Russians have a few hundred more. How many does it take to destroy the world? Ruin the water, the air and the soil? I'm sure it would be far fewer than 3,000.

For war profiteers, a new wave of modern multi-million dollar jet planes, tanks or Humvees makes great self-serving sense, but it does nothing for anyone's quality of life. Indirectly, it damages it a lot. Stupendous fortunes are spent on war while the world's hungry die day after day.

But some scream: Bull on that. We've got to protect ourselves. Yes, we do, from ourselves. The vast majority of money spent worldwide is on armaments.

ENEMY ENEMA

It's increasingly apparent that we can't tell who our enemies are any more.

When thousands of us died in an attack by a team of terrorists predominately from Saudi Arabia, we promptly eliminated that country from any blame. They were our friends, suppliers of oil, and closely allied with the Bush family.

But if there was no official country attached to the horror, something must be done anyway and now. Iraq was a vowed enemy of the U.S. with a blustering tyrant who claimed to have super weapons. He had slipped away after the Gulf War with his Republican Guard mostly intact, an unsatisfying end for the first Bush Presidency.

Our invasion and attempted occupation of the country was one of the most ruinous and misguided chapters in our history. It was, of course, largely guided and inspired by Vice President Cheney and the profits they accrued from their war industries investments.

Iraq remains a hostile bed of animosities today and most Americans are much more keenly aware of the money that is always made in our war games.

And then came the surge into Afghanistan, where we had once armed terrorists like Osama bin Laden in their successful quest to throw out the Soviet Union. He was now our enemy, the recognized mastermind behind the 9.11 tragedy, and we pushed our military into the places once occupied by the Russians. Not very smart. We became embroiled in another country that was not involved in the 9.11 attacks.

When it appeared that we had bin Laden trapped, he slipped away, with assistance, into Pakistan. There, he became cloistered in an area neighboring a major Pakistani military base and surrounded by retired military officers. He would stay there through the Bush Presidency. Is this because Pakistan is a friendly country, and not on the Bush administration's infamous axis of evil.

I had a friend who was almost in tears admiring Bush's bold declaration of the axis — calling them out on a global stage. How brave and courageous, said my friend. "He set the stakes so high." He loved that.

So even as we blew into ill-fated adventures in Iraq and Afghanistan, we began moving out of them with the wise moves of the Obama administration. Our casualties were significantly reduced, and we don't have soldiers dying on the ground anywhere in the world, great progress.

We finally identified our adversaries correctly — as terrorists without a nation and operating in as many countries as they could gain a foothold, and they thrived most when governance is weak and terrorist acts have created fear and chaos.

But now that history has deprived us of the steady hand and intelligent mindset of the Obama administration, there comes a blowhard President who seems incapable of identifying the enemies of our country or our friends.

He wants 'extreme vetting' of the poor, homeless immigrants struggling to survive, as millions have not in their ravaged homeland. And we have done our share of bombing and the 'collateral damage' of civilian deaths.

We need to remember that radicals have actually killed more Muslims than any other religious brand. And war ravaged refugees are not our enemies.

Neither are the immigrants who slip across the Mexico border. They mostly want field jobs in the U.S. The drug cartels use ships, planes, speedboats, trucks and freight to get illegal drugs into the country after all. If they were interested in such a wall, they would just blow it up, tunnel under it or climb over it, after destroying the electronic equipment attached to it. They won't need to bother with that.

The U.S. is also fully dotted with crystal meth labs and has a raging rural drug epidemic, fueled by a legal/illegal opioid market that's out of control. But we don't declare any enemies there. We declare Mexico an enemy.

Such a deal maker who can't see that the imbalance of payments with Mexico is based on a very high demand for Mexican fresh produce and many other products in the U.S. The Mexicans would be happy to buy more American goods as they can afford them. Big box stores like Wal Mart and Target are building all over the country.

Obama had been working with Mexico for awhile in developing their economy and ours in cooperation. That's out the window with Trump. He has insulted the nation and its people and turned them into enemies. This is madness.

Likewise, he has angered most all of the Muslim world. China has been insulted and stands ready to fight him at every turn. Japan despises his insulting claims that they are deadbeats in NATO and should be paying us for military protection. Most everyone in Japan, save small children, heard this and will not forget it. They are all enemies of the Donald and, alas, that man speaks for our country.

Perhaps there are real enemies out there, instead of creating them. Mad butchers in the Philippines and Turkey continue to kill huge numbers of their countrymen. I expect Trump may get along with both of them. Vladimir Putin persists in believing he can manipulate Trump with flattery and undermine NATO but our President is not likely to put him on any enemy list. There will be a day that Trump Towers will be in Russia. He sees large gold towers across the world bearing his name. Some of them at least house Russian-based money laundering paper companies for the Putin regime.

While Trump portended to just outright ban immigrants from the most troubled countries, he didn't ban anyone in countries where he has business interests. He doesn't seem to grasp or to care that the countries he has banned are the very ones where innocent people are running to survive, the greater the need the more targeted the ban.

There is also the matter of making Planned Parenthood an enemy. No federal funds go for abortion anyway, and it provides a large array of medical services that keep women healthy and helps many of them through childbirth, adoption, birth control and counseling. It is a full service agency, unjustly condemned by a radical branch of Christians who believe that life begins when sperm is injected into a vagina.

Women worldwide consider themselves to be enemies of the Donald and he has said or done nothing at all to dissuade them from their beliefs. He appears to be okay with them hating him.

Of course, do-nothing politicians have ruined the country, and more than a few politicians in Washington are stung by that remark. Are they now enemies of Trump?

The media certainly is. These 'worst people in the world' will question him every day and call him out on everything. They will be kicking his ass for a long time now and his wailings against the most reputable, fact-driven media in the country will be fruitless. Americans will get a newfound appreciation of their mainstream media for their tenacity and courage in facing up even to a President. And Americans are going to get totally sick and tired of having a jerk in the oval office in the weeks ahead.

With all these enemies, will Trump turn to the tiny despot in North Korea? Will an insult lead to a Tweeter bout and then will we bomb them? Such questions have to be asked when a jerk with a knee jerk and an eternal improviser is in the White House.

With Trump busily creating new enemies, one has to wonder why we should have any enemies at all? We have no business fighting wars in the middle east. We just need to continue ferreting out and drone bombing terrorist cells that have declared war on us, and we can do that in any number of countries. We don't need boots on the ground and dead soldiers. We can essentially fly and control them from U.S. command posts.

In Syria, Russia obviously came to the aid of a rebellion beleaguered ally and arms customer as we might have come to the aid of one of our allies, such as we did in Kuwait, South Viet Nam, and South Korea, for better or worse.

We don't need a war with Russia any more than they do, but we need a strong NATO. And we don't need to pull it apart with loose talk and belligerence that shows an incredible ignorance of history.

Congress has now recently asserted itself strongly that Russia is an undermining and deceitful adversary which seeks to undermine our country and actually meddled in our presidential election. The act of hacking into a major party and using Wiki Leaks for global exposure of its e-mail gossip is a malicious intrusion into our election system and it was admirably denounced.

Trump in the Executive Branch seems, however, to look at everything like a real estate deal. And he is so embedded in Russian money manipulations in his enterprises that he is forced to put up a stone wall against revelatory gaps and gashes. It will all ultimately bring him down, hopefully sooner than later.

In these very confounding and confusing times, it is ironic that, for the first time in history, a majority of the American people consider the President himself to be their enemy, and an enemy of the values upon which our country stands.

Our President, on the other hand, considers these people to be part of a conspiracy to delegitimize his administration. Millions of Americans have hatched a plot to undermine him and are using the horrible, lying news media to attack him. Who is rational?

Who is the enemy? And to whom? And, by the way, what is the conflict about?

It seems mostly about the care and feeding of Trump's ego, and it has a massive appetite.

Egos are like balloons. The bigger the inflation, the bigger the explosion.

AMERICA IS GREAT — BUT WHY?

When a friend from Finland told me that America had never been a great country, I could have knee-jerked my reply. It certainly is. I know it. But then I began to question myself as to why my inherent truth is indeed true. It is assuredly not from the jagged and turbulent events of our history.

No one can doubt that the various tribes of the Indian nation lived here and claimed it for home. No one can argue that they have all been displaced and many subsist on government reservations today. They hold little wealth. Many thousands were slaughtered in the Indian Wars which stood in the way of our self-proclaimed 'Manifest Destiny' to take most of the continent for our own. Is this chapter in our history a reason to call ourselves great? I think not.

This proclaimed white destiny brushed aside Mexico and its vast land claims in the west. We simply invalidated them, challenged the Mexicans with force in the Texas territory and overwhelmed their ragged army. Does the fact that we established roots on the continent and eventually took it all by force and connected it with a national railroad make us a great nation? Given that vast numbers of poverty-ridden immigrants died building the railroad for rich people gives one pause in their admiration.

From the beginning, we grew up as quarreling brothers. In the South, slaves were imported, reproduced profusely and expanded the owners' 'property' holdings. Great wealth came to the planters in that region from their lucrative cotton farming and the slaves that produced it for them. In the North, immigrants were pouring in and looking for jobs, finding too few and with subsistence pay. Workers had few if any rights in the workplace.

As the nation expanded, there were the visions of the western territories as slaveholding cotton land in the Southwest and an enormous space to bring in beef cattle to feed the people in the east. Kill off the free-roaming native buffalo and replace them with docile, fenced-in cattle, just meat on the hoof.

In the North, there was a great need for jobs, and the west looked like the land of opportunity. But would slave labor compete with a working man's job? This all became a volatile political issue. We fought the civil war, underwent years of corrupt Southern reconstruction, a wave of white power "redeemers" in the region, the battles over segregated schools, the sovereign rights of states and the enforcement of civil rights legislation and voting laws, lynchings in the South, race riots in the north, churches splitting apart into white-only factions, private church-supported white academies flocking to replace public school attendance across Dixie, hateful school integration bussing in the north, so many conflicts all through the years.

Our racial animosity problems have never ended; they have recently emerged strongest in decaying urban areas awash in drug dealers and the gangs that commercialize them, who

have to get guns to protect themselves from an occupying force of police officers and peer rivals. Keeping these drugs illegal continues to enable the black market and instigate violence between the law and the outlaws it has created.

None of this conflict makes us a great nation. The drug war has been a massive black mark against us, an outrageous criminalization of a medicinal herb — a blatant violation of human rights. At the same time, pharmaceutical drugs kill many thousands of people, a serious problem that rarely engages the human mind.

Of course, a country that had no better sense than to go to war against itself has other blots as well. Women had to struggle hard to get the right to vote, and break out of the old-fashioned wife-domination male society that was fueled by liquor.

In response, and supported by women, there came an era of bible-thumping radical attacks on bars and the liquor business. So it was made illegal so that criminals could get better organized and networked in the country with a big new cash cow. It seeded a wave of enhanced corruption within the police, the courts and the government, all financed by illegal liquor profits.

Such amazing stupidity is hard to imagine in a country that is supposed to separate church and state. Why try to ban a convivial social drink that huge numbers of people want? Address the misuse, not the product itself. From where comes the audacity to think that authority can stamp out something with high market demand, and when the authorities most often appreciate the product and use it. Did the religionists

and the women crusaders get prohibition done, or did corrupt Republican interests usefully assist their efforts in order to get the woman vote and establish a bootlegging empire?

Working people in America have also been obligated to fight for real or perceived rights — for a decent living wage and safe working conditions, a 40-hour week. As the civil war era faded, violent battles erupted across the north. Companies counter-attacked unionizing efforts with hired goons and militias, and many died.

Many have indeed died fighting for rights in the United States — blacks, women, factory workers. Some just die of violence because of their sexual orientation, even when they try not to display it. Intolerance is a hallmark of civilization, I suppose.

Perhaps we are considered great as a country because of our military power, our record of service in the world to promote freedom and democracy, as we say. I don't believe the development of a superior fighting force designed to kill and destroy better than any other is a mark of greatness. It would be a great thing to promote and even instigate peace and love between all nations, all people, instead, bring community to the world, share all resources, and eliminate all war, which is senseless and destructive.

But when true enemies emerge, it also seems that a country can achieve greatness by mobilizing together and defeating that enemy. We do have a string of wars to investigate, including the aforementioned Mexican War and the Indian Wars which were essentially designed to take territory. This is the classic reason for war though the announced reason will likely be something else.

So our history is pocked with corruption and violence, racial and class animosities, and a wide open thoroughfare whereby special interests can buy the allegiance of political officeholders. The opportunity is completely open, and will stay that way since politicians will never vote to cut off their money supply.

But despite pervading corruption, which takes on many changing and ever-more subtle and nuanced faces for greed, the United States is still a great nation. All nations have their black marks and most of them are enormous. And much of our greatness derives from our own sins that we have overcome and tried to make right. Why are we great? What have we done to make us great?

* We abolished slavery and went through a devastating war to do it.

* We gave women the right to vote.

* We have given a lot of rights to blacks over the years and fought to eliminate segregation and bias.

* Social Security is excellent legislation that provides an economic floor of salvation for people.

* Worker rights, for safe working conditions, a living wage, a prescribed and not excessive work week.

* Indian rights came as part of the New Deal, wherein we encouraged these Native Americans to recover their heritage and become self-governing and economically sufficient with their own federal land allotments.

* Freedom of speech remains inviolate in the U.S. We doggedly support it, even in the toleration of vulgar pornography and hateful rhetoric. It has not broken down as it has in many countries when the governing body stamps

it out to destroy their rivals. In Russia, Putin's forces use a myriad of methods, from trumped-up charges to poison or shootings. Political rivals are dealt with one way or another, and all business interests that want to operate in the country must cut his regime a piece of the pie or face the consequences.

* Checks and balances between the President, the Congress and the Supreme Court has held together through many challenges and remains viable.

* Democracy remains an ideal and government officials are elected. Losers don't go to war to sabotage the government, until recently. This has subsequently been exposed and is in ill repute.

* Environment issues have always had a place at the table and we appreciate clean water, air and earth and are concerned about deleterious climate change caused by pollution. These concerns haven't been submerged from view here.

* Health care is a national concern and has led to medical assistance for the poor.

* American agricultural productivity is unparalleled. We have greatly increased yields with pesticides, plant breeding, machinery and improved practices.

*In military technology and power, we are unsurpassed in the world.

* Free education from grades 1-12 and kindergarten support. We have a school system and an outstanding array of universities.

* Science, engineering, computer technology, media products are all areas where we excel.

*Free media of all kinds are available for us to consider.

* We reluctantly got into World War I and contributed greatly to an allied victory.

* We reluctantly entered World War II and conducted successful invasions to take Italy, Europe and Germany.

* We have stood up to a belligerent and aggressive Soviet Union and survived its dissolution.

* We fulfilled Southeast Asia Treaty Organization mandates and defended South Korea against North Korea. We fought on behalf of South Viet Nam and sacrificed many lives in a vain effort to overcome communist factions who eventually unified the country.

* As a people, many of us are concerned about issues of justice, freedom, human rights, environment and politics. We remain a country that holds up high values and tries to live up to them in large measure.

So we are no doubt a great country despite all of our warts of history and modern life. We have plenty of scars. We may not be able to live up to our high values but it is important that we never take them down. We may not be what we aspire to be, but the aspirations are still ideals for which we strive.

It is counter-productive to wallow in our sins of the past, especially since we've worked hard to rectify them as best we can. We don't have to be in a world where we are guilty as charged and feel bad about it. We can abide in a constant reality that has us strongly assert American ideals of justice and fair play and carry them like light into dark corners where we have failed before — and feel good about what we're doing.

Those we have deemed savages and killed are the people who killed their rival tribes. Those who fell into slavery were from those people who committed atrocities of their own. We can't load up the horrors of history onto anyone in particular.

Genocides have been part of the situation here for thousands of years. Should those without guilt cast the first stone? The stones, alas, have been a continuing scourge of so-called holy wars in which those with no guilt at all attack groups to which it has been assigned.

There has been enough sin to go around, often disguised as righteousness. It still is. But one good thing about history is that it's in the past.

Sins become forgiven when we forgive them ourselves. We do that by making amends. And when we do, it will feel good — like loving service.

THE CANNABIS CAKE — Have it and eat it too.

Consider the overlords of society, call them the Illuminati ... the Dark Cabal ... the banks ... the rich power brokers of the world — including the handful of pharmaceutical giants that control the world's medicines.

Their plan is the same with cannabis as with ginseng or sassafras: take the herbal medicine, separate its chemical ingredients, synthesize active ones in the laboratory so you have no more need for the plants themselves.

Do not approve of any herbal medicines, throw doubt upon them, and promote only those patented pharmaceuticals in your proprietary grip. Break the link to nature; it's synthetics versus naturals.

Now they do this with cannabis/marijuana/pot but with an even stronger hammer.

They have long demonized and criminalized the cannabis plant since its culture is well beyond anything they could control. Anyone can learn to grow it. The whole plant provides multiple health benefits that are all, finally, coming to light. Everyone can have them — for free.

Their plan is to retain their Cannabis Cake of law enforcement. Continue to demonize the whole plant, jail its users, stymie its

commerce and keep it illegal. It is said to have desultory, mind-messing side effects.

Thereby, they dismiss the principal reason why many millions use it. Those millions have not been readily apprised of the fact that their habit is actually very healthy and healing.

They enjoy those so-called side effects — the feeling of deep relaxation and well-being, stress having wafted away, mentally alert and energized, and enjoying the deeper intensity of beingness, the richness of colors, the finer flavors in music, heightened tastebuds, more sensuous sharing and fulfilling intimacies, a new and wide open threshold to insightful imagination, a fascinating altered state way of looking upon all around you, a deep-seated yearning for greater levels of peace and love among us.

These are components of the “high” they want to continue to make illegal.

Fact is, the best medicine is in the whole plant, not part of it. The cannaboid that provides this luscious high is part of the overall healing process, and why wouldn't it be? Why should profit-driven pharmaceutical companies be empowered to parse this plant for its business needs.

There is no logical reason in the world to have made this medicinal plant illegal in the first place.

But there has been big money in the police state, the judicial system, the prison industry and the millions of jailhouses in the U.S. They are literally packed with victims of the manufactured medicinal herb drug war that has fueled this

country's law enforcement for many decades. It has been a cash cow.

Today's power mongers don't want to give it up. They want to have their big Cannabis Cake and eat it too. Keep the whole plant with its THC cannabinoid illegal as usual and legalize that part they have parsed from another cannabinoid called CBD. Make a fortune selling their part of the plant for every ailment they can encompass.

CBD oil is now legal in all states and connected big money interests have it under their control. Sell it and outlaw the plant. Money on both ends.

It sounds like snake oil except that medical science has now been given greater access to the plant itself and has found it useful on many fronts, including the actual shrinkage of cancerous tumors.

The dispensary side of the business is gearing up in Florida, although strong liquor interests here are especially wary of its intrusion into the market. They are assured you can't get 'high' on CBD oil and they assuredly believe it's liquor that should get you high above anything else.

The actual growing of the crop in Florida is another matter entirely. Originally, the state legislature approved only a total of five authorized growers for cannabis in the state, a high level of control, and ripe for graft. The five big money interests who won out had put up an initial fee of \$69,000 just to get started. Every key legislator who drove the bill forward received a \$25,000 campaign donation.

Now, as Florida develops, there is momentum to increase the list of ailments that can be listed for the medicine, so that the number of patients can increase, and the attendant sales. Label it for more diseases, increase its market value.

And so in Florida and other states where capitalists will prevail, we can expect their usual drives for more customers and more profits, their continued efforts to discredit, disenfranchise, hassle or even arrest many of those growers who have been outlaw agriculturalists for these many years.

No gratitude for their pioneering courage, just get out of the way and let big business take over. We destroyed the family farm and mom and pop businesses; we will destroy the hippie growers too. We will drive forward stringent regulations and licenses that drive you out. So they think ...

Big Pharma rules world medicine. They control all pharmaceuticals and they are a political force with millions budgeted for lobbying to get anything and everything they need in the way of controls.

One thing is beyond them. The cannabis plant is perfect like it is. It needs nothing except enjoyable usage. They know this; the more usage the more damaging to their profits, in a world where many people are hooked on multiple pharmaceuticals, taking a precarious mix of chemicals all at the same time. Millions die from this; no one has ever died from cannabis and it has been used for at least 13,000 years.

They can't control a plant that millions enjoy and grows right there in the ground, from seed.

So they have made it illegal, even demonized people as immoral for even using it, equating it to sloth and a constant stupor. Users know better.

Lies piled upon lies for generations now. And here we are today, smart enough to learn about lies and understand the forces behind them, and smart enough to see that they are trying to make decriminalization and legalization efforts nationwide into a smooth corporate takeover of the whole industry. I suspect that many of those who get rich from the plant have never championed the plant at all, never swung a blow for the cause, and now are only looking for some windfall profits. I am hoping these fast buck capitalists aren't the ones who ultimately take control of the huge medicinal and recreational marijuana markets. They don't deserve it.

I am hoping we don't get draconian laws that interfere with our right to grow a plant in our backyards. We have seen madness before; we may see it again. We fought against it before, and continue to do so. We will fight on.

This Cannabis Cake is for all the people. We will have it and enjoy it. We will replenish it. We will continue to support honorable people who grow and sell it, legal or not, and promote agriculture in the earth over synthetics in a vial, natural and organic products over Big Pharma concoctions of the uncertain kind.

THE FALSE WEALTH GOD

The most common god for most of humanity is Wealth. Boil it all down. This is what we long for. This is what we would most cherish — wealth, the finest of everything.

Its eternal idol is called Money. It rules the earth.

While this god is everywhere, in every pore of our society, it is largely invisible, hidden. We deny its power over us. We put up other gods that we worship, but we don't put any of them over our personal wealth.

In this cloaked state, this true god of wealth can cause more damage. And it can actually destroy your mind, body and spirit.

Ironically, this wealth is worthless in the eternal search for happiness and peace of mind. We want the best of food and exotic travel, shiny machines, a doting sex partner, all the things money can buy, and that's virtually everything in a material world.

When we shake loose of materialism and wake up to the fact that humankind is all one family and that all the suffering worldwide does mean something in our own lives, then we will see with new light. We won't worship material wealth; we will manage and share it. We will make it a means to an altruistic end, rather than just an end.

We will be much more strongly concerned about the environmental degradations for profit — of our air, water, soil, the burning of forests, toxic waste dumps, ocean dead zones, animal slaughters. We will quit overpowering nature and start working with it. We now dishonor our greatest gifts from the real God.

We see more wealthy people sharing with the needy in many places today. They are beginning to see the world as an increasingly small place, where the environment is fragile, the population is bloated, and the nations seriously divided by their animosities. As the veil is lifted, they see the unholy alliance between investors, politicians and the war-making industries that perpetuate hatred and the weaponry to serve it.

What they want is Wealth. We begin to see them as enslaved by the money idol, worshipful of the wealth that can bring them more luxuries, more power.

If they listened to the real God, they would learn that their life here will be relegated to dust and that only Spirit is Eternal. We had all best learn to live with it. And forget the material wealth facade. Mansions are already there.

True wealth comes from within. It is not the money idol. When sickness and death confront the rich, they see things a bit differently. Their material wealth becomes increasingly worthless. Often, perhaps, they find a deeper connection to Spirit in their twilights.

Inner wisdom swirls within from your own spirit guides. Ask for it and listen. It is uniquely tailored to your personality. No human can teach these perspectives which come fresh to you.

True wealth is knowing God, and God knowing you. There are great numbers of celestial teachers and angels helping our Universal Father, and thereby serving you. You will get pure and direct guidance. It will be unfiltered through all those humans seeking money and power over you.

Living with real wealth is the certainty of spiritual guidance as we live in Spirit and our desire to serve Goodness. We learn herewith that sharing our enlightenments is a clear but finite path. And that death is just a passageway to our real selves — our spiritual identity within.

MEDIUMSHIP in AMERICA

For over a quarter of a century, I've debated people who are absolutely opposed to my promotion of personal spiritual guidance — voices from within via your keyboard or human voice — for this could hardly be a reliable source of spiritual guidance.

Whatever exists within themselves is scary to them. They believe that their minds, with which they sometimes have only a passing acquaintance, can easily play tricks on them. They don't trust themselves, their own mind, which they should be trying to manage.

So are they scared of unreliable information or an innate lack of reliability within their own person? Unreasoned fear is a giant hoax on mankind.

When you practice daily stillness, with worship and prayer, a quiet interlude with thoughts of goodness and how you can serve it, you somehow become suspect of "mediumship" if you make any meaningful connection or receive any information at all. If so, keep it to yourself.

When you and some special friends gather and transmit celestial teacher lessons for yourselves — yes, we do that — then you become a seance in their minds, going somewhere to listen to a supposed special connection person give you advice

and prophecy. In truth, we are simply sharing our teacher connection in a glorious human way, but they don't know that. They don't want to know it. Fear keeps them from going within. A sharing group with various people learning to make connection together and transmit for themselves doesn't seem to make sense to them.

So I began thinking about real 'mediums' in our daily lives. Are there not many among us? Are they not getting between all of us and our true goals?

Those mediums most feared seem to be the ones who have wafted away in history. They are now mostly roadside fortune tellers, aren't they? The real ones, however, are here in abundance and not really observed as such.

Yes! say our critics and you are one of crystal ballers yourself. Certainly, we're not. We urge those with spiritual questions or lack of personal peace to go within themselves for answers, no one else.

I am not a medium but I am a channeler of spiritual guidance for myself that is good guidance for anyone. I don't mind sharing it, but never for any kind of fee or donation. The celestial teachers give insights to us and I am bonded to share it freely too.

Society seems to be unaware of the real mediums that permeate our lives and do us real damage.

1. Evolving religious organizations get in the way of your personal relationship with God when they preach themselves superior to other faiths and advocate oppression of humans

they deem blasphemers, heathens, or infidels. Those who do the killing for whatever the religion exemplify evil themselves. Their lack of tolerance and love is their fatal flaw and their undoing for the critical mind. Go directly to God, the Universal Father.

2. Insurance companies. They are fear-selling profiteers. Our money should go directly into a health care fund for our families and we should contribute to that, directly, and not to some company that promises to cover our expenses and rakes off millions for themselves and their bloated corporate royalty. There has developed a cancerous soak-the-insurance-company mentality that has pushed health care costs to levels beyond the imagination. You can spend \$5,000 on a head bruise and split lip.

3. Political parties. They are clusters of well-entrenched special interests who enforce the demands of their benefactors upon all of their candidates they can elect to office. They get between people and their government.

Today, they divide loosely as management vs. labor, white oligarchy vs. ethnic mix, a national government that works for business interests vs. one that embraces working class voters and tries to protect the environment from their excesses and provide more protection for the poor.

It would be better if people could run their government institutions directly without the various mediums in between who corrupt our public officials with a multitude of legalized bribes and lawful threats. Meantime, campaign finance reform is impossible because they all want the money, honest and crooked alike.

4. Schools. The real and true education that your child needs is at home. Too many turn their child's educational welfare over to a school where each teacher is struggling to deal with whole rooms full of variously behaving children and having to walk on eggshells while they're doing it.

Don't let schools get in the way of your child's education with its misguided curriculums and insensitivity to your child's personal needs. Mediums can't truly prepare your children for the world. There is an abundance of educational media and tools to help you educate your children. Consider what they can get from public schools to be additional help.

5. Entertainment. We spend billions to entertain ourselves and most of it is smoke and mirrors mediumship. It has no lasting value. It has no spiritual or philosophical essence.

I perused a large magazine rack in the supermarket. On the men's side there were a whopping 16 titles on guns and ammo, including beauty pictures of the newest handguns and buyer catalogs and guides. Such a huge industry, driven by fear or malice or both.

Escapist entertainment is well and good in its place. But we seem to have an obsession with it, all driven by big business marketing. Intellectual subjects are relegated to eggheads, wonks and nerds while our main life quest centers on style and power. Glamour as a threat to reality. Style over substance.

Yes, we need to have human interests and needs, but most all of entertainment is just mediumship, taking your time, your

money, your attention away from things of greater value. As we grow older, we realize that entertaining ourselves is not the greater goal. We are drawn more to entertainment media that has some intrinsic values, teaches us something. Mindful entertainment is better than mindless entertainment. Mindful people enjoy it more. Mindful people are happier because they are more aware of their standing in the world.

6. Advertising. Incessant selling is everywhere, taking huge chunks of time out of TV shows, festooning even your computer monitor with show biz selling, slowing down its operation. Spam is like a sledgehammer on e-mail, trying to sell you with sheer brute force and insistence, whether you want to see it or not. You don't matter. You're just the targeted consumer. They're after numbers ... exposures. The end results are hardly even thought out.

Can we just get a sensible amount of information on products and services without multi-million advertising campaigns that enrich smoke and mirrors agencies who produce nothing of real value. They count millions of 'impressions' and 'exposures' as having great collective value but they don't. Most advertising claims are self-aggrandizing lies; the rest are exaggerations.

Intrusive advertising is like mediumship, getting between you and what you really tuned in to see. Most national advertising is closely related to the ego trips of its top executives, polishing their apple and polluting the world of critical thinking.

7. Psychiatry. It's well meaning, that wise people can help confused people make sense of their lives. They are mediums,

entering your mind to fix it. Their mood-altering drugs are their products. They charge much more per hour than your own time with the Universal Father, which is free if you can release to it. Since they don't consider spiritual values at all, they are next to worthless.

And since academia, in general, tries to corral and categorize lives instead of dealing with our absolute uniqueness, they have erected a huge barrier for themselves. Some like it because it protects their theories and they get publishing credits for those.

8. Business. Too many American capitalists disdain manufacturing products in favor of buying them from cheap labor third world countries and simply marking them up for Americans. Oil and gas people had rather just serve as middlemen for the sheiks in Saudi Arabia.

Do we benefit as a nation when cheap foreign goods fill our shelves and we lack self-sufficiency and control, when our own American workers can't get jobs manufacturing things that we are buying from India or China.

If, for some bizarre reason, an American went to China or India to get one of those exported jobs, he might well find very cheap wages, bad working conditions, long hours, polluted environments, few amenities and low living standards. It's a different world.

But does the American worker have to suffer so that our businesses can exploit this labor and reduce their American labor force. It is already being reduced by computerization, automation, and robots.

Actually, American industry doesn't want to be a middleman between American laborers and their products if it can get much cheaper labor with no voice at all abroad. They will, however, gladly serve as middleman for goods from China or India, as long as you leave out American workers and their needs for health care and benefits. They grin and say that we have a global economy. Whatever that means.

9. The Law. A good legal system expedites justice. Our system is a money pit, turning both perpetrators and victims into profit centers and purposefully dragging expediency down to a snail's pace so that lawyers rake in the most possible money over the longest amount of time.

The guilty are not expediently managed. When a man recently went into a church and slaughtered 26 people, our system ignores the reality and will develop an expensive defense because every person accused deserves a fair trial. He becomes a money-maker. A tribunal of judges could quickly determine the reality of the event and the man's guilt.

Sanity or insanity is a question. Criminal insanity still makes the man a murderer. The courts are overwhelmed with cases because they seem blinded to any reality except the amount of money that can be extracted in return for a facade of role-playing theater drawn out over months and years.

The innocent find themselves caught in a quagmire — having to hire lawyers to get justice and then suffering from money-sucking delays and dallying in a court system which does not even work full-time. The system is good at extracting lots of

money for capitalist gain but very cumbersome and inefficient in determining guilt or innocence and meting our justice.

The law profession is the medium, the middleman force that controls our legal system and it's an expensive mess. When faced with the need for justice, our citizens now must face up to a major issue — is there enough lawyer money to get justice? It is costly to get justice. Then the other side often outspends you with delay issues and and you lose in any case. You can't spend as much as they can. This is typical Trump strategy to beat the system.

We need to get rid of a lot of these mediums who are just trying to make profit from their middleman activities. Controlling your mind is how they do it.

They waste time and money and promote inflation and inefficiency. They acrimoniously try to put down and destroy any different or advanced product or service that threatens their profits. Oil and gas hates solar. Painkiller manufacturers hate cannabis medicine. Champions of sacred books attack new knowledge. Kill progress, get richer.

Capitalism makes a contemptuous environment and the demand to turn a profit off everything human and all of planet's physical elements as well has lead us on a ruinous journey to a corrupt economy and government, one that rewards mediums and ignores our real needs for justice and fairness in our institutions.

We have entirely too many government empowered mediums soaking up our wealth and they are damaging our economy, our welfare and our human spirits.

Religions pay no taxes but want you to contribute a hefty tithe before you even buy food for the family. You will be blessed, they say, but they don't do it themselves.

HMOs are havens for millionaires who have taken over the health care business. It is a business that should not even be a business. Your sickness and health is not a matter of commerce; it's personal and your needs shouldn't be harvested for a profit by financiers in between.

We could all pay reasonable, even market-driven prices to doctors and hospitals, but no charges are reasonable anymore because we have to cover the costs of vast numbers of uninsured people who also must have care, who get sick and die at somebody's expense. It is ours since we have made health care a business and left out millions of citizens who can't afford to buy it. This is highly inflationary for the rest of us.

Advertising budgets could be cut by 90 percent and those products would be much cheaper. Instead of considering it a drain on resources, these massive waves of advertising actually get the purveyors a tax deduction. Figure that. There should be no tax deduction for blowing your own horn. If you have competition in the market, deal with it and leave the taxpayers alone.

Big business wants a tax break for everything considered a 'business expense,' a cost of doing business in order to win the market. Bullshit! It's not the job of taxpayers to help businesses be competitive, especially when they carry 'expenses' to ridiculous executives of wining and dining

prospects. Since corporations own Congress, they get all these deductions and perks and no one even brings it up. Such a world of don't give a shit malaise.

Education is supposedly a great thing and we openly adore it as the key to our civilization. But most colleges and universities are commanded by their sports teams, which consolidate alumni support and bring in ticket and concession revenues.

The highest paid public official in every state is either a football or basketball coach. They are paid more than university presidents in the larger sports-oriented public universities.

Meantime, our attention to real education appears to be languishing. While frat boys are buying kegs and college girls are spending on fashion, foreign students are populating the libraries and their contributions to our country continue to grow proportionately if they stay here. Their concerns are physics and engineering. Meantime our concerns are campus rape, binge drinking, sports scores and the perk-bloated recruiting of prime young athletes.

Most college scholarship don't go for mental prowess but for the young person's ability to run, throw, catch and maybe swing a cudgel. Our values are skewed and the power of the National Football League is not going to shape us a prosperous future. It's going to sap our time, our minds and our money, like a lot of mediums in the middle of our lives.

Rich cats will continue to get cities to finance their stadiums for them, and then use their rich man's club leagues to avoid

income taxes and get richer. Evidence on display: rows of expensive executive suites that all the rich people must have for the prestige of it, to entertain clients, and to claim as a tax deduction.

A sure sign that Americans are really failing most education subjects is in the field of political science, which we practically invented.

Yet we elected a man totally and completely unqualified, with no experience in public service, a string of bankruptcies and tawdry scandals, and an arrogant, proprietary, predatory understanding of the Presidency as an extension of his TV show, *The Apprentice*. Ironically, he is the apprentice and Americans elected such a man to our highest office.

Yes, we have flunked political science — an F.

We will continue to fail our education system if we continue letting a bunch of interloping ‘mediums’ run the show.

The high cost of their built-in profits has put virtually all of us in debt up to our ears. It all costs far too much because its real values are submerged in excessive and inflationary profits, and controlled by those hordes of millionaire corporate suit-wearers who comprise our royal families of wealth and privilege.

Most often it is what they call their ‘interest’ that shackles so many to a lifetime of debt and struggle. I think our citizens should take more ‘interest’ in such things and understand just who has the thumb on us. Banks are paying you about 1 percent interest now, and they are charging 25 percent or

more. They earn millions in late fees and penalties because our incomes are so low and our expenses so high that we can't manage it. They do not give a crap; they have bottom lines to consider, not human beings.

So I think 'mediumship' is doing very well in America, and to our detriment. They all want to turn you into a customer-consumer and make money off your mind, your body and your spirit. They are all products. If you want justice or health care, or spiritual salvation, they are your purveyors for profit. You have to pay.

The best direct contact you can have is your time of stillness with the Universal Father. But if you admit to it, they will call it nefarious mediumship. You are putting your spiritual growth ahead of their profit-making doctrines, none of which shows the decency to respect alternate spiritual paths, and all of which claim to have the unadulterated truth that you should buy into.

Ironically, maybe the only thing that isn't overcome by middlemen mediums in this world is your direct contact with your Creator.

End Notes:

You've been subjected to many opinions over the course of these narratives and are aware that my calling them wisdom or realities doesn't make it so for you.

Utilizing our own minds to make our own evaluations, discernments and judgements is the ball game. Reading my ideas are just food for thought. Do you consider them insights you can use, or have I gotten sidetracked onto some pile of partisan garbage I've got impacted in my mind somewhere?

Of course the goal is critical thinking at a high level. Then write your essays while you're up there; you've considered everything and this is what's right and true.

But thinking critically is not easy in a society which is incessantly selling and influencing you against it. Looking for partisans, looking for customers, looking for people to control. Check this academic definition.

Critical thinking is the intellectually disciplined process of actively and skillfully conceptualizing, applying, analyzing, synthesizing, and/or evaluating information gathered from, or generated by, observation, experience, reflection, reasoning, or communication, as a guide to belief and action.

Truly, this cerebral cornucopia is what our lives in the flesh are all about — learning to think, growing your soul in wisdom, sharing with your fellows, and building communities of families.

Too many persist in believing what they want to believe, what suits their prejudices and fearful antagonisms. They make themselves simplistic when education is all around them. They take the easy way to entertainment and pleasure and thinking the world revolves around them. Their success is material wealth and luxuries, good lives for their offsprings.

As soon as they don't have to go to school any more, they drop out and excuse their lack of ambition by criticizing the system that didn't cater more to them. Our public education system deserves plenty of criticism but critically thinking young people manage to get through, learning things and growing more mature in the process.

This manuscript has been an effort to excavate and promote some common sense objective thinking and shake the piles of partisan pap and propaganda that keeps getting shoveled at us. And I'm not as much selling these ideas as sharing them.

Going forward from here, the new year of 2018, I'm reminded of the volatile situation in the White House.

Radical change may well be imminent, and I predict this will be so. It will make some of this material out-of-date. These issues will all be past tense, and so will Trump. I hope you will find that we have been prescient and empowered with truth. I stand with all of you in experiencing the future, whatever it may be. And I respect your mind and bless the spirit within you.

BREAK THE GLASS. TAKE THE AX.

Fire Axes are enclosed in glass and we hope we never have to use one. We aren't sure what should be done with it anyway.

But the world is afire. All across the globe, we see hatred and conflicts, violence and environmental catastrophes. Our time is running out.

The ugliest of Americans is personified by our President. Ugly is all in one package that we can easily observe, and the powers of civilization increasingly want him to be gone. He will be.

The powers of impeachment are rolling and the times are quickening, day by day, even hour by hour. No time to publish another book.

So we have launched a newsletter that implodes some inner Wisdom into the world that's plainly crazy in its quest for wealth.

Some will consider our content out of bounds ... over the top ... across the line ... or radically fresh. Since corporations own most media and fight to subdue the rest, no one is talking

about most of these subjects since it affects somebody's bottom line. So I will.

Swinging an ax at our problems is an emergency measure and we need one.

Our flames of fire should be the lights of Reason ... Logic ... Objectivity ... Altruism ... without selfish wealth-seeking agendas.

And since it's all current and continuing via the Internet, not a book-publishing procedure, we can react quickly to daily events and what-people-said. These are momentous historic times and it will be only a matter of weeks or months before our government gets shaken apart.

We don't know, but maybe our chief executive will go out kicking and screaming when all the Russian connections, including money laundering, are revealed. Nixon fired the independent investigator and others too, but it didn't work out for him.

Or he may leave in a self-righteous and self-serving huff that the people and the country can't live up to his standards. We don't know. But we hope Fire Ax will provide a continuing chronicle of these pretty outrageous times.

It will be over soon. Trump has managed to insult and alienate just about everyone with whom he comes in contact and he is incapable of doing anything else, given his mental state.

In a crisis, the various leaders of the GOP will turn to help strike him down, because he has disgraced the party and does

not cooperate with its leaders. He has personally insulted most of them. He is not their man and never was. They had a batch of candidates and he cut them all down with his arrogance.

What other surprises or inevitable events are coming? We don't know. So, we have no other choice but to stay tuned, try to maintain some sense of humor and hope for our redemption.

FIRE AX

September -2017

Out of Bounds ... Off the Wall ... Across the Line ... Over the Top ... and Right On.

In an unprecedented time of Trumpery, we wonder what's next? He pisses off more people daily, including his most loyal supporters. So much for the loyalty he preaches; he shows none. He just wants to maintain a wall of secrecy over his money lending and laundering operations with Putin, who takes a cut from every iota of commerce in his cowed-down country. This has been going on in various Trump Towers for years.

If 1% of the people own 99% of the wealth, you don't help the 99% by rewarding the 1% with more tax breaks that strain our national budget. Give it up. Big Biz is not going to be incentivized to give up cheap, sweatshop foreign labor for which they don't have to pay health care and benefits or be concerned with hazardous workplaces and environmental restrictions. Build up such as Cebo City outside Manila to help house the massive telemarketing bane to civilized communications. Irritate Americans with broken Asian English.

RIP Sam Shepherd, a mind-stretching playwright. In *The Curse of the Starving Class*, a character spends the entire play holding open a refrigerator door and looking inside. We have all done this. Years later, Counting Crows sang: "If you've never looked out in the distance then your life is a shame." In the video, Adam stares into

the refrigerator at a wilted piece of celery. I wonder which is more profound, if either.

The wondrously irreverent George Carlin once did a comedy sketch on the (only) 6 words you can never say on TV. Shit, pis, cunt, fuck, motherfucker and tits. No way to disguise any of those. And we shouldn't fear them. Now, in these times of even greater sensitivity I thought we must add the word: nigger. But that's really not like company. And then I realized that Carlin was actually wrong in the first place. In the fuller spirit of decency, there are also long-standing bans on talk shows and newscasts of slur such as kike, wop, honky, polack, spic, greaser, putz, gringo, chink, kraut, limey, rednecks, ragheads, and the like. Let's keep that level of decency. Come to think of it let's do away with all name-calling There seems a proliferation of 'dickhead' recently and that's hard to swallow for one with superior language habits.

Once again in the heart of rural Mississippi, J. Lee gets hold of more than a little crystal meth. Steals a three-wheeler, wrecks it and rejoins the population of the Orange. There is a little recycling society in all of the state's 100 or so county jails. Run these lost souls through the system and take either their freedom or the money they need to survive on an assembly line basis that finances the county. Over time, they build bigger and newer jails, serve up all those hundreds of thousands of square meals to their poor and unemployed inhabitants, and talk about how 'they ain't no jobs no more.' Take their prisoners' last bits on money with exorbitant charges for phone calls, inflated canteen prices, and smuggled-in weed. If you do any loud complaining, they incentivize a goon prisoner to beat the crap out of you. Meantime, these 82 counties are awash in illegal drugs, thievery to get them, and domestic violence surges when they're not available.

When someone screams fake news at the New York Times and Washington Post, do they realize that these are among the most reputable among the world's news media. They don't always bite the

hands of their corporate owners, of course, but they are more than ready to do battle using FACTS alone. They are protected by their fact-checking, their lawyers, their reliance on multiple sources. If they ever make a mistake, it's news and they make it so. They are virtually bulletproof. Against them, they have a loudmouth who brandishes fakery on every turn at the podium. And they are fully dedicated as the chastised 'worst people in the world' to make that so — for Trump anyway. Lyndon Johnson, Richard Nixon, Spiro Agnew, and others can attest to the power of media exposure when they are working with facts and exposing fancy. Recently, it has been easy; they have only to sit and listen and report it. The media will win.

..... **humorous asides.**

On a trip to Jerusalem, President 45 fell dead. There's a choice of burying him there, pretty cheap, or do an expensive transport for burial in US. After deliberation, they agree to ship the body home, even with the huge expense. It was told that a very high personage had died there in the city long ago and miraculously rose from the dead in three days. "We just can't take that chance," they said.

There was a very openly loving couple at table 11, but the waitress soon noticed that the woman suddenly started sliding out of her chair strangely, and under the table. She approached the man to tell him his wife had fallen out of her seat. No, he said, not true. My wife just walked in the door.

....**more brickbats and bouquets.**

When will all these damned pharmaceutical ads disappear from my TV? Consumers don't know anything about anything regarding medicine and shouldn't even be in the communications mix. In reality, these ads are mostly pay-offs for the big media, which will never, ever take up the cause of lower drug prices or challenge the

greedy billionaires who have taken control of the world's medicines and who keep the corporate owned media on a leash.

Cheers for Alaska Senator Lisa Murkowski. In the first place she beat out the surprisingly despised Sarah Palin as a write-in candidate. Now she stands up to the GOP health care destroyers and the resulting Commerce Department's attempted blackmail involving federal assistance. She will be richly rewarded over the long haul. There is a place for more heroes to defy Trumpery and they will be seeing the opportunity ahead. Standing up against uninformed bluster is a no-brainer.

COMING SOON ... to a reality around you.

* The Mooch will build a media career. He loves the spotlight, has the gift of gab, and there's a niche for him somewhere.

* The GOP is going to become Trump's worst nightmare. He has alienated all of their leaders, former leaders and would-be leaders.

* China has been insulted and angered by Trump; they won't be working with us, and they're laughing at the North Korean mess.

* Manafort will prove the key that unlocks the whole mess. He worked for the Russians and the Trump campaign at the same time. He worked for pro-Russian forces in Ukraine and in forging the GOP party platform at the same time.

* Revelation coming that the Russian lawyer at the Ron Jr. meeting actually did want to work on lifting the human rights sanctions on Russia and getting adoption sanctions lifted. This was big money for her clients. Her anti-Hillary news was that a certain tax dodging company had contributed money to the DNC — but she didn't have the full facts to prove it and suggested our side should get them. Our side was not interested in digging up the details, however, and must have considered it a sour and suspicious involvement best to back

out of but then the meeting took the global spotlight. The fan blows brown.

* A greater overall awareness within the American electorate of just what has happened to our system and wondering why and how it did. It's like a massive wake-up call! A rooster is crowing at the highest point around us on the Animal Farm. And we know what roosters are good for — grabbing their wants and needs and then crowing about it. We are all reaping what about 25% of our people sowed. Over 50% of Americans stayed home and sowed nothing at all.

* Dunkirk wins best picture and director Oscars, others too. Selma Hayek and Sam Elliott get nominations.

* Romance between Jon Snow and Daenerys Stormborn by candlelight. Arya putting the special dagger to Little Finger's throat

....

..... **it seems to me anyway.**

FIRE AX

FIRE AX 2 - later in September, 2017

Trumpery trudges on in the White House, leaving muddy tracks wherever he slithers. He just pardoned the notorious Sheriff Joe in Arizona, which should seal his doom with Hispanic voters and he carries the already precarious GOP right along with him. Paul Ryan and other GOP notables are getting their wind and actually speaking out against him this time. He just kicked our judicial system in the teeth.

Sen. Jeff Flake will take him on and capture much of the Evangelical and decent human being vote, which has been uneasy with the golden boy for quite a while. Steve Bannon will use his tenure with Trump to inform and incite a wave of critical commentary and build his own base among the white nationalists. Many of them will adjust their opinions of Trump to fit the Breitbart persuasions. Trump will find Bannon to be a beast unleashed, much more articulate than him and able to express philosophical opinions beyond ‘awesome’ and ‘incredible’ and ‘sad.’

A dose of undiscovered reality to many — Anarchists are NOT extreme Liberals. Liberals such as Bernie Sanders want a large, service-oriented government that takes care of people, helps facilitate health care, shelter, food and basic human needs. Anarchists want no government at all. They are closer to Republicans who want a very limited government that does the bidding of big business. The pro-government forces were the most

visible and violent in Charlottesville — a desired fascist, white nationalist government that oppresses dark-skinned people.

They hail their admiration for Nazis who have killed vast numbers of Jews, Europeans in occupied states and American soldiers. They responded to the murder of a soldier in Italy by killing everyone in the village and wiping it from the earth. So screw the Nazis; their flag should be banned and they should be classified as anti-government racist insurgents. They should have a lifetime ban on all firearms. Given that so many blame the dark races for savagery, it is worthwhile to note that no race has ever topped the ever-white, arrogant ass Nazis, and their flag is illegal in Germany, and should be here.

Maybe the Trumpery will bring out our best as Americans— defiance for decency, truth and honor over hateful hubris -- a wake-up call to get away from our home entertainment centers and give a shit about people and the fate of the world, do something with our minds, our talents and energies.

It's been less than 8 months and Trump has been digging his grave every day. When the hole is deep and dark enough, his orange ass goes into it. We will be proud of ourselves commensurate with our efforts and Pence has no chance of ever being elected president out of this wreckage. He has his backwoods evangelicalism against him, and now his service as lapdog to the Orange Crush.

Trump stirred up hatreds in his campaign, divided people against one another. He demonized Mexican immigrants and threw up red fear flags all across the border, stirred high fears against all immigrants, condemned the national news media, insulted the federal judiciary and all of our intelligence agencies, and now has alienated most every one in his lightly-adopted party. The construction of Hillary Hatred was an integral part of it all — and it worked. He is the President. He rode his acrimonies right into the White House.

Does this tell us that too many Americans harbor too many contempt and let it override either intellectual or common sense? Trump is easily seen to be unqualified for the Presidency in every possible way. Are people totally blinded by their dissatisfactions and biases, so that reality can't be grasped? Can they not disdain elementary school level name-calling and air-headed bluster in favor of critical thinking? Can these people learn more now while undergoing the self-destruction of our executive branch with the kind of attitude and arrogance that they have appreciated?

The origins and timeline history of 'Hillary Hatred' is the stuff for psychological research. Many don't like the way she presents herself. The magnetic Bernie Sanders had a much more dynamic message than her middle of the road homily pablum and when he went down, amid calls of DNC deceit, the fire went out in the campaign. She couldn't abandon the desired big money contributions of the corporate elite to support some of Sanders' anti-capitalism views.

So even someone like Trump could squeeze through since the voters in Michigan, Wisconsin and Ohio fell for enough of the 'jobs' Kool-aid to give him their states with only a fraction of a margin. Hillary was too busy rolling her eyes and taking some kind of 'high road' that kept her out of the Rust Belt.

Regret must be raging high across the midwest about this time. The American Manufacturers Association just came out squarely against Trump's agenda, and that's the guy some voters thought could get their jobs back. Trump actually supports cheap foreign labor and continues to use it for his own goods.

What else is happening in this volatile world?

The old Confederacy, now a Republican fortress of votes, is in the news once more. Trump defends their monuments; others want

to get rid of them. In this constant swirl of recent debate has come the charge to me that the Democratic Party has been just as responsible for racism in the country as the Republicans. True. There once was the “solid south” of Democratic votes. It helped Franklin D. Roosevelt to four Presidential terms for his “New Deal” programs.

The Democratic Party atoned for its sins beginning with Harry Truman, who saw black war heroes being lynched in the South. First came anti-lynching legislation, leading the Dixiecrats to leave and split the Democratic presidential vote. So they thought GOP Dewey would win but Harry won anyway.

As they embraced civil and human rights, the confederate Dixie deserted them and the GOP was ready to aid, abet and capture the white-controlled South when President Johnson moved through on civil and human rights legislation. It was the so-called ‘southern strategy’ of the Republicans to capture the white backlash and take the South.

So the politics was then split asunder in the South -- vote nationally for the GOP, given its opposition to the civil rights movement, but vote locally for the customary Democratic courthouse gangs, most all of whom supported the segregated white power structure that overthrew the civil war reconstruction, with considerable help from the Ku Klux Klan. The gangs would do everything possible to discourage black voters; liberal and black activists from the north came down to stimulate and support black voting. Three of them from Antioch University were murdered by law enforcement and klansmen in Neshoba County, MS, and it became the movie, *Mississippi Burning*.

County and state officials were still racist for the most part across the old confederacy but many areas were destined to be fully integrated as blacks got voting rights to support their superior numbers in some counties to take power. The South today is still essentially white vs.

black in elections. Whites and blacks generally don't vote for the other. Of course, the rank-and-file Republicans would be the last people in the world to admit their view that whites are better than blacks and don't deserve any kind of special consideration from the federal government. That doesn't sound good.

Did the South have the right to secede from the union? Wasn't that an unsettled question at the time? These states joined voluntarily; could they not resign?

I think that the war was indeed over the right to secede from the union — and also the attack of a federal fort. You can't do either, it turns out.

Cotton was absolutely gold in the new world textile industry. Economic conflicts are perennial between the producer of commodities like cotton and soybeans and the process of turning them into marketable products. Who makes how much money off it? Cotton is basically worthless unless machinery, time and manpower turn it into a product. Soybeans must be converted to oil and meal. But such economic differences shouldn't shatter a democratic union.

There is a powerful truth though — people are not property. Slavery is one of vilest things ever to exist on the planet, and the Southerners practiced it fully. The collective value for black flesh in Dixie was greater than the value of its crops and there was a lot of managed 'breeding' to produce even more flesh and blood property. So Lincoln and some honorable abolitionists did the right thing by humanity after the war started, while also wiping out the monetary value of the flesh. No slavery; then slaves become worthless, and are strongly encouraged to build the underground railroad and fight for the same freedoms as other human beings.

If rebels, on the other hand, wanted to fight for their antebellum, agrarian, way of life and not be part of the U.S., then they had a right to rebel, just as Americans did when we overthrew British rule. But

they lost, the union was preserved, thank goodness, and slavery is gone. Who really cares what kind of memorials and monuments are out there, they are history. We should relegate our animosities to history as well.

We shouldn't scapegoat these Confederate generals for our racism today. They fought for the right to secede from the union and that isn't evil. If you lived in Virginia and loved it, you might fight for Virginia against the makeshift union that had been assembled, and the yankee money merchants who were pulling as many dollars out of the cotton economy as possible.

The northern states fought essentially to preserve the union for the many Americans who wanted to be in it. One historian said it was a limited commitment given the north's industrial wealth, and they fought the war 'with one hand tied behind their back.' Meantime the South was ravaged by the Union Army.

Much of the racial violence in the U.S. has happened since the Confederacy disbanded so let's don't blame them for it. Let's blame ignorant, malicious bigots living post-war and today. Many of them also live in the north and west.

Maybe these statues represent racism in the 21st century to some people. But often their friends and neighbors are more representative of racism and should be of greater concern.

Maybe they want to focus on symbols with which to do battle, and not confront the actual perpetrators of what the symbols represent. You can't do much to fight racism and hatred by taking down statues of historical figures.

On to a spiritual topic ...

Polytheists are doomed? A friend said he thought so ...

Interesting question if all you've known in life, ancient times, is a

Poly God culture, worshipping a number of Gods, does this mean you're not saved into eternity by the real one God?

I say righteous lives are saved. Even if you heard about another religion in your time that disdained all of your Gods and substituted one of their own, and you still clung to your own culture and lived a good life within those beliefs and didn't accept the demise of your Gods, aren't you still saved to the Eternal Ascension Plan? Of course, says I. We can't condemn all of those people who came before one-God Christianity. God knows us every one, respects our intentions and our efforts and deems us worthy of ascension based on his eternal law, and this has existed since the time that humans first drew breath here, long before the experiment of man-driven religion was begun.

We are indwelt with our own God-given Spirit and not beholden to any evolutionary idea. If you don't know better than to worship the sun and moon and rain and earth, and try to live in peace, that's well enough. Humans should certainly have a deep appreciation for the elements that give us life.

And on the drug war front

Here comes the corporate cannabis takeover. They want their marijuana cake and they want to eat it too. As usual, they want it all.

Here is this business entrepreneur in Florida who sings the praises of CBD oil, which is extracted from the cannabis plant and which he can legally produce and sell for big profits. It's legal in all states, by design. He dismisses THC in the whole plant, which remains illegal and he can't sell, as a desultory, lethargy inducing side effect.

NOT TRUE. His pants should be blazing. This "High" is an integral part of the overall healing process. The whole plant is what it should be, natural, and it produces the nice mix of energized and enhanced Being-ness. Feeling great is part of it. It shouldn't be parsed in the

usual way so that Big Pharma can pick it apart and sell pieces that fatten their proprietary pocketbooks and can't hold a candle to the original.

They seem damned and determined to reverse course from their prohibition to their profits, like cheese-smelling rats, to make millions off what they once oppressed, and all the while keeping a part of the plant illegal. This is a direct frontal attack on all of those champions of the weed for these many years by boxing them out and prosecuting them for violations of their new wave of control mechanisms.

In other words ... Big Pharma is now demonizing the euphoric high from THC as a deleterious side effect rather than an integral part of the process. They want to sell their perfectly legal CBD and make a fortune while demonizing whole plant users and keeping their law enforcement system in place to persecute growers and users. The whole plant is, of course, better and altogether works best for the mood management healing process.

Big Pharma always wants to avoid medicinal herbs, synthesizing some of their active chemistry and parsing it to fit their agendas, making synthetics and breaking any necessary connection to the actual plant — to nature itself. There is no money in people growing their own herbs, especially that amazing one, so they have to separate them from "real" allopathic medicine -- consisting mostly of scalpels, and pharmaceuticals that often just treat symptoms and produce harmful side effects that you would never see in the natural plant.

A recent critic wanted to equate this medicinal herb use with a lock of morality. So weird. I replied:

My gosh, smoking this herb has nothing to do with morality or lack thereof. It's a healthy habit which replaces stress and

anxiety with a pleasant energizing high than opens your mind and imagination to new perspectives. And don't we ever need them in a world that has been replete with genocides and plagues for thousands of years now. Chill out and be cool, and no longer be a harnessed mule. And beware of the worst drug of all -- alcohol -- which researchers say creates a problem for 1 in every 8 Americans. Plus the traffic accident tragedies, addiction suffering, and domestic violence that the alcoholics wallow in. A National Disgrace. Cannabis has been smoked for at least 13,000 years and will never approach that status. No OD's in all of history and prehistory. In fact, it probably keeps a lot of people away from alcohol, providing an outstanding public service that is yet unrecognized. Be cool everybody.

Flying chips fantasy news ...

* Apparently chips hit the purveyors of the national voter information effort — to capture, control and suppress the electorate as needed out of the Trump White House. Haven't heard from it given lots of state opposition, and expect to hear little more.

* Given its condition, should we now at least call it the Beige House. A comedian once explained his neurosis and related it to childhood trauma. "Every other kid had a red sled. Mine was ... beige. That's when I first noticed the pains." Seems like neurotics make the best stand-up comics, or maybe they're just posing ... uneasily. George Burns once said that dying is easy, stand-up is hard.

* Capitalists have reportedly developed a powdered water product, but their scientists can't determine what to mix it with. Someone at the last creative session suggested they might enclose a full water balloon inside each product. It would be beige in color so that it

didn't immediately stand out from the drab powder. Consumers would be advised in a warning label to Burst Before Using.

* Trumpsters may now have decided that draining the swamp includes the notorious coal industry pimp from Kentucky who looks uncannily like a large saggy faced turtle. No one has a deeper swamp residency than moss-back McConnell but Trump berates him for not ramming through a health care bill that qualifies as an attempted national disgrace. No one is sure yet who sent a 2-ton snapping turtle to McConnell's estate in White Castle, KY. It had to be lowered onto the property from a cargo plane by crane, and was last seen eating Mrs. McConnell's snapdragons. (Not really)

* Scientists at MIT in the field of Artificial Intelligence have requested a residency at the White House and access to various personalities who are evidence of the phenomena. In a press release, President Brainerd noted that this unusual convergence of aberrant personalities could prove a gold mine to researchers studying the development of partisan light-mindedness and its frequently deleterious wafting into a vacuity of defensive blankness and profiteering based on anti-intellectual models.

Insiders confide that the request will likely be refused, but with a counter-offer of residency in a Trump Tower at the usual exorbitant rental rates. Space has just been freed on the 10th floor in New York while Russian money launderers pull up their stakes and try to get away before Manafort spills all of the farts in their beans.

Enjoy life everyone feedback welcome BTW. But if you're ANGRY, don't respond. Anger is not a proper response for anything at all. These are just my opinions. If you want to fight something, consider some of these self-serving forces I'm bitching about.

FIRE AX late September 2017

FIRE AX 3 — OCTOBER, 2017

Off the wall ... Over the top ... Out of bounds ... and across some lines ...

In the Age of Trumpery ...

Trump supporters are now insulting me for opposing all things that their man does because I'm now blinded by bias. Good grief. I've thought he was an arrogant creep for many years before his ill-fated presidency. Such a statement impugns my critical thinking, my logical mind, and character.

Truth is, if he ever does or says anything I agree with, I now feel obligated to leap in its support. But I don't expect he will ever do that. He lives in a psychotic bubble and is not likely to do anything smart at all. He has now totally alienated most all of Central and South America, and the National Football League and all professional athletes at almost the same time. He can't even express condolences to the widow of a fallen soldier without seeming to be a self-serving idiot.

The bubble will soon burst and I will remain a critical thinker. I've been fighting against bias all my life.

It is my view that after many years of political science courses in our universities -- we practically invented the term -- that Americans have failed utterly, a complete F, for electing a man with little character and no qualifications. F.

What other education subjects are we failing -- reading, writing, arithmetic? We can't generate clear thoughts much less express them on paper. We can't balance or understand our interest-bearing finances and wind up deep in debt, and slaves to our jobs in order to pay interest. Maybe Americans are failing a lot of subjects.

But we are good at conjuring up conspiracy theories ...

We are now in the process of building another wing in the Conspiracy Theory Towers. Some will now believe nothing they are told about the Las Vegas shooting by "them" and will imagine a new truth and find the grainy video or phone call record to prove it. Actually, assassins most often work alone, but usually their connections help the theorists develop some kind of amorphous conspiracy that puts them in the all-knowing 'know' while others believe the lies.

Here's the thing. We must learn to beware of people who love guns and have grown up with the acrimony that so many live in their hearts and minds. Living with one's own contemptuous bile often explodes into infamy. We

are never taught to love one another in our system, and that should start with birth and on into kindergarten and into all elements of our education system, forever and always.

Jesus said 'love one another' and that's the magic key for everyone. Alas, we can't find the lock.

"Motive? He don't need no stinkin' motive."

There is plenty to discern from the Las Vegas tragedy, but no one's eyes seem to be open. Consider these things.

America provides no protection to its people against homicidal maniacs but it does allow them to have all the firearms they want. It's good for business and the NRA buys all the politicians it can.

We could also see the carnage caused by one man and ask ourselves if military style combat weapons have a place at the corner gun store, or even in hunting. They are intended to kill people and we sell them willy-nilly in a country full of innocent people who just want to feel safe.

We might also note that just about all of the concert goers and country music entertainers are GOP gun rights people, hunters and Obama haters, so the tragedy of this is ironic.

We might also consider the bankrupt idea that armed people can stop this kind of thing. No way.

We could also see that it is madness for a gun store to supply this kind of arsenal to one man without blinking an eye. And we can see that background checks won't stop such killers, many of whom have never been flagged before.

We might also consider that the 2nd amendment was essentially to allow citizen militias to organize under law and protect the fledging country against the pissed-off Brits or Indians or whatever. President Washington didn't want a standing army at the time. Citizen militias helped put down the Whiskey Rebellion. The law was not intended to protect gun nut radicals who hate the government and repudiate all authority in favor of their arrogant, ignorant selves. Gun ownership should be a privilege, not a right.

So should voting since Americans have proven they can elect a president who is unqualified in every possible way. Lots of food for thought going around ... Let's also consider that there is no reason on earth for anyone to try and disappear a second shooter, and no evidence that he was linked to anyone else. Loners do a great majority of killings and there's no need to spring up a conspiracy theory around them.

And finally what are the motives? No mystery at all. It's personal contempt and acrimony that many people harbor in their hearts and minds. They don't give a crap about anybody but themselves. Know anybody like that? They probably own guns.

Monuments ... Symbols ... Reality ...

Americans are quick to fight over symbols but they rarely confront the realities behind them, or even understand what they are.

The South doesn't need to change its historic flags and monuments. It needs to change its twisted, contemptuous and hateful attitude about the federal government, which has been the best friend I've ever had in terms of supporting me and my life goals. Thanks Feds. Everybody else is trying to make a profit off me.

Oh, wait! I praised the federal government as my best friend and benefactor as an American. Is that the sound of heads exploding out there? Has anyone ever done that? Or has everybody swallowed the business deity preachings that demean and distrust our government because it provides services for which they can't earn a profit?

Ben Franklin said the congress had drafted up a newfangled representative republican form of government — "if you can keep it." Immediately, private profiteers began trying to tear down its impartiality and ethics with bribes and coercions. Still today, clusters of special interests control our political parties and they cut through our system like wormwood undermining our congress and subverting all legislation to their benefit.

When you complain about political corruption, remember that there would be none except for Big Business interests and their perk-pouring lobbyists. As soon as we send a bright young idealist to Washington, they begin destroying him with bribes, threats, coercions and party whip herding, to force him in line with the rich donors

Boy Soldiers in Gray

I don't really care that rich planters and their politicians fought to get out of the union. The University Greys, who are honored with a statue at Ole Miss, had little to do with philosophy, politics or slavery. They had no choice but to leave the campus and serve as soldiers. They went bravely to Pennsylvania and were doomed in Pickett's ill-fated charge.

Don't move their monument to a cemetery for dead soldiers on the back end of the campus; they're much more than dead soldiers. They were virtually ALL of the institution. When they left, it closed. I see no dishonor or racism in honoring our conscripted fallen warriors who were used in the war, whether they wanted to be there or not.

If we want to protest, let's go after the Nazis and hate mongering Aryan Nation bigots who dishonor our monuments by flocking to them for their vulgar displays. Nazis killed more Americans than any other ideology. Flying their flag should put a person in jail.

Americans need to quit fighting over symbols and pay attention to real problems; they need to quit defacing monuments, mosques and cemeteries at night and start facing up to the stark reality behind the symbols in broad daylight. These monuments have little to do with racism; it's in the hearts and minds of people, including those millions of people in the north and south who continue to believe the myth that whites are better than blacks. Sorry but this has NEVER been so.

The whole battle over Symbols seems to be going downhill. We fought over the Confederate flag on the Ole Miss campus, then a Southern planter symbol, Colonel Rebel, then a song, Dixie, which appreciates the South and does NOT support slavery or the Confederacy, then a monument honoring bravery, valor, sacrifice and tragedy, and now a banana peeling.

Good grief. Some student mindlessly hangs a banana peel in front of a cabin that houses black students at a retreat. He says his action meant nothing; he only hung it there rather than throwing it on the ground. Some will never agree with this, no doubt.

Are they saying that monkeys eat bananas, and Negroes are like them? How bizarre and stupid can you get?

It's time to quit equating black people with food anyway. Too many white man pictures of cute black kids eating watermelon symbolized this food. Hadn't heard about banana characterizations until lately.

And there's ribs and fried chicken. One black comedian said he would no longer ride the train with his paper bag of greasy fried chicken, bad for the black image. To move up in the world, he would be seen carrying a briefcase instead but images be damned. The fried chicken is inside the briefcase. "I ain't giving up my fried chicken."

Of course, there's also the image of the big Black Mammy producing the very finest soul food you can get in Dixie. My grandparents cooked just as good as any black person despite this iconic imagery. Often, people can't figure what the

imagery means. Do they celebrate Aunt Jemima or does her Madison Ave. semi-existence demean blacks?

It's in the eye of the beholder most often, and many beholders have chips on their shoulders.

Why did we kill so many of ourselves?

A lot of Southerners want to argue vehemently that the war wasn't about slavery. They seem to think this makes their cause more righteous.

History books record that, after the war started, Lincoln embraced the very strong abolitionist cause to get nobility, and freed the slaves so that they were no longer an economic asset. The value of black slaves had surpassed the value of cotton at that point and they were having children faster than you could plant cotton crops.

After the Proclamation, there was no perceived value to this human flesh at all and, when the word got out all over the South, blacks were highly mobilized to make that freedom a reality -- such a powerful ray of hope. Great heroism and courage was shown in the Underground Railroad, which is celebrated by a museum in Cincinnati, and probably a statue somewhere or other.

So he freed them to take away their property value. Southerners considered them to be livestock and priced them accordingly and controlled breeding. Their total value was higher than the value of cotton after intensive breeding for years. Making money ... like a cow and calf operation.

If the Confederates had wanted any respect, they would have cooperated with the global outlawing of the slave trade. They persisted for many years in the most vile enterprise in the world. Then they tried to bust up the union when most all of the decent people in the Southern states did not want to secede. The big money planters controlled state politics and duped their fellow citizens into war to protect their cotton and slave empire.

While on the subject, let's consider this:

Our culture is nothing to brag about. We oppressed and killed the native population, practiced slavery until the horrible civil war in which we killed ourselves in huge numbers.

After the war came widespread government-business corruption, labor and race riots and total economic depression brought on by paper assets frauds. FDR managed some social programs that has created a floor against total collapse as before, but the rich now hold 98-99% of all wealth again, and the rest of us are in deep debt and working hard to pay them interest.

Our political parties are both clusters of special interests which support themselves with all (100 percent) of legislation. Most often the special interests write it. This is a major GOP problem with health care; it's hard to put up a decent bill when the insurance giants write it for you. GOP stock portfolios are also stuffed with war industry investments so the more fear and violence in the world

the better for their bottom line. It takes a lot of petroleum, weaponry, bullets, shells, bombs and missiles to run a war.

Alas, oil, gas and coal now own the presidency and Congress again, so expect no progress in that regard. To boost petroleum and war industry stocks, the GOP is headed for a war ... somewhere, anywhere just so they can use vast amounts of petroleum products, which shortens the supply so that we pay a lot more at home. It's called having your cake and eating it also. Overall, it's called fighting for freedom, with 'freedom' being a meaningless generality. It is never freedom from US bombs; you can count on that.

Secretary of State Tillerson is knee deep in it.

He likely just wanted the job to enhance his oil and gas biz with all the political power in the world, to collaborate with the Russians on fields, ports and pipelines, and fight competitive natural energy. Once he does all he can for himself, he may well back out of the Trump Swamp with a little righteous indignation, and earn praise for a Trump Dump. He will have his cake and eat it too.

Offensive Defense

We need a real Defense Department too not a bunch of bully boy war profiteers who want to start up little wars

for their stocks. Let's get real, if possible. I don't see that we have any legitimate interest in the middle east. The people are too primitive to see beyond their hatreds and vengeance and we need to concentrate on the 21st century and its opportunities, not the 12th or 13th.

These savage and acrimonious tribal people with their opium crops, Bevis and Butthead rationale, and bizarre beliefs need to try and get their shit together on their own. They hate white Americans so screw them.

As for North Korea, we need to make one strike and make sure we nail the fat boy before they know what hit them. South Korea and we should be poised for a massive strike if they try to retaliate after fat boy's palace gets blown to bits. This would be a great favor to the North Korean people. Un is the enemy; kill him. Insist on surrender and then send the people some food. With him gone, they will clamor to get it and develop a new regime and get out of the world's doghouse.

Quick takes ...

Love and Gender: There should have never been any kind of issue around whom humans choose for intimate sharing and sensual love. That doesn't have anything to do with law. There is no God of reality who condemns this, only narrow-minded scripturists.

Money and God: Religions find ways to instill fear and control people with devil tales and always want a tithe before you even buy groceries. God is free and costs nothing but your time and attention. All human-related propositions are designed to get your money and turn a profit. Money is god to most people on earth and its evil forces never cease a barrage of lies and distortions to turn you against your elected government and corrupt it with direct payments to all politicians, educators, charities, whomever they want to buy. Seems like most everybody is for sale, one way or another. But, of course, the vast majority of people are helpless anyway. It's all they can do to get two jobs and make interest payments to the banks if they want their family to survive. They are too busy to fight the Dark Cabal; they are working for it.

Real and Fake News: If you only read the best and most reliable mainstream news services and papers you don't have to worry much about statements that are not true. They don't publish them. They do publish "what people said" however, and that's not completely reliable, but they don't say that it is.

Since the New York Times and Washington Post have exposed so much corruption over the years, there are countervailing forces which seek to undermine their credibility. It doesn't really work. The Media have been instrumental in bringing down many a crooked politician. Facts and truth always win out with the

mainstream media which nailed Nixon, called LBJ's hand in Viet Nam, and exposed (!) Bill Clinton.

Since Trump called them the 'worst people in the world' they will assuredly play a major hand in cleaning out the Orange Swamp too. Investigator Mueller has a huge team of Roto-Rooters and the backing of all of our American institutions (except the coal companies and some of the war industries) to get it done. Enjoy. History in the making, the unraveling and reweaving of a federal government.

U.S. News Media: We have the finest journalism in the world, with some warts like the Murdoch bias media. Major city papers, excellent news magazines, fine subscription based news writing at Truth Out, Politico, Collective Evolution. Lots of good stuff right in front of us. But since the media has been so good at exposing corruption, then corruptors like Nixon, Trump, and the W. have thrown a lot of shade at it.

The NYT has a bank of lawyers, editors and administrators to stand behind every sentence they report since Americans want to sue at every opportunity. They and others present solid reporting, writing, reasoning and research that gives you just about all you need on any subject. Intellectual and philosophical thinking by well-educated people fill their publications.

Cable news only provides a little shiny coat of lacquer, pictures and good-looking rip and read news faces sitting on facades. No time for anything but a surface sweep. They often

have little understanding of vital issues and their corporate owners don't want them going there anyway.

Rely on deep journalism; we have the best. Blow off the poisonous fields of partisan weeds all over the internet. Alas, they use Facebook as their nucleus since it's free and available. Leave it to the cretins to screw up every new communications achievement.

Cults and religion: The word 'cult' conjures up many a bad image. And indeed, who can know how they will develop? The Jesus cults were finally adopted by the Romans who put their Christian flag up front of his armies with the other ones. Over time, the papal hierarchy was created and the pope sent military into Greece to destroy all the pagan temples, kill their followers, torture and parade the body parts of priestesses in the streets, destroy the 'heathen' culture. Greece has never recovered.

So cults can grow into wicked institutions that can virtually usher the world into an age of darkness. Americans more or less carry the christian flag wherever they bomb and do battle, and many of them do not respect other religions, as Jesus did. Some still rail that if you worship more than one God you will go to hell. Take our One God or go to Hell. But they created hell in the first place and most assuredly people in or out of any evolutionary faith are saved if their intentions are truth, beauty and goodness.

This is not yet a planet that can accept Altruism or selfless service. They see no profit in it. Profiting from their fellows is the way that they pay homage and worship the Almighty God for most men -- wealth. Currency is its idol and symbol.

Making profits shows you are a winner and the luxury items you give yourself are symbolic of your brilliance. Alas, it is poetic justice that many wealthy people aren't really too happy and many feel unfulfilled. That's what happens when you always serve yourself.

And before we wrap up another issue ...

More Trump suicide all around. Flake just did something that the Evangelical Christians will note very seriously. He broke with Trump and they know they should consider doing the same. This is significant.

Happened the same day that Sen. Corker stated his disdain for the guy, thereby opening the floodgates for any and all other Republicans to do the same thing. It's okay now, even advisable. Get away from him. That includes all former presidents and all former GOP candidates for president. He is now roundly despised.

Same day ... he attacks a Florida congresswoman and alienates forever the congressional black caucus, as well as grieving war widows everywhere.

Plus, General Kelly now thinks he's a blithering idiot who can't even express condolences and put him in a bad spot with faulty information. The entire Pentagon, of course, is already suspicious of this dolt and mad because he has previously insulted them and all of the intelligence agencies.

And also like Scarlett O'Hara famously said:
Tomorrow is another day, and Trump will continue to try
and run things by the seat of his baggy pants. Great irony
that after firing people for over 10 years on un-reality TV,
he himself now becomes the most hapless Apprentice in
the history of the world, and on the way to the world's
biggest firings. It will reverberate across the world and
save our republic.

FIRE AX issue 4 — November 2017

***Off the Wall ... Out of Bounds ... Over the Top ... and
Worth Considering***

The Age of Trumpery continues. The HMO empire has just ordered the GOP to put yet another Obama Care repeal effort into the so-called tax reform bill, which incidentally cuts corporate tax almost in half, greatly reduces the rich family estate tax and only throws crumbs at working families.

Their plan for Obama Care, lacking repeal, is to stop funding it. Work against it. Make it fail. And then blame Obama. The Super rich CEOs at HMOs own the GOP and they keep sending them to destroy Obama Care day after day. They will not stop. And the GOP will do what they're told since the giant HMOs hold countless millions of dollars of campaign and party donations in their pockets.

The simple solution is to vote Democrat now since the GOP has been devoured by the rich and all we see in Congress are the turd piles left over. It's plain dysfunction when most all of them hate their own president and despise the white hillbilly racists who have ruined their party.

I just made these additional comments on Facebook:

There are about five gigantic, money-sucking HMO's and they tell the GOP what to do, leading to years of senseless quixotic repeal efforts. Try it anyway, they said so. Run into the wall. This is destroying their party, though, even as they can't do anything about it. They may as well give these HMO's offices in the GOP complex.

This country is idiotic for turning people's health care into a profit-making business, with the sick people having to pay. When the Constitution says the government should look after the 'general welfare' of the people, that surely applies to life-saving health care. We will be glad to pay for it, if you'll just let our money go to health care, and not a bunch of rich cats making billions in corporate royalty salaries and perks who get between you and treatment.

Insurance premiums do not go to health care. They go directly to HMO's who pay their corporate royalty huge unearned salaries and perks and build profit-driven empires. These companies battle the health care system for the big pot of money that your illness represents to them. Sickness and death are huge money makers for the capitalists who run the country. Your body is a captive market and you will pay through the nose, sooner or later.

PLEDGES AND DREDGES. From all of the hilarious things Trumpery has brought to us, how about this one? The GOP made the maverick non-Republican Trump sign a loyalty pledge to support the other candidate if he lost. Of course, all the others were forced to sign the same pledge, not realizing he was going to whip all of their asses in the white nationalist driven primaries.

What a shock. He did it while acting like a third grader. Jeb Bush must still be in shock.

Out of the 16 other GOP candidates, how many reneged on their pledge? Ben Carson didn't and got a housing job for which he has no qualifications.

They all despise him and so does Ryan, McConnell and their own past presidents. So does Cliff (Recuse Me) Sessions who has the memory of a weasel and the mind of a rat and will get no support from his boss at all. That's already been shown.

If your party hates you, what's your future? Especially if it's hard for you to read and write yourself, and think you can run everything like always before from the seat of your pants. The nation doesn't work that way. His pants are blazing from his lies and distortions.

TOP SPIN. An amazing thing about Trump is his ego-fueled spin on all things. He quickly establishes a different reality where he is right and righteous. It's easy for him. Here's a spin I imagined he would say when Democrats won important elections in New Jersey and Virginia.

"Sad. If these GOP guys want to win, they need to come to the table. I won the election. Okay? But they don't repeal Obamacare. They don't do tax reform. I'm frankly disappointed I can't get their support. They don't support me at a cost, you know. And I'm just saying, the voters had their say, and that's what I'm saying. So that's what happened to them. Disappointing. But, you know what, that doesn't take away from the fantastic job we're doing here. It's truly awesome, unbelievable what we've accomplished in such a short time. I don't think any administration has done nearly so

much in such a short time as we have. Unbelievable. Really ... unbelievable."

While Trump has always dabbled in luxury vices like gambling, liquor, fancy air travel, golf clubs, steaks and overpriced restaurants, these have mostly been failures and with some costly taxpayer bail-outs. The real money through the years has come from money laundering, most everywhere in his buildings. He gets a lot of rent for the space too.

There is a huge amount of governmental-business corruption in the world, more money than most of us can imagine, and most all of it requires cleaning up — a bank-anchored paper trail leading to nowhere, places where they don't pay any taxes or leave any records. Vladimir Putin and his gang are making a fortune in Russia and it all has to go through a network in which Trump is glad to participate, especially since Russia provides him with a lot of credit.

This is the tap root that surely the Mueller investigators will discover, but this net might encompass a lot of people that they don't want to encompass. The issue might become indicting the ones you want and trying to protect others who are of your persuasion. When you open up the money pipeline, no telling you might find in it.

At any rate, the Kremlin has no friends in the US and it is the albatross around Trump's neck that will bring him down. Manafort, as campaign manager, even revised the GOP platform to get rid of Russian sanctions and open up money conduits. How brazen can you get? Investigators should see the edits in the platform when Manafort got his nose in the trough.

I'm doing some new Looney Tunes concepts for the Trumpery Age you might help with. How about the Donald as the new San Fernando Orange, with a toupee mustache? Can we cast Sarah Huckleberry Sanders as Droopy? How about Sean Spicer as Tweety Bird? Bannon as Foghorn Leghorn. How about Munchkin as the Road Runner? Jared Kushner as Ichabod Crane, on loan from Disney pictures. Melania as Pepe LePew. Pence as Elmer Fudd. Mueller as Bugs Bunny ... gripping a big Orange carrot.

THE GUILTY IS US. When will the people of the planet become citizens of it and take control, and quit blaming all of our shortcomings on some Devil or Evil influence? They wail about the super-rich decimating the population and making us slaves.

Truth is ... If there was no international banking system, we would have to come up with one very quick to maintain civilization. And just because these people are rich doesn't mean they're evil. And just because they finance all governments, businesses, universities and charities doesn't mean they want to control all of them. Have you noticed that they don't? Or do you think they do? They want the money and they fight among themselves up there in the higher political and economic echelons.

Discord and animosity exist everywhere, and well beyond the realm of normal banking operations. Check out the religions, they produce a lot of it. Check out the hearts and animal minds of those millions of individuals who want it all at any

price. As long as Wealth is worshipped, we will be in the shape we're in.

That discord will continue inside most churches, it seems, because individuals will and do demand to manage their own sexuality and just ignore church rhetoric — a silliness that places sensuality and sexuality on their sin list.

Fornication is a crude invented word by an evil institution which sought power over every human's genitals, in addition to their minds and spirits.

Intimacy is a loving word for loving people who insist on controlling their own bodies ... and minds ... and spirits and want to become artists in using their genitalia and the rest of their God-given personalities. Sensuality is an art; fear of sensuality is a mental affliction.

Perhaps in the beginning the religions wanted to control craven lust. There was a lot of sexuality in the middle ages, men and women going at it together. They wanted a management program, a matrimonial system for the control of child-bearing within their doctrines. Once marriage was established, anything outside that was condemned as a sin. Who cares about sin? They invented the so-called gospel of hellfire and eternal damnation to make people care, deeply, fearfully. Tithing can make all the difference in the fate of your soul.

Amazingly, their constructed 'sins' includes human beings making love with one another. How is it reasonable to make that illegal? Religions have really given us a twisted sense of values.

JUST FUNNY STUFF. Some of my readers say I should lighten up ...

The old timer said: Now that food has replaced sex in my life, I can't even get into my own pants, so I signed up for an exercise class and was told to wear loose-fitting clothing. If I HAD any loose- fitting clothing, I wouldn't need the freakin' class!

Brain cells come and brain cells go, but FAT cells live forever.

Ever notice that people who spend money on beer, cigarettes and lottery tickets are always complaining about being broke and not feeling well?

Isn't having a smoking section in a restaurant like having a peeing section in a swimming pool?

Snowmen fall from Heaven unassembled.

Let's face it, the most precious thing we have is life, yet it has absolutely no trade-in value, which doesn't matter, because we live in our own little world anyway, and that's okay because everyone knows us there!

I met a woman in the VFW. She said, "If you lost a few pounds, had a shave and got your hair cut, you'd look all right." And I said, "If I did that, I'd be talking to your friend over there instead of you."

I also told another gal about my ability to guess what day a woman was born just by feeling her breasts. "Really?" she said, "Go on then, try." But after about 30 seconds of fondling

she began to lose patience and said, "Come on, what day was I born?" I said, "Yesterday."

I also saw a hefty woman dancing on a table, and I said, "Good legs." The gal giggled and asked, "Do you really think so?" So I said, "Definitely! Most tables would have collapsed by now."

I saw a very large woman wearing a sweatshirt with "Guess" on it. I said, "Left Tackle?"

We do not quit playing because we grow old. We grow old because we quit playing.

So if you don't go to church, how can you be religious? Someone asked that.

If you simply open yourself to inner spiritual guidance via silence, prayer, worship, love ... and listen ... then you will begin to channel guidance yourself. Everyone should be their own channeler. Listen to the quiet voice within, and without the intrusive animal mind traits of fear, suspicion and judgment, and you'll be channeling to yourself in no time. When you ask the Universal Father for guidance, what is there to fear or suspect or judge? If it's your own mind that brings in analytical BS, then it should be cleaned up.

There is no 'mediumship' involved in such transmitting and receiving. The mediums are mostly in the church, synagogue and mosque pulpits around the world. They claim a connection to spirit that you don't have, which should make them all immediately suspicious. God is no respecter of personal titles. You are his child, just like the Pope.

When you tend to think that you will get greater spiritual guidance from your minister and church, you should pause to consider that God didn't write any of those books of scripture. And God doesn't 'inspire' any of those people any more than he will inspire you. And God doesn't gift special people with privileged information; he loves all his children and gives you all the information you are ready for per his ascension plan, via the Indwelling Spirit. Jesus added the Spirit of Truth to your mix, which centers on his life example of Spiritual Empathy.

This is what we all need. Some of these human dogma scriptures have proven to be extremely deadly.

I am a long time member of the Teaching Mission within the Urantia movement. We promote times of stillness for communication with Spirit. We have been accused of being old-time spiritist channelers with crystal balls and purported connections with dead relatives. We go to places and hear people channel.

No, we don't. Our friends within the worship circle receive and share and we are advised constantly of the personal nature of inner spirit communications. After 25 years of lessons, there are only a few groups who still meet, and that's for the social aspects. We have covered a fine curriculum of basic spiritual wisdom.

TR is personal and many of us have learned the lessons well and are practicing them. I am receiving most every morning. And, of course, we have had some really good transmitters where the teachers can flow freely. We can listen too. But it's basically DIY. And people all over the world, connected to

religions and organizations or not, are working directly with Spirit. It's easy. and don't try. Release to Spirit.

Our naysayers have been critical for years of inner spirit communications and Michael's Correcting Time without any real knowledge of the process, and it's been a great disservice to Urantia Book readers for a long time now. Unless people start working with inner spirit instead of the clownish humans who are trying to run things, then our society isn't going to get any better. When you go to humans for spiritual guidance you are invariably going to profiteers. They wouldn't be guiding you if there wasn't a profit in it for them. A number of mediums have started their own religions.

Take dictation from inner spirit and you don't have to get involved with mediums who are just purportedly sharing their inner spirit guidance. Why bother with them? Medium middlemen. Upon cursory inspection, you find that they are biased against other religions based on human supposed doctrine, so they haven't really grown up from being infantile. Jesus never wrote anything down. In spiritual matters maybe we should have heeded the lesson. The religionists have written too damned much and some of it has been used to inspire genocides.

We are each one personality, with unique bodies, minds and spirits, and will be contacted in various related ways. In these times, we are virtually bereft of Critical Listening. We can't hear consistently or process logically. This is related to our lack of Critical Thinking as well, an inability to see beyond biases. And then there is our lack of Critical Speaking, greatly retarded in an age of simplistic twitters and political tag lines that replace complete sentences and thoughts with

provocative tags. And when we do hear excellent oratory, it's usually a pack of lies.

We are not biblical fundamentalists because the book is a patchwork of flawed and biased information. The Urantia Book is transmitted from what you call the 'heavens' and so it's reliable. The bible is packed with contradictions; there isn't a single one over the UB's 2100 pages and the Life of Jesus with a rich 777 pages.

There isn't a single un-loving thought either. Read it and quit worshipping any of that human dogma that divides people. Ask the Spirit of Truth that Jesus left within us whether you should believe this revelation. If you don't, then just know that all true religion is personal, very personal. We are on a quest to become Spirit. That's evolution, and it works. If you don't take one path, you will take another, hopefully a good one.

These lives are ours. It's personal. Priority for our earnings is our own family needs. This is why we are here, to create children and families. Religions don't need big budgets and are highly over-organized and over-extended into huge debts to the banks, of course. Gifts should be made in love and not under pressure so they can pay bank interest on a building project.

What is our life's mission? It can be explained various ways. As far as the development of our minds, it's a matter of learning to use it. Be a critical thinker and not an emotional reactor. Don't grab onto one side. Look at all sides.

Define it, and it appears to be a life's work: "Critical thinking is the intellectually disciplined process of actively and

skillfully conceptualizing, applying, analyzing, synthesizing, and/or evaluating information gathered from, or generated by, observation, experience, reflection, reasoning, or communication, as a guide to belief and action.”

Bon Voyage and Godspeed! *Fire Ax*

Other works by Jim Cleveland:

Published by Jim Cleveland and the Light and Life publishing cooperative via Amazon Create Space and Author House. Book design by Hensel Graphics, Xenia, OH.

Books from 2003 to present:

THE ALIEN INTIMACIES, adventure novel with extraterrestrials, philosophical and spiritual issues. Revolves around a man's poignant and personal relations with a woman from the Pleiades, and her patriarchal and theatrical leader. (2003) First in a series.

BEYOND CYNICISM: Liberating Voices from the Spirit Within. Keyboard transmissions with celestial teachers called the OneTeam and an introduction into the Stillness practice. Explains the human ascension plan within God's evolving time and space worlds. (2003)

CELESTIALS OVER CINCINNATI: Lessons of the Planetary Correcting Time. Chronicle of a Urantia Book-based spiritual study group's encounters with benevolent celestial teachers (1991-96) as the author grows from cynic to active transmitter of celestial personalities. Lessons from over 30 visiting celestial teachers across the country. (2004)

THE CELESTIAL SONGBOOK. Lyrical and other poetry on spiritual themes, co-created with celestial artisans. (2004)

EDGE OF DARK LIGHT, novel. Suspense thriller sequel in which our protagonist faces a myriad of mysteries and alien

encounters by the hours over a violent and snow-swept weekend. (2007)

DARK RIDERS, adult novel. Protagonist and two star-crossed vagabond women stir sparks on a perverse cross-country jaunt to attack the Mafia, with violent and plot-twisting surprises. (2008)

CELESTIAL SONGBOOK 2:. More poetry co-created with celestial artisans, including sections on human romance and earthy expressions. (2009)

SAUNTERING THROUGH APOCALYPSE: IN-sights, OUT-rages, and ID-idiocies. A rainbow compilation from the years surrounding the 2000 millennium change non-event. Serio-comedy and satire in part one; essays and workshop presentations on simple spirituality in part two. (2014)

LUCIFER'S GARDENS, novel. The series continues. An embedded, altruistic ET empire, seeded from the Pleiades, comes to grips with a warmongering president and corrupt military complex, with a series of plot twists and discoveries and ultimately leading to a terrorist attack in New York. In a parallel story from prehistory, a surviving band of Pleiadian survivors of the Lucifer Rebellion fight to survive in a primitive world. (2014)

THE TEACHING MISSION (vol. 1) : A New Foundation of Spirituality for a Quickening Planet (Editor and contributor). Includes chapters from over 40 human contributors who made contact and work interactively with celestial teachers, as well as nearly 80 celestials and their transmissions from 1990-2012. (2015)

THE TEACHING MISSION (vol. 2) : Living in the Aura of Love. A collection of topical lessons from celestial teachers, and human commentaries. (2016)

FLATWOODS (E-book) A photographic and poetic memoir to the tattered cultural reflections of my native Mississippi hills, as an aged Mother is in similar transition. (2017)

SLOUCHING THROUGH ABSURDITY: Skits, Spoofs and Satires (December, 2017)

SPIRITUAL POETRY readings with MUSIC and Guest Artists, at CD Baby, iTunes, Napster and other music services. CDs include:

WE CAN BE: A Celebration of Spiritual Unity, Producer. (2003) Eighty minutes of songs by a plethora of spirit-assisted musicians, produced for the Association for Light and Life.

CDs at www.cdbaby.com/all/lightandlife and online digital services. Themed collections from collaborations with Mark Austin and Dallas area musicians, with a variety of guest artists.

SOULS POURING: Reflections in Dark and Light (2004)

SOULS BLOOMING: Vibrations of the Loving Spirit (2004)

SOUL STORIES: Tales of the Human Quest (2005)

SOUL STRUGGLES: The Search for Higher Love (2006)

SOULS RESTLESS: Pursuing the 'Be Ye Perfect' Path (2006)

SOUL SYNTHESIS: Favorites from the Soul Series (2006)

JESUS OF URANTIA: In His Own Words (2007)

SOULS SEARCHING: Finding Truths Within the Quest (2007)

CELESTIAL FUSIONS: Realities of the Teaching Mission (2007)

GRINNING THROUGH APOCALYPSE: One Armageddon at a Time (Humor) (2008)

Executive Producer and script writer for the Teaching Mission Network-sponsored CD and online streaming distribution:

THE JOYS OF STILLNESS: Where Meditation Meets God (2014). Guidance readings for the Stillness practice and spiritual upreach, interwoven with music tracks by guest artists Pato Banton, Antoinette (Rootsdawtah) Hall, Beth & Cinde, Ron Cohen, Diane Irwin, and Michael DiMattia. Produced and narrated by Ron Cohen, from a book, *The Stillness*, by Michael Painter.

Websites:

www.jimclevelandauthor.com features free e-books, MP3 music tracks, podcasts, writings, photography, and the outspoken blog — Fire Ax — with new additions monthly.

www.teachingmissionnetwork.com. A family of spiritual seekers who work with personal spiritual teachers and will share their experiences, advice and encouragements. Chair is Jim Cleveland; Co-Chair is Deborah Goadman.

The Teaching Mission interactive library and teaching portal opens soon at www.teachingmission.org. Other existing sites in our spiritual trilogy: www.correctingtime.org and www.magisterialmission.org.

Facebook pages: Jim Cleveland, personal; Jim Cleveland, author; Jim Cleveland and Mark Austin, music; Teaching Mission Network.

www.lightandlife.com. Features a collection of spiritual revelations — the Urantia Book, A Course in Miracles and the Pathwork — and a variety of spiritual networkers. and Lightworkers today.