

'The Grand Façade [Has] Burned'



January 20, 2021

I was wrong.

My earnest read and attempt at deep analysis of how things would play out for Trump and his contested bid for the 2020 Presidential Election of United States was incorrect.

I won't attempt to couch my disappointment with hedged statements. There will be plenty of time for a more reflective piece on what was accomplished over the past four years and why there is so much to look forward to. For a moment, I need to own my wrong assessment. Of course, I am frustrated, disappointed... and even a little sad and melancholy.

I believe it was Jordan Peterson who said something along the lines of, "If you cannot understand why someone did something, look at the consequences and infer [positive] motivation." (I added the word 'positive'). Put another way, when faced with a sudden loss or meaningful disappointment in life it is healthy to take time and quietly reflect to yourself, "What if this is a good thing?" I will certainly be doing so.

I have often told people I am not sentimental. However, this morning I successfully bid on a picture of Donald J. Trump taking the oath on January 20, 2016. It will be a reminder of what we achieved as Americans. It will also serve as a reminder for me to be humble.

And now as we step together into the unknown, I think of these words in Psalm 23:

"Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for you are with me; Your rod and staff comfort me. You have prepared a table before me in the presence of my enemies... You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over."

Coda: My title is taken from the lyrics of one of my favorite songs, "In Your Eyes" by Peter Gabriel. Towards the end, Youssou N'Dour sings the chorus song translated into his native language, Wolof. It felt to me a fitting way to describe things. On the one hand the picture in my mind I had constructed of President Trump being successful, somehow pulling a win out for all the world to see, was simply a brittle facade.

On the other hand, there is no question that the façade of apparent facts, as presented by the media has been completely obliterated, their motivations naked for all to see. We cannot unsee what we just saw.