

This is the way the world ended, not with a bang, not with a whimper, but with the slow, deliberate actions of petty men greedy for money and power and lacking the capacity to even consider there might be motivations beyond the simple acquisition of more of everything for no reasons other than to have it and to prevent someone else from having it. We held them in contempt even as they were voted into ever higher offices and elevated their cronies and toadies to do their bidding, whatever the consequences, no matter how cruel or immoral or unethical. They wore us down, normalizing the horror of children suffering and the senseless death of anyone whose appearance differed from theirs, grinding away our outrage at their atrocities committed against both nature and the citizenry by the simple tactic of never ceasing these attacks, overloading every source of information with yet another outrageous action. And the lies, the constant din of lies lacking even a purpose, lies with no measurable gain for the liar, lies for the sake of no one being able to tell what was the truth any more. That may have been their most revolting achievement, depriving us of the certainty of what was the truth, what was real. We wept as the world was taken from us, as the future was truncated, as we saw the horizon of our end approaching, and all the while their supporters insisted against all reason that the coming hideousness was the dawn of a golden age. We lacked a name for those whose insanity seeks victory at not just the cost of their own existence but the existence of all, without cause and without provocation; those who cannot live so long as a dissenter to their beliefs also lives. Those who delight in the bland homogeneity of fascism and hate. We thought them gone, and their sickness with them, in the great conflagration early in the previous century; that the ensuing education of the population during the admittedly terrifying cold conflict that followed had cured the world of the desire for an end to us all. We were wrong, and now there is not even the opportunity to start over, for the world is broken.

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