**11/08AMERIKANA: Politics 2020 et al**



[**Body and Blood**](#bodyAndblood)

[**Kulture**](#kulture)

[**Poem**](#strong_vincent)

Hope vs. Fear, Faith, Conspiracy Theory, Vocation, Family , Culture, Progress, Tradition

‘Sometimes,’ Helena continued. ‘I have a terrible dream of the future. Not now, but presently, people may forget their loyalty to their kings and emperors and take power for themselves. Instead of letting one victim bear this frightful curse they will take it all on themselves, each one of them. Think of all the misery of a whole world possessed by Power without Grace.” (from *Helena* by Evelyn Waugh)

These Visions of Johanna

The Ghost of Electricity howls in the bones of her face

These visions of Johanna have now taken my place.

03/14/2022

6.4 Billion exports to RUSSIA

151 Billion exports to CHINA

03/13/2022 Gettysburg (Mom, dad and Beth and Adam and the kids recently visited here. Didn’t make it in to the grounds, arrived too late in the day and it wasn’t worth the money, so they visited the museum and it was goo for kids and tried to humanize the experience of having this wild conflict descend upon their town.

50,000 casualties; 3,000 - 5,000 horse causalties.

High water mark of the Confederacy-- hand to hand combat just north of a patch of vegetation called *The Copse of Trees* at the “angle” where the a low stone fence jogged.

Bare handedly we defended the Republic,

With blood and guts and brawl

Strong Vincent

Son of an iron foundry man (B.B.)

Studied law, then went to war,

Malaria saw him through the campaign

And then deaths above him,

Not to mention resignations

Helped him make his aged rank

While still so green around the edges

Brandishing a riding crop given to him by his pregnant wife

“Don’t give an inch” he yowled to his hearties

As a bullet blast straight through his groin and he fell.

20th of Maine, 140th of NY, the 83rd out of Penn, the 16th from Michigan

Go seem him on the Shores of Erie,

Set in stone brandishing his crop.

Not a single inch begrudging.

Vincent’s wife gave birth to a baby girl two months later who died before reaching the age of one and is buried next to her father in Erie, PA.

Night closed the fight. The key of the battlefield was in our possession intact. Vincent, Weed, and Heillett???, chiefs lamented throughout the corps and army, sealed with their lives the spot intrusted to their keeping, and on which so much depended … General Weed and Colonel Vincent, officers of rare promise gave their lives to their country. -- George Sykes report on the Battle of Gettysburg

Gettysburg: A novel of the Civil War by Newt Gingrich and Wiliam R. Forstchen

Just a good book and a case of High Life. Should be a pretty good weekend.

03/01/2022

Mr. Lahtinan passed away due to Long-haul Covid related pneumonia. Now my Cross country coach is dead at 75. My track coach died at 60?

PJ O’Rourke died Yacht Rock. Dave Barry. Mitch Album.

01/14/2022

John LaPorte-- photographer. Died of Covid.

Studio photographer fantasy. French 60s aesthetic. Last Days A Mareinbad Platz

01/22/2022

300,000 killed since 2006 in Mexico in cartel related killings.

We support this war.

Illicit drugs are a cancer on this land.

Just say no.

01/18/2021

Ivermectin lawsuit for its use to treat patients in an Arkansas prison.

Hydroxychloroquine.

Jerome Corsi

Anti -parasitic drug

Reshuffled as a Free Speech organization-- $6.7 million in consultations.

Charitable status in Texas is pending inactive

12/24/2021

A.D. King -- M.L.K’s brother, dies in a swimming pool 1969. Dreams die at the Lorrain Motel.

Who killed JFK? Who killed MLK? Hoffa? Christ?

12/14/2021

1964 -- Jack Palance attends a movies in Tuscaloosa, Al and starts a riot amongst segregationist.

John Kerry lost the 2004 Presidential election

48.3% (251) to 50.7% (286)

12/06/2021

news sources that bubble up and ooze

10/24/2021

220-213 Build Back Better passes

Jared Golden of Maine voted against it. All Republicans did too

06/25/2021

People are scared; populists are adept at exploiting fear. People are confused; populists offer narratives that are easy to grasp.

Fearmongering, scapegoating, appeals to emotions—the populists toolkit, are poor tools to deploy against a pandemic.

Defeating the virus requires reason, openness and international cooperation—all things that populists disdain.

06/06/2021

Mike Pence emphasizing that he and Donald Trump will never see eye to eye on the events of January 6th, 2021. They did their job. They upheld the constitution of the United States!

06/16/2021

Rush Limbaugh🡪 serious political figure/voice or entertainer?

“That’s entertainment!”

Amusement-- the muse, the show must go on…

Entertainers-- reflecting popular culture, an arrangement of mirrors (a derangement of mirrors)

Moments of knowing.

Lost in the Funhouse

Conversation? -- flood the zone with listening

Innudation? -- flood the zone with shit

05/25/2021

***Checkered Checks, Imbalanced Imbalances.***

Optimistic, pragmatic left of center progressive, believes in the wise progressive instincts of our country over its history; appreciative of checks, appreciative of balances. **But what if your checks are checkered and your balances are imbalanced?**

05/13/2021

24,000 COVID deaths Illinois; 1.36 mil. cases

583,000 COVID deaths US; 32.8 mil. cases

05/07/2021

In Arizona, state Senate Republicans pressed ahead with [a sham partisan recount](https://www.cnn.com/2021/04/26/politics/arizona-recount-2020-election/index.html)of general election votes in Maricopa County after Biden's win was repeatedly verified by courts and election officials.

The Texas state House, meanwhile, debated a Republican bill that would limit extended early voting hours, give partisan poll watchers more authority and make it tougher to cast a vote in city areas where Democratic voters live.

And Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis [signed into law](https://www.cnn.com/2021/05/06/politics/desantis-signs-florida-bill-voting-restrictions/index.html)the Sunshine State's new restrictive voting measures. Had the goal been to bolster public confidence in the electoral system he might have held a public event. But exposing the partisanship behind the move, he signed it into law on "Fox and Friends" in a stunt that excluded journalists other than those on one of Trump's favorite mouthpiece networks.

05/04/2021

If you believe that American was founded by White Supremacists then you believe that our system is corrupt and needs to be replaced. What about original sin? Aren’t all inceptions flawed? Faulty?

My father expressing surprise that NBC would cover a story about Catholic nuns helping girls. The importance of faith in a Fallen world. The Light shines brightest in the Dark.

How can you pursue truth without an insistence on discrete rightness, correctness, morality. It is not the churches job to organize society. To support, yes, but not to organize. Holy War is a terrible thing. Jihadists scare the shit out of us.

What bothered me about that? It was random and kind of evangelical. Made reference to my father’s distrust of the media, even though its favorably reporting on a story that supports and bolsters his worldview in some way. Emphasizing the Fallenness of the world and simple antidote of light that exists, ever ready to sweep in and illuminate and save.

The way they talked about it established the sacred, profane. The light and the dark. The Christian and the non-Christian. The right and the left. The Fallen and the Saved. The Rich and the Poor.

05/03/2021

"The Fraudulent Presidential Election of 2020 will be, from this day forth, known as THE BIG LIE!" DT

Liz Cheney believes whitewashing what happened on Jan. 6th and perpetuating Trump’s big election lie are threats to our democracy.

76% of Republicans believe there was wide spread fraud in the 2020 election.

Only 23% of Republicans believe Joe Biden received enough votes to win the 2020 election.

The 2020 election being stolen has become a false article of faith for Republicans. We are upset with the other’s side. So we assume the worst. We don’t know how to approach it. His two best friends had it. The one got it from going to the bars as he is want o do and the other guy contracted it, lost his sense of smell and then blew himself up with some propane because he was unable to smell the presence of gas.

I want be done selling. Professionally. Personally. Literally. Done selling. Done acting. Informing. Sure. Inquiring. Or course. Selling. Persuading. Pitching. What about the new? What about the expanded possibility of being? The putting to bed anxiety and uncertainty. Or not putting it to bed, but having a place for it. A temple.

What happened on October 7th? What happened on November 3rd? What happened on January 6th?

The narratives of these three days and their symbolic meaning are necessarily much different for my parents than they are for me. This is a fact that is ultimately fine, different generations always seem to find a way to divide themselves. It is still unnerving. It is still alienating. It is still sad.

04/16/2021

Mania-stream media

I am trying to avoid being reactionary.

I am trying to avoid feeling hurt or attacked when you assault me with your rhetoric, either religious or political. You religious message is that all LOVE relates to Christ and through Christ. All good things come from Christ.

You have a very complicated religion. You pretend to be simple. But it is not simple. God is love… but the owner’s manual is pretty extensive. Immaculate conception, The church’s position on the shroud of Turin, Stigmata, Exocism, Saint-Miracles, Sainthood, Purgatory, transubstantiation, the Trinity,

04/14/2021

Our conservative founders are rolling over in their graves.

Our progressive founders are saying “far fucking out”

04/10/2021

Life is a game of pinball in which we do our damnedest to imagine despite the fake that we are simply a round little shot ball that we have our fingers on the flipper switches, never fully noticing the closed loopness of the situation and that all the real powerful stuff happens on the other side of the glass. We are just left to take our hits and rack up as many fucking points as possible.

Betsy has had some trepidation about thee vaccine and the socially enginnerred wave of peer pressure and enthusiasm for getting the vaccine-- dominating conversations-- a woman excitedly saying how she is trying to get her kids into an experimental study so they can be on the front lines of kids getting into the act-- a push that I hadn’t even been aware was out there yet. Who are THEY anyways? Who is pushing for kids to get Covid vaccine? And why? Especially if there isn’t enough for the more vulnerable adult population. We either have a benevolent or a nefarious government-- a statement which is not true. It is perspective. Compromise. Concession. Impression. Consensus.

American Carnage and the role of FEAR --- “ I alone can protect you.”

What do you like about his messages and who he is as a leader?

What about the crassness and the immaturity and the bluster and the outright falsehoods. What about the contentiousness and aggression and histrionics? The Greatester, the worst, the best, a Great man, a Nasty woman

04/09/2021

When you family shifts dramatically to the right religiously and politically how do you politely extract yourself from their unfolding apocalypse?

04/04/2021

George Bush Sr. Post presidency—the guy disappeared.

Anti-establishment—trends, movements, methods.

Nirvana selling 30 million albums of their alternative album. Remaking the soundtrack of the era. Profound, but passing, like everything.

How did Christianity change under Monarchy, Democracy, Communism.

A symbolic reference to an integrity that doesn’t exist.

Nostalgic for the future, nostalgic for the past.

I seek the present

My gift is seeking the present—all the presents of the past, all the presents of the future.

Mitch McConnel => Believe Trump to be practically and morally responsible for provoking the Capital attack on January the 6th, 2021. And that the impeachment shows that Senators did what the former President failed to do. We put our constitutional duty first.

04/03/2021

Working under assumptions we are free. Free to debate policies. Free to demonize our opponents. I am a heretical outsider. I do not feel the protection of the family. Human fallibility inhibits us from. Makes mother say she should have loved me more nearly every time she sees me.

My parents are both really intense. Insinuating that I may have been sexually molested by Dougie Ebaud’s dad and just, you know casually bringing it up at dinner at some relaxed bar before we enjoy a pitcher of PBR. And why was I left for long period of time. My mother going into her super guilty and apologetic voice—asking me if I remember anything—I don’t, but thank you for planting that possibility in my mind.

04/02/2021

Grand Jury—citizens see evidence

04/01/2021 K-pop Star apologizes for flirty pictures with Nazi Mannequin

The importance of a clear identifiable enemy.

Victimization, resentment.

03/30/2021

Hate-- groups, social phenomena, institutions.

Coherenece & threat

[Concrete + abstract priorities => motive state / “wanting state” ] => behavior activation system (BAS)

Ultimate values-- coherence: a predictable view of the world which is free of threat and uncertainty.

Behavioral inhibition system (BIS)

Activated by threats

=> threat to one’s coherent worldview

=> internal conflict

=> uncertainty and confusion

=> simplistic “us vs. them”

Settled. Certainty. The peace that passeth understanding.

Crazy, agitated, anxious, confused, unsettled, uncertain, rage filled, offensive, alienating.

The formula of prison is a lack of space and a surplus of time. Prison is a lack of alternatives and the telescopic predictability of the future which drives you crazy.

Military lingo, prison argot

Language engages, grounds, expresses, stirs up, disassociates, binds identity, forges identity.

We exist within limits.

Following my rambling path of learning and limitations

Soviet TV, mass produced newspapers

Language as a vessel for civilization.

Instead, it became a drab hell with a shabby materialized dogma and pathetic consumerist gropings.

Pneumatic blisses

It started as an ordinary accumulation of knowledge but soon became our most important occupation, to which everything could be sacrificed.

Joseph Brodsky (“Less than Zero” (28))

Books == reality

Reality == nonsense or nuisance

The attractice finality of books, like film-- well produced, artfully conscientious, even when the effect is unconscious and “natural”

Giott and Mandelstam were more imperative to their personal destinies than their daily bread.

My vulnerability, my desire and longing for freedom and tension, cessation and family intimacy and familiarity.

Everyone around me seems sort of depressed and tragic.

Love of civilization.

“Liberte, Egaliote, Fraternite”

History, no doubt, is bound to repeat itself: after all, like men, history doesn’t have many choices.

One gets done in by one’s own conceptual and analytic habits-- e.g. using language to dissect experienct, and so robbing one’s mind of the benefit of intuition. Because for all of its dictionary spefic balance and beauty, a distinct concept always means a shrinkage of meaning, cutting off of loose ends. While the loost ends are what matter most in the phenomenal world, for they interweave.

Neither elegy nor rage yields the meaning of the past.

No matter how elaborate a structure anyone may devise for catching his own fish, he’ll end up with a boat, full of fish, but no water. And the water will rock him until his sealegs sure him up on the deck and he can start to properly clean the fish, process them, get them on ice for preservation sake. The market is a fucking very long ways away. (31)

Surrender to the process. “I’ll be here all life.”

“The wide river lay white and frozen like a continent’s tongue lapse into silence and the big bridge arched the dark blue sky like an iron palate.

Anticipating the benefits that a split identity can provide a write.

Pushkin-- pseudonym

Khan => Golden Horde

Akhmatova => oriental, Tartar-- arrived with an already established diction and his/her unique sensibility.

Convincing… until it is not. Hemingway-- strength and pastiche.

She came fully equipped and never resembled anyone.

Akhmatova’s idiom was a product of something less graspable than an astute stylistic calculation.

Dropping syllables-- choked throat.

Simplicity-- clear-- coherent

No gnomic convolutions of subordinate clauses.

Symbolist’s quatrains, ubiquitous as grass.

The self which bore her name, not the name. Variable/names point to values not variables.

Repetition-- over saturated

No one absorbs the past as thoroughly as a poet, if only our of fear of inventing the already invented (this is way, by the way, a poet is so often regarded as “ahead of its time” which keeps itself busy rehashing cliches.

European classicism => Roman and Greek

Aristocrats => chose writing over any other pursuit.

Economy has democratized. You no longer have to be an aristocrat to write, but you still have to sacrifice, commit, pay through the nose for the opportunity costs.

Such were the cue and the key with which she started.

Thunder of World Events vs. Meaningless mumbling of symbolists

Merged into the threatening incoherent drone of the new era.

Sentimentimental education-- temper their hearts against the new era’s onslaught of vulgarity (4)

The comprehension of the metaphysics of personal drama betters one’s changes of weathering the drama of history.

03/29/2021

A sheep stuck in a fence and a hiker climbing up to free ti-- big Chinese state firms buying shares when they plunge.

NASDAQ-- tech heavy stock market.

State dominated economy.

Lightly regulated institutions cropped up willing to lend to anyone with collateral-- especially developers and miners.

Retail market investment:

China: 80%

US: 25%

Foreign stock/bond ownership

China: 5% / 3%

US: 25% / 30%

03/27/2021

Four year apparatus of *flim-flam*.

Big lie propaganda campaign.

Stolen Valor Act—banned false claims of receiving military decorations

No one has the right to call “fire!” in a crowded theater.

Laws against incitement, fraud false advertising and defamation.

This all leads us to confronting the insane power of the internet to amplify untruths.

Lie – lies – liars

Kantian => lying is wrong in principle

J.S. Mill => wrong if it hurts people

Immediate catastrophe to possible erosion of norms

Malic—deliberately lying, reckless disregard for the truth.

Mendacity—flashy whoppers spread faster than complex truths

Why do you have to be so certain. You can be uncertain, but still confident can’t you, you’ve hedged your bets. You’ve made you arrangements.

How does one best express – things are kind of shitty and shot right through with uncertainty, but there is a solid chance that this will all resolve for better, so I am going to have ot ask you to trust me and bear with all the uncertainty for a while.

How do you talk about a challenging, transformative year personally against the back drop of a universally challenging and tragic year.

My parents are upset with government. *They* are the problem they say. Business is good, except when it is not. The environment is important until it is not. That seems like a classic conservative/liberal conundrum—sticking with the know commodity and its known challenges instead of “gambling” , “investing in”, “pursuing”, “exploring” a new source with potentially enhanced benefits though to with—*potentially –* manifold new challenges.

We are left with a choice. What do you fear more—the future or the past?

03/28/2021

Immediacy and relationships affect laws, rhetoric, consequences.

Mytho-religio: couching mundane cyclical political street fights in the language of the transcendent and the spiritual.

Spiritual values/ideals

Civic values/ideals

Personal values/ideals

Do your values make you open and vulnerable, or rigid and closed up?

We are constantly getting railroaded into narrowly framed binary political discourse. We have some sense of political discourse as an exchange of ideas, but too often our conversations devolves into the performative language of marketing.

No more selling.

Marketing attempts to illuminate by narrowing (highlighting, spinning, railroading)

Expand by narrowing: enthusiasm, interest, curiosity, outrage, emotional engagement in general

The self in relation to the market, the government, the church

My big family-- talented and disorganized, loves a good marketing campaign, though they also chafe at the amoral underpinnings of it all, but they can tolerate a little tawdry space to demarcate the sanctity that the church creates. Moral temple, market of the all mighty God.

Me and the market-- having hustled to creatively exist in the market without launching a definitive career. Would love to write, but don’t know how to pull that off yet. Trying to build towards that gradually. Was inspired by Chinese and followed that way upon way until I found myself selling 100,000 earrings on Oak Street in Chicago. This has all certainly played into my desire to gain experiences, but then what do I do with those experiences. How can I dovetail those experiences into regular employment that doesn’t drive such a wedge between me and my family. I have felt incredibly isolated by where I blopped myself down in the market-- not having weekends and holidays was kind of devastating to my sense of self. I thik I likely expanded myself and my capabilities in some ways, but the toll of it all was not insignificant. I have never felt as out to see and stripped down as I have this year. Thus if I can stay the course and pull out of this tailspinning plunge and emerge from this year refreshed and on the track of a new career with a long term strategy in place for coolly bringing along my writing without a lot of drama. Using it as a healing interface. A recording interface. A tracking interface. A teaching interface. Etcetera.

I am committing my writing and coding and Chinese to the market-- my desire to live near ideas and educate myself to be a better engager with texts drives this for sure.

Data centers-- remote cloud-- 5G-- telesurgery-- self-driving cars-- robotics

Law attempts to strip emotion away from rationality.

Politics attempts to strip rationality away from emotion.

03/28/2021

We are too busy, stretched too thin, stretched geographically, economically uncertain, diversifying living styles and worried about keeping familial continuity. We’ve grown larger than our systems can currently accommodate. We want more of this and less of that. We like the environment. We want our economy to be strong. We believe in innovation and rule of law and common decency and the importance of kindness and friends and loved ones and safety and coziness and nourish food, culture, traditions literature, education, civil society, free exchange of ideas, the Ulysses of social media or not at all.

03/25/2021

Are you a Christian 1st or an American 1st? Seriously, it is an interesting question.

If you are an American 1st then the universiality of your beliefs and message become muffled in a tribal regional ethnic and mythological context that cannot help but corrupt the universality and transcendent of your belief system by its overwhelming subjectivity. The narrow naming of your beliefs becomes American-Christian—you gain great strength of situation and perspective, but you also surrender your grounding in the truly transcendental, spiritual beyond. Politics is myth, but it seems to me that you have mixed it up a little too deeply with your religion to very poor effect.

03/22/2021

Proud male robins conspiring together on the easy slope of the bay window’s tarpaper roof.

And this is an antedote, this reading, this blind falling into books, words, impressions, allowing the author’s to comingle in my imperfect understanding. To linger awhile in the new left. Spiritual seeker, still holding his bible, a long way from a pew, but without spite, without malice, but rejection is malice, opting out is attack. Disengagement is betrayal. Conservativeness approaches sneakily and I am left to answer for the fallen world.

Are we in the realm of the political? Are we in the realm of the real? Are we in the realm of the cultural? The realm of the spiritual. She drags her spiritual into the world. As much as she wants her spirituality to be set apart, as something that the world cannot touch, the world cannot defile, she drags it into the political sphere and tears it and wrenches it and her roiling insecurity and ill-will make for a turmultous river to navigate.

Losing yourself to the process, to life. Not worrying about how it will come across. Slowly sharing. Listening. Truly listening. Will politics solve this problem? How have you been feeling about retirement? Aging? How is your health? How are you practicing good health? What have you been cooking with? Moderation. Wellness. Healthfulness. Knowing what not to do. Not doing what you have done. Living in the fullness of the moment. Virtuous loop. Feeding creation. Feeding learning. Feeding cultivation and fostering of health and goodness. Creating. Not fearing. Not judeging. Engaging. Listening. Following the river. Remaining just the same as the river. The river ins everywhere. It runs through the mountains. Runs to the sea. Runs to the mountains. Runs from the sea. Searches out the sky, alights from thunderheads on the white windmill giants of Miner and Hopedale. Normal and C’Aceur Alcoyle (Idaho).

Lucky to be here in the morning. Lucky to be lost in our thoughts on writing, reflection. Framing. Exploring. Giving yourself over to the process brings a freedom. Trusting the process brings a sort of freedom. Nurturing the process brings a certain freedom. This is the child that takes care of the man. The family. Our life. It is the wellspring. You threw your weight to the right. I stepped left, babysteps to leave the family.

I reject your narrative that there is something wrong with me.

That there is something diabolic in my “refusal” to accept Christ’s invitation to dine. You are as heretical as I am it appears. Wasn’t so and so burned at the stake for being a little too enthusiastic about reasons interface to the divine. Faith is a gift, no? You can impart culture but you cannot impart faith. Faith is out of your hands, no? And yet, you have pretenses of being an arbitar of faith. An apologist. An evangelist. Bringing your rage and insecurity to comingleith the sacraments. Defile the very ideal of purity, you’ve spent your life refining in your mind. And but yet still, I am the liberal narrow mind, because in the midst of battling through my personal limitations and capstoned wherewithal am attempting to teach myself web development and computer science. I am stressed, I am battling self doubt as I ride the Keningsin curve from the fool’s great height to the learner’s value of despair. Lost un the labriyths of my accruing knowledge and the wobbly metaphors I emerge with to explain my deep dives. Amidst the most contentious political season of our lives and during a pandemic that has thrown our economic situation in a completely new arrangement, snapping the decade of consistent earning and commission checks and sales effort and focus, the kinetic, fast-talking, grievance swallowing, suck it up existence, in the midst of this to receive the exact same messaging from my family. The best man of my wedding chastising me to bite my tongue and suck it up. Implying that I was ungrateful of my mother’s love and ignorant of the pious sacrifices she has endured to make my existence even possible. Where is home then? Where is career? Where is the clear path? In the yellow river. In the accruing knowledge. In the overcoming of the inertia of the day. In the managing my rebelling, settling form, keeping up for my girls, swimming up from the depths of my increasingly unshareable knowledge base. Mired in that intermediate fluency of subject suffused with both pretenses to understanding something and growing awareness of the exponentially expanding list of known unknowns. Swimming in the sea as far as you feel comfortable. Being clueless about the truly best path. Do you just go for it and swim clear across the ocean? Do you stick close to the coast line, get to know the more accessible caves and coves? Do you fashion a boat or a rudimentary raft. Should I bring a net? A lifevest. Sunscreen?

03/01/2021

The vacant addictive affirmation of people we have never dined with tapping heart and thumb shaped icons on cold LCD screens.

Loneliness centers around the art of being seen.

* Witnessed
* Accepted
* Desired

Social interaction tinged with hostility and scorn. Perceived? Disinterested, adult distraction. Stop selling.

Music is the sound of the soul, the direct voice of the subjective world.

Canter => 3 berat gait

Gallop => 4 beat gait

Lope => variation of canter? 8-12 mph, 13-19 kph)

02/28/2021

Capitalism survives by forcing the majority to define their own interests as narrowly as possible (ways of seeing).

It was narrowness he set himself against—the toxic impulse to wall in or wall off.

Be generous to the strange, open to difference, cross-pollinate freely.

02/27/2021

Svetlana Boym *The Future of Nostalgia*

*The Turner Diaries* and *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*

**Restorative Nostalgia**

* (MAGA)

**Reflective Nostalgia**

* *A Time of Gifts­*- weeping for the German Innkeeper, moderate, civilized kind, soul-seeking, calmly sees the Nazi to the door. “Sorry about that… you know how it is.” He is killed 6 years later fighting for the German/Nazi Army on the Front in Norway.

Digging into the past in an empathetic way. Seeing the souls as souls, not as Germans, or Nazis or liberals or conservatives.

We create enemies.

Enemies are wonderful useful life organizing levers… to a point…

Strength… we have a strong leader. He will take this all the way. He will drive his conviction right through your heart.

A conspiracy against conspiracies (Boym breaks down very cogently how a manufactured conspiracy can lead to an actual conspiracy of violence.

Where is the seriousness. The stagnation. The rumbling, rumbling below the stagnation.

The Nazis are believed to have killed over 11-14 million civilians.

Mother and father I am upset with you because you have attempted to hijack the past. Turn it into some sort of MANIFEST DESTINY America hath no sin narrative. Cherry picking from history the nasties allusions you can make to express you inchoate rage, your inchoate longing. That longing for a communal longing, connectedness in Christ, the church, a big, strong political tent. It is that longing mixed with the rage that is so difficult to disentangle. There is a purity to the longing, a humanity, a naivete, a universalness. That longing attaches itself to earthly consolations- money, substances, sex, power, ego aggrandizing, political self-righteousnes, religious self-righteousness… and turns ugly and leads us into the darker hues of our human nature- pride, greed, wrath, envy, lust, gluttony, sloth.

Catholics taught 7 deadly sins as a way to guard against falling out of a state of grace.

Pride and greed are considered the sins that sever the soul from GRACE

**02/26/2021**

And where is renewal? Is it a place, a state, an action, a campaign?

Family Trumps Trump

You know how its really hard to listen to kids complain? You know how it is really hard to listen to kids whine. That said shared complaint can inculcate a certain degree of intimacy between beings.

Can you make a moral decision about something that doesn’t affect you directly?

Rhetoric is shadow puppetry of the tongue.

American Darkness. American Greatness. American Carnage. A Nation of Miracles.

Being pulled into the matrix of doubt and judgement.

Abortion is something our society have collectively decided to leave a personal choice and that is freedom even if you think it is a mistake or wrong.

People’s freedom necessarily entails them getting to do things that weird you out or even offend you. That is the truth.

I prefer to raise the bar of proof a little higher, especially with political things—which are not always the most objective little packets of rhetoric.

New information brings changes. How to tolerate the change all around you?

How do you keep from getting dragged down by politics without becoming cynical or falling into despair or slipping into your ham-tongued salesman mode.

Eschewing materialism is a great cost-cutting measure.

I bought an Acer to learn how to code.

A Huawei phone and a 2005 Toyota Camry which I say is grey, but my wife says is brown. It has cloth upholstery and a tape deck. We rent an apartment for under market value from friends. We send our child to public school. She tested into the gifted track. OI am pursing a “free” education on-line learning web development while writing within the context of an honest to god actionable and momentum building process. I am open to change. I am all change.

How is rightwing rhetoric deployed in everyday conversation.

I can be silly or absurd or teasing or questioning—I do not want to be morally superior or scolding—that is not my intention here.

I am forming an intention that will promote the growth and development of this process.

**Nostalgia**—ways of giving shape and meaning to longing.

“longing might be what we share as human beings, but that doesn’t prevent us from telling very different stories of belonging and nonbelonging.” (Boym)

**Restorative:**

* make sense of homesickness
* Do no believe they are nostalgic, their project is about truth.
* “this kind of nostalgia characterizes national and nationalist revivals all over the world, which engage in the anti-modern myth-making of history by means of a return to national symbols and myths, and, occasionally, through swapping conspiracy theories” (Boym 41)
* Restorative nostalgia manifests itself in total reconstructions of monuments of the past, while reflective nostalgia lingers on ruins, the patina of time and history, in the dreams of another place and another time.
* Restored or invented tradition: “set of practices, normally governed by overtly or tacitly accepted rules and of a ritual of symbolic nature which seeks to inculcate certain values and norms of behavior by repetition which automatically implies conformity with the past” (thinking of the Hasidic Jews of New York with their invented antiquity of dress etc..)
* Rapid modernization entrenches these traditions.
* Moderization => moved to the city, decoupled from religion. What about the holy market of ideas?
* The stronger the rhetoric of conformity with the historical past and emphasis on traditional values, the more selectively the past is presented.
* Comforting collective script for individual longing (void of social & spiritual meaning.)
* Fatality to continuity.
* Communities based on more than just ethics and national principles
* Reestablish social cohesion, sense of security, obedient relationships to authority
* Manipulate “new” nostalgic practices.
* Cultural intimacy
* Identity => “native games”, unwritten rules of behavior, inside jokes, a sense of complicity.
* Modern restorative nostalgia restores the past selectively
* Make America Great Again

Reflective: view relationship to collective home

*Nostos:* rebuild lost home, patch up memory gaps

*Algia*: longing, loss, imperfect process of remembrance

We do things that we do

* Listen to certain broadcasts
* Follow and venerate certain individuals
* Defend certain symbols
* Attached subjective yet specific symbolic meaning to things

(Boym circa 2001)

“The conspiratorial worldview reflects a nostalgia for a transcendental cosmology and a simple pre-modern conception of good and evil. The conspiratorial worldview is based on a simple transhistorical plot, a Manichean battle of good and evil, and the inevitable scapegoating of modern circumstances is thus erased, and modern history is seen as a fulfillment of ancient prophecy. “Home”, image extremist conspiracy adherents, is forever under siege, requiring defense against the plotting enemy.”

To conspire means literally to breath together, but usually this breath does not smell very good.

Psychotic substitution of actual experiences with a dark conspiratorial vision: the creation of a delusional homeland.

“We” => feel insecure in the modern world, thus find scapegoat for our misfortunes (someone different), project dislike on them, begin to believe that they dislike us and wish to persecute us.

“They” conspire against “our” homecoming, hence “we” have to conspire against “them” in order to restore “our” imagined community. This way, conspiracty theory can come to substitute for the conspiracy itself. Indeed, much of twentieth-century violence, from pogroms to Nazi and Stalinist terror to McCarthy’s Red scare, operated in response to conspiracy theories in the name of a restored homeland (Boym 43).

*The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*

* Napolean III political invective repurposed as anti-Jewish propaganda.

Please let this some of this information and insight sink in and help to more deeply learn to love and understand my country, my family. Heal the wounds in me so that I can live from a place of PRACTICE and SUPPORT and love and not one of DEFENSIVENESS and confusion and paralysis.

**02/25/2021**

All the gaslighting. Don’t believe what you see and what you know. Believe what I tell you.

Attempting to make people doubt what they believe to be true.

Being pulled into the matrix of doubt and judgement.

Trump owes 300m dollars to Deutche Bank.

Facts are stubborn things.

We have lived through this banal war.

The crazed neo-cons drum, drum drumming

Droning on about America’s greatness, its exceptionalism. Trump sensed the fatigue. The disproportionate brunt born by the white and the poor. The minority solider sacrificed on foreign shores. To whom we give great honor. We thank them for their service. We deem their contributions the ultimate sacrifice. This bloods flows not to the bellies of the gods, it just pools in the coffers of the bankrupt politicos we’ve entrusted our poly-scientific system to. So we sacrifice our soldiers to the gods of distant lands. Who tactfully have been tapering off their blood thirsty demands. We’re thinking of outsourcing the whole thing. Patriotism has become something to privatize.

Can justify midday fingering drills because music is going to save America.

Mother, our country is very rich and our borders and not under threat for foreign armies and yet your rhetoric reveals an existential angst to your national narrative. Where’s this all coming from anyway?

Why is he believed?

Why is he hated?

The EGO thin of we’ve figured this OUT! We are doing this RIGHT!

What’s the PROBLEM? How do we talk about the PROBLEM?

Manichaeism:

Taught elaborate dialectic cosmology describing the struggle between a good spiritual world or light and an evil material world of darkness.

Zoraster- Goutoua Buddha- Jesus- Mani

Briefly main rival to Christianity before spread of Islam in competition to replace.

Gnosticism: dualistic religion offering salvation through special knowledge (gnosis)

Matter == BAD

Mind == GOOD

**02/23/2021**

My family morale is at an all-time low. The recent passing of Rush Limbaugh feels significant. This is an ear that his rhetoric and style and personality heavily influenced. Trump in many ways just inherited the approach from Limbaugh and took it Television in a way that roly-poly Limbaugh never could.

The cigarettes and pain meds finally took their final toll. Hearing loss, terminal cancer… I’m sure that must not have been very nice. But at least he got to see America made great again. It is a year on since he stood next to Melania and accepted the Congressional Medal of Freedom during PT’s final state of the union address. What would have been the equivolent for Obama? There really isn’t a left wing figure that comes up to Limbaugh’s stature interestingly enough…. But anyway, a year on and since that proud day, the career capping day as he was applauded in the halls of power by the man he had been so influential in kingmaking and since then the conservatives have lost the presidency, the Senate, backed a bad faith campaign to challenge to the election results, leaning heavily into false claims and propaganda to stir a sense of indignation in his base, while also ferociously attempting to save face in defeat. Not worried about breaking norms or even fostering a smooth transition, the President instead put his full support behind a campaign that ultimately led a mob of angry protestors to storm the capital leading the beatings and even death of capital police officers and putting not our the lives of our lawmakers in danger, but also brazenly interrupting the democratic process of certifying the election. An act that is necessary, but larger symbolic. PT if anything has shown us the power of mixing and matching the REAL and the SYMBOLIC. A sort of ideological semiotics—a finally wrought Rorschach Test to flush out one’s subconscious hopes and dreams, biases and preferred national contextualization.

**George Packer, *The Four Americas:***

***Competing visions of the country’s purpose and***

***meaning are tearing it apart.***

***Is reconciliation possible?***

* Real America- all about identity
* Free America- all about rights
* Smart America- all about skills? doing, innovation, change, engagement, exploration
  + Their passionate loyalty, the one that gives the a particular identity, goes to their family. The rest is diversity and efficiency, heirloom tomatoes and self-driving cars. They don’t see the point of patriotism (George Packer, *The Four Americas: Competing visions of the country’s purpose and meaning are tearing it apart. Is reconciliation possible?*

“How did Free America become the dogma of the Republican Party and set the terms of American politics for years? Like all great political change, this one depended on ideas, an authentic connection with people’s lives, and timing”

Milton and Rose Friedman *Free to Choose*

* Tax cuts and deregulation = “Shining City on the Hill”
* Big government doesn’t help white people… it only helps MINORITIES!!!
* Break Unions, starve social programs
* Change anti-trust policy
  + Walmart, Citigroup, Google, and Amazon—the J.P Morgan and Standard Oil of a second Gilded Age.
  + The shining city on a hill was supposed to replace remote big government with a community of energetic and compassionate citizens, all engaged in a project of national renewal. But nothing held the city together. It was hollow at the center, a collection of individuals all wanting more. It saw Americans as entrepreneurers, investors, taxpayers, and consumers, everything, but citizens.
* Freedom that gets rid of all obstructions is imporverished, and it degrades people. Real freedom is closer to the opposite of breaking loose. It means growing up, and acquiring the ability to participate fully in political and economic life. The obstructions that block this ability are the ones that need to be removed. Some are external: institutions and social conditions. Others are embedded in your character and get in the way of governing yourself, thinking for yourself, and even knowing what is true. These obstructions crush the individuality that freedom lovers cherish, making them conformist, submissive, a group of people all shouting the same thing—easy marks for a demagogue.”
* I liked how that article on gaslighting framed the issue, making it about the other person intentionally or unintentionally attempting to shape one’s perception of themselves or the situation in an attempt to strength their position or argument.
* Newt Gingrich—very powerful: government shutdown, “war without blood”, but without a positive vision, his party used power to hold on to power and fatten corporate allies. Corruption—financial, political, intellectual, moral—set in like dry rot on a decaying log.
* The quality of the parties deteoriorated—Reagan to Gingrich to Ted Cruz… William F. Buckley to Ann Coulter to Sean Hannity…
* This hollowing-out exposed them to an epidemic of aloneness, physical and psychological. Isolation bred distrust in old sources of authority—school, church, union, bank, media.
* Rather than finding new politices to rebuild declining communities, Republicans mobilitzed anger and despair while offeroing up scapegoats.
* The new knowledge economy created a new class of Americas: men and women with college degrees, skilled with symbols and numbers—salaried professionals in information technology, computer engineering, scientific research, design, management consulting, the upper civil service, financial analysis, law, journalism, the arts, higher education… they are not the 1 percent but they dominate the top 10% of American income, with outsize economic and cultural influence.
* You have a hard time telling what part of the country they come from, because their local identities are submerged in the homogenizing culture of top universities and elite professions

02/22/2021

Is it possible to live beyond the A and B? Certainly it will take some dash. Some effort. Some creativity.

But that is one narrraitve in a hundred. You are open to your own interpretation and I am open to mine. Why so you can attact it and tell me why I am wrong? You have established wquite clearly that you have found your truth and are uninterested in any alternatives. In fact your whole political project seems to be predicated on your distrust and distate taste for new information.

02/17/2021

Jeffery P. Jones on Rush Limbaugh

1. Made opponents into true enemies
2. Revived overt and dog whistle racism
3. Stifled attempts to revive fairness doctrine
4. Gave Roger Ailes formular for right-wing broadcast success
5. Offered ignorance as “common sense”

Rush Limbaugh dead at 70.

He had listeners who tuned in because they loved his politics and listeners who did so because they hated him. He was seldom boring.

His critics - and there are many - will say he brought a level of toxicity and vitriol to American politics that has sharpened the nation's partisan divisions. His supporters will say his anger was righteous and he spoke to those the political elite ignored.

Either way, there's no understating the mark he left on American life.

I grew up in the upper Midwest steeped in garden variety racism, sexism, and homophobia. Now that I am an adult I realize that a distinction of garden variety social ills and the acceptance of them is no less pernicious to the preservation and continued normalization of these attitudes than aggressive hostility or violence towards the other’s perceived offending otherness. These are threats that must be neutralized, or at the very least ridiculed and marginalized. Death by a million micro-aggerssions.

When the reporters tried to film the square, the plain-clothed guards merely opened their umbrellas and blocked the filming. They did not arrest, or run off, or even yell… they simple opened their umbrellas and blocked the cameraman’s view. Move along now. Nothing to see here. These are the human rights catastrophes that you are looking for…

10 million more votes for Trump the second time around.

Up with Hispanics.

Biden gained with college educated white voters.

Trump was +200,000 in Miami-Dade

The piedmont south between the Atlantic Coast and Appalachia.

**2016 2020 NEW**

**TRUMP** 63 mil. 73 mil. +10.1

**CLINTON** 65.8 mil 78.5 mil. +12.6

An evangelical extremist putting on the full armor of god.

How is rightwing rhetoric deployed in everyday conversation?

02/15/2021

Politics will always be corrosive. Especially multi-party politics. The Politics of otherness, of enemies.

List of disparaging remarks often leveled against liberals and democrats or conservatives and Republicans:

Idiot, nut job, zealot, hack, Communist, Fascist, Racist, whacko, blowhard, bigot, commie, coward, crazy, crony, douche, elitist, fanatic, fencesitter, fool, fringe, hack, hippie, hypocite, ideologue, idiot, jackass, lemming loon, loser, lunatic, misogynist, moron, nitwit, nut, nutjob, obstructionist, racist, radical, scum, shill, thug, trash, troll, twit, whacko, zealot.

The big two for CONVERATIVES were **ideologue** and **extremeist**

for LIBERALS, while no runaway consensus, **hack** was number one by 20 pts.

Populist: pits “*pure people”* and “*corrupt elite”*

Remember that day, Jan 6th forever. The final terrible legacy of the 45th president of the U.S., undoubtedly our worst.

A weight on conscience.

God, history, solemn oath to constitution.

Prevent peaceful transfer of power

Provided assault on Government

Most despicable act of a president

43 Republicans chose TRUMP forever.

Courage or morality?

02/14/2021

We’ve got an honest to God cult of personality on our hands here…

Why the Patriotism test? Why the Purity Test?

The Liberals are the Establishment now… hey… waited a minute… that doesn’t make any since…

The 70% of the economy versus the 30% of the economy.

Good people with bad attitudes.

Bad people with good attitudes.

Ethics => how we treat others.

Aesthetics => what our soul seeks out.

So what you are saying is America is great and progress is bad.

02/13/2021

It is not a zero sum game. Not merely a matter of A or B.

Moderation, goodwill, patience, trust in the system—sure the founders, but what about all the civil servants local and national—what about our extensive legal system whose integrity is extremely important to the preservation of the union. He wanted to change things. He wanted to disrupt and break things. I think it smells of desperation. I feels like the right is beginning to understand that they have been losing since the dawn of time. The snake consumes itself. The moon starves itself and then expands rotund.

He said a couple of funny things and then went away.

The perception that Trump will remain relevant hinges on the possibility that he is a unique historical figure. Joseph McCarthy, George Wallace, Ross Perot all saw their stars fade pretty quickly in defeat. All had flamboyant self-dramatizing personalities. Lapsed into genuine popular grievances toward elites. Ascendent moments when caused system to quake and intimidated conventional politicians on both sides.

Cults of personality in American Politics are quite common. But they never live long, and Trump has offered no reason to suppose he will be an exception (John F. Harris)

“She despises you. She wouldn’t step foot in your door.”

“Heh, heh, you know the girls they take these things so seriously.”

“He doesn’t want to bite. He wants to be pet.”

William Stark was modeled after Huey Long

Joe McCarthy dead @ 48 of alcoholism

The wizard of Oz is discovered behind a curtain and exposed as an amiable fraud. Dorthy awakens to find its all been a dream.

The Trump years were not just a hallucination, but changes are they will soon enough come to feel like they were – which won’t leave much opportunity to return to power…

So what are you saying? If I vote for a candidate that supports abortion rights how does that affect our relationship? How does that affect how you see me and interact with me? How does it shape what you same to me?

“They did this because they had been fed wild falsehoods by the most powerful an on Earth. Because he was angry. He had lost an election. Former President Trumps actions… were a disgraceful, disgraceful dereliction of duty.” – Mitch McConnel

American carnage. Outrage. Complain. Grievance. Inside. Outside. 1st or what? China has set this up a bit—rival ascending power, leverage to move the world around.

People commit to their own reality.

Entering different lanes. New lane – same lane

02/10/2021

It is all about how you frame it no? It is not about the truth or the issue or reality or anything it is just about power. And that power has to be contained and maintained around some sort of fulcrum. Control the fulcrum, control the power. Identify the fulcrum, even the meta-fulcrum and crank it! Flood the zone with SHIT!!!!

Who won the 2020 Presidential Election?

Was it free and fair?  
What are you going to do with that opinion?

Was 9-11 an inside job? Who killed Kennedy? MLK? Bay of Tonkin? Was it really so bad under the crown? Weren’t there a lot of good things about the South?

02/09/2021

Silva was killed by shrapnel from a cannon at a gender reveal party.

Silva's death is not dissimilar from accidents that have occurred at gender reveal parties, wherein soon-to-be parents announce the gender of their unborn child with pyrotechnic devices or elaborate displays that have caused [devastating](https://www.cnn.com/2020/09/08/us/el-dorado-fire-gender-reveal-update-trnd/index.html) [wildfires](https://www.cnn.com/2020/09/08/us/el-dorado-fire-gender-reveal-update-trnd/index.html), [plane crashes](https://www.cnn.com/2019/11/08/us/gender-reveal-plane-crash-trnd/index.html) or [deaths of partygoers](https://www.cnn.com/2019/10/28/us/iowa-gender-reveal-death/index.html).

02/08/2021

I’d rather have a hard talking president than a smooth talking one that sells out the American people.

My family is America. I had moved to the ciy and become more progressive. They had remained in Gladstone and turned gleefully conservative both religiously (converting to Catholicism) and politically (long time Limbaugh “Ditto head”, they felt VERY comfortable in the Trump camp) it is safe to say that these things has at time freaked me the fuck out, been enormous elephants in the room, and seem to be the ideological underpinnings of a familial cold war exacerbated by my parents aging memories and attention spans, unhelpful generalizations and aggressive right -wing jargon (Governor Nazi, well why do THEY think they have the right to just throw a birck through a windo if their not happy about something.. was she implying that she was made about something and wantte to be abcle to brick somethihgn, or that this election was somehow about punishing THEM for throwing bricks through windows. Like if OUR HERO is reelected THEY will finally face JUSTICE but it THE ENEMY is elected THEY will just get off scot free for throwing bricks through windows just because they are unhappy about something which is unAmerican and the Conferderate flag is not a racist symbol. We believe. We think. There were a lot of good things about the south. Holding my daughter my mom gets on her inevitable soapbox about abortion, painfully drawing the analogy directly to my daughter and how much it must pain me to think about all of those slaughtered babies when I think about how much I love my daughter, because I love my daughter right, you love her, just like you love all babies and all babies have a right to life or do you just love your daughter only in as uhc as she is an extension of yourself? IS that what it is? You just love your daughter in as much she is an extension of yourself. That is what you are saying if you vote for Joe Biden. And you are going to hell and hell is Cancel Culture. Just canceling out anything you don’t agree with until you are in your own self-created hell. Am I in hell now. No. It is not complete yet. When will it be completed? Sounds a little confused and defeated by this and now I just am started to feel mean. I do not push back. I just say oh, really, and kind of talk back key points to her to make sure I am understanding her correctly. And I believe that was the final straw. That was the spark that ignited my rocketship of independent living and indepent thinking. It was the fulcrum from which I could redine my relationship to substances and my lived practices. Finally for the first time in my life full embracing my instinct to write and finding a new level of balance in my body in the parallel practice of yoga which during this time melded together with writing as a truly symbiotic practice. A separation one from the other no longer exists.

“Good naturedly” referring to people as idiots who play the library. It’s a voluntary tax. What a bunch of fucking idiots to voluntarily pay a tax. Just idiots! Played on repeat over the radio. Mumbling on about his life story, testimony, all about how god took care of him, when it sounds like his employer took care of him and spent a shit ton of money to transition him out of there and he consumed all these resources to finally get a job and then once he was in the job for a relatively short time he realized that what he really wanted to do was to retire. And now they live in a much more urban area, and attend a mega-chruch after living the majority of their adult lives in the rural upper peninsula and spending years in a self-created house church. These earnest spiritual types, in love with the idea of the original church, the original creation, the truth of the world, or life, the peace that passeth understanding

02/06/2021

Trump’s tactics CAN work well in business. When PROFIT is your ultimate objective you have something very concrete to marshal the troops toward.

Quality of Life: these subjective things are a harder pattern to crack and coin and frame and get people to buy into.

02/05/2021

That which is eating America is eating my family.

I am more American than ever.

I am more invested in our system than ever.

I have a home here. It is worth fighting for.

I am the establishment.

I am the well-grounded one?

01/30/2021

Trump would have gotten reelected if he wasn’t such a fucking asshole. It’s nice sometimes to see assholes run into the harsh reality of their own assholeness.

01/29/2021

Conservatives canceling progressives.

Progressives canceling conservatives.

At the very least it warrants a conversation.

Blah, blah, blah A perspective,… blah, blah, blah b perspective… just don’t know throw your hands up, just don’t know.

Why do we talk?

Why do we sing?

Jounralism is something somebody doesn’t want you to know.

The rest of it is just advertising.

Opinion dominates. Narrative… Post-modern critical theory. It is kind of reassuring that all of this shit was true. The emphasis on “communities” movement to decentralize cultural forces. What does a decentralized culture look like. We are building something that is trans=white. American culture is trying to build something that is greater than the sum of our parts. Sacred music. Secular music. Poerty. Silence. Everything all at once in a cachophony of completeness. And then pulled back and nothingness then one pure strain, one vibrating tendril of sound reaching out through the intricate web of aural labyrinths of our ears and minds and livers already know without even a second consideration, but we could spend our whole lives trying to wrap our minds around and that is why this existence is madness and that is why this existence is genius. We are just the species to wrestle with these absurdities.

We are deer in a wood seeking out the good buds and the safe passages to sustenance and sex. And we shall perhaps die one particularly cold winter’s day or from some particularly aggressive virus, pulling our four poster beds down in to the earth behind us as we fold into the seasons, communing with the rock, the river, and on…

01/27/2021

[from “The Crowd” (1895) by Gustave Le Bon]

By the mere fact that he forms part of an organised crowd, a man descends several rungs in the ladder of civilisation. Isolated, he may be a cultivated individual; in a crowd, he is a barbarian — that is, a creature acting by instinct. He possesses the spontaneity, the violence, the ferocity, and also the enthusiasm and heroism of primitive beings, whom he further tends to resemble by the facility with which he allows himself to be impressed by words and images — which would be entirely without action on each of the isolated individuals composing the crowd — and to be induced to commit acts contrary to his most obvious interests and his best-known habits. An individual in a crowd is a grain of sand amid other grains of sand, which the wind stirs up at will. (from “The Crowd” by Gustave Le Bon)

* A person is not religious solely when he worships a divinity, but when he puts all the resources of his mind, the complete submission of his will, and the whole-souled ardour of fanaticism at the service of a cause or an individual who becomes the goal and guide of his thoughts and actions. Intolerance and fanaticism are the necessary accompaniments of the religious sentiment. They are inevitably displayed by those who believe themselves in the possession of the secret of earthly or eternal happiness. These two characteristics are to be found in all men grouped together when they are inspired by a conviction of any kind. The Jacobins of the Reign of Terror were at bottom as religious as the Catholics of the Inquisition, and their cruel ardour proceeded from the same source.
* The general characteristics of crowds are to be met with in parliamentary assemblies: intellectual simplicity, irritability, suggestibility, the exaggeration of the sentiments and the preponderating influence of a few leaders…It is terrible at times to think of the power that strong conviction combined with extreme narrowness of mind gives a man possessing prestige.
* Civilisations as yet have only been created and directed by a small intellectual aristocracy, never by crowds. Crowds are only powerful for destruction. Their rule is always tantamount to a barbarian phase. A civilisation involves fixed rules, discipline, a passing from the instinctive to the rational state, forethought for the future, an elevated degree of culture — all of them conditions that crowds, left to themselves, have invariably shown themselves incapable of realising. In consequence of the purely destructive nature of their power crowds act like those microbes which hasten the dissolution of enfeebled or dead bodies. When the structure of a civilisation is rotten, it is always the masses that bring about its downfall.

What are we even talking about….?

**Strength**

Right infant rights traditionalists (family structure et al)

**Empathy**

Left mother’s rights independence of women

Rowe V. Wade Jan. 22, 1973 (right to privacy in 14th admendment:

during the first trimester, governments could not prohibit abortions at all; during the second trimester, governments could require reasonable health regulations; during the third trimester, abortions could be prohibited entirely so long as the laws contained exceptions for cases when they were necessary to save the life or health of the mother

in 1980 there were 29.3 abortions / 1000 birth-aged women

in 2016 there were 13.5 abortions / 1000 birth-aged women

in 1900 93% of Christians lived in Europe and America.

In 2010 26% of Christians lives in Europe. 12.3% in America. (39.3%).

01/22/2021

Is it even possible to be non-ideological?

How do you combat extremism within your own circle?

What about the children of extremists?

Do we have faith in our system to reward in demand knowledge and ability?

I am assuming that most of my family is either upset with the election results or actually believes they are illegitimate.

01/16/2021

And at last it became clear to me that all of my political angst was being driven through the cypher of my family. This struck me as both healthy and unhealthy. Healthy in that is was forcing me to confront my political otherness within the context of my heretofore most intimate family unit. Heretofore meaning before the starting of my own family.   
 This whole amplified rift has confirmed that keeping a respectful distance from my family is the way to go.

It has grounded me in my love and appreciation and faith in our nuclear family culture.

01/15/2021

Sublime, blunt objects of ideology with which to cudgel one another.

The parties are cults of punishment.

Ideology is a disguised penal colony.

How to be engaged without being enraged?

Are we necessarily only moved by negative language, negative messages, negative emotions? We need to be more emotive about positive emotions, positive things.

My mother seems to believe that saying whatever comes into your head is honesty. I would disagree with this. Our heads are full of other people’s truths. We are collect messages: personal, political, commercial, religious. These messages attach themselves to us and follow us around, spreading freely to those we spray with them, perhaps taking root, or dwindling away all depending.

I will fight you. I am committed to this system. The way you are going about this is a threat to our system. You are a threat. You are threating the system by defending it in a really corrupt and dishonest way. And then not even acknowledging whatsoever that you are dishonest and that your election grievances were about losing and not unfairness. You believe it is unfair for you to win at all which is why it felt unfair. Was that the whole calculus that the electorate was going to be pissed off regardless of the outcome, so why not just keep beating the glum drum.

That other fear didn’t go away… we just got distracted by another fear.

What’s the worst possible outcome of this election: Civil unrest? A shattered system?

Hump tried to break the system. But the system was bigger than Hump. And so the system stood.

Our system took on the most powerful man in the world and kicked his teeth in.

The lose of gentility.

The ascension of money, power, loyalty

Winning and losing

On board or Off the team

Team player or piece of shit traitor

History is a flat plane.

History is not a flat plane.

I will fight you for my fake news.

Hey, 1984 called and wants its NEWSPEAK back. I

Fascist tattletale jailed for his queer sympathies.

A skilled orator felatting a microphone

To hold the attention of the home crowd.

Am I always this loud?

Proud of my boy. Proud of my girl.

Lost in a season of renewal

Kindness is blindness, your highness.

His highness regarded kindness as a sort of blindness.

If I may be so bold, I shall not be doing what I am told/ believing what I am told, just because somebody told it.

Tired of BELIEF.

Ready to BE ALIVE

01/14/2021

Rash Limbo (Rush Limbaugh)

No true supporter of mine could ever threaten or harass fellow Americans.

America is a Nation of Laws.

Ease tensions, calm tempers, promote peace.

Use all resources to maintain order.

I was shocked and deeply saddened- Trump… but what about the love and the Specialness.

The efforts to censor, cancel and blacklist our fellow citizens.

We need to listen to one another, not silence one another.

Rise above the rancor, deliver miracle vaccine.

Find common ground and shared purpose.

Otherness, tribalism, being on the outside…

Let us choose to move forward united.

Didn’t congratulate President-Elect.

Where was that one week ago today? Tell your people to go home. Where was this one week ago?

Where was a strongly worded response a week ago.

He called the rioters Patriots and that he LOVES them and that they are VERY SPECIAL.

It is a very welcome statement in a vacuum.

I’m not choosing a side, I am choosing truth. It is the only response to fear.

The President summoned the mob, inflamed the mob and everything they did is his doing. He also took almost a week to firmly denounce the rioters after initially telling them that they were PATRIOTS and that he LOVED them and that they were very SPECIAL.

From “Word on Fire” Blog in response to the frightening and sobering events at the capital Capital.

Do I make an effort to inform myself in a way that is open to truth wherever it may be found, or do I only read opinions and media with which I always agree?

Do I make an effort to find, understand, and read news sources that are objective and follow journalistic standards?

Do I regularly reduce complex issues to simplistic, partisan sound bites to avoid engaging honestly and vulnerably with people with whom I disagree?

Do I speak of my ideological opponents in a way that dehumanizes, stereotypes, or objectifies them? Do I speak scornfully or dismissively of those with whom I disagree rather than engaging with their ideas?

Do I allow feelings of rage, hatred, and bitterness toward those I see as political enemies grow in my heart?

Do I cultivate sin in my heart more than I cultivate virtue?

Do I read spiritual books as much as, or more than, I read the news?

Do I speak of and focus on political events more than the Church’s liturgical calendar?

Am I regularly distracted from my responsibilities by news, pundits, political arguments, and negative feelings toward those with whom I disagree?

What are my highest priorities? Where do I direct most of my energies? Do I put living for God first in my life?

Republicans, you are either the party of the establishment or you are not. Is the new argument as you further wither into a minority party that you are going to predicate your purpose on the fact that the Liberals are the establishment now, the government is the establishment. We are have to reform that government, pair it down, restrict its over-reaches. Insure that a traditional, literal interpretation of the constitution is maintained… etc..

01/13/2020-

"The President has not addressed the nation to ask for calm. He has not visited the injured and grieving. He has not offered condolences. Yesterday in a press briefing at the border, he said his comments were 'perfectly appropriate,'" Rice said.

Emily posted the above Blog Entry. Nealy 20 hours later only Morgan has responded to it. What am I looking for from my family here? Contrition? Reasonable self-reflection. A little crack of doubt?

01/12/2021

Contempt for the rule of law.

An armed insurrection against America.

Violence targeting Congress

Seeking to disrupt the smooth, orderly and seamless transition of power

You are all pieces of shit for supporting this piece of shit.

I forgive you Donald Trump. You can’t hurt me anymore. You are already gone. We will have a new President in 8 days and everyone will breath a lot easier.

01/11/2021

STOP THE STEAL, CAPITAL RIOT, MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN, BLACK LIVES MATTER, HATE HAS NO HOME HERE, AMERICA FIRST

TERRIBLE, HORRIBLE, DEPLORABLE, DISASTER, DISGRACE, CARNAGE, LOSER, WINNER, PATRIOT, CONFEDERATE, PROUD BOY, ANTIFA.

Don’t want to be prescriptive. Want to be experiential. Want to change life. Am changing life. Changing body, changing mind, changing spirit.

Finding peace in the journey. Not conflict. There is conflict and you will necessarily feel conflicted about it. You would be an idiot or inhuman if you did not. Feel the conflict, but know that the conflict is not all. There is the actual existential crisis and there is the FRAMED crisis where the battle is less about right and wrong and more about the framing of the issue for political advantage. Usually there is an agreed upon standard. Without an agreed upon standard there is only jockeying and reframing and spinning to position one’s perspective as the most just, the most relevant, the most human, the most compassionate. But these projections for truth do not begin from truth, but begin from a desire to have the public world conform to your personal values. Or as a reactionary effort to ensure that the public world does not overrun your values. Oh, the very modern dance of pluralistic politics.

How does one live in this world with joy and compassion? How does one live in this world with both love and judgement.

Judge not lest ye be judged.

Ahead of the capital march Tarrio of the Proud Boys quote from the 48 Rules of Power, quoting specific numbers of the Rules that seem to apply to the current situation.

The CAPITAL riots.

This was a watershed moment for our country- how do we interpret it? How do you defend this? How do you rationalize this as aanything but anti-Democratic. This was power pushing power against power that had to show restraint. The laws, the protections. Run ramshod over by a president4 whose whole schtick after losing was to simply attact the legitimacy of the process. To question the fairness or the process.

White Majoritarian

Hostile

Venemous

Entitled

1790- We want free white people of good moral character

1893- New Australia (Paraguay)

Chinese Exclusion Act

1898- The United States vs. Wong Kim Ark

1905- San Francisco Labor unions (including Euro-immigrants pushed for restrictions on Asians)

KKK- formed after the Civil war. Promote PRIDE in RACE, FEAR in MINORITIES.

 At its peak in the mid-1920s, the organization claimed to include about 15% of the nation's eligible population, approximately 4 to 5 million men. Internal divisions, criminal behavior by leaders, and external opposition brought about a collapse in membership, which had dropped to about 30,000 by 1930. It faded away in the 1940s

The Whites will stay on top.

1915-1940: “One Hundred Percent Americanism“, “America for Americans” White, protestant Americans.

1965- Immigration and Nationality act of 1965: opened immigration to more Non- white, non-Germainic/European immigrants.

1980s- emergence of mystical, occult organizations in response to modernity, liberalism, immigration, multiracialism, and multiculturalism.

Else Christensen “Odinist Fellowship”

"America is like a rotting carcass. The Jews are living off the carcass like the parasites they are. Farrakhan understands this."

It is all there. The arrogance. The conclusions we allow ourselves to draw. The Hubris we exemplify to create space to live. But why the rage? Are white’s really losing their place? My family is doing better than ever seemingly by every measure…Nothing has changed, but the rhetoric.

01/09/2021

I just want you to acknowledge that Liberals are not the enemy of democracy.

You have been poisoned by power.

The church has been poisoned by power.

The magnamity of the church. The wealth. The benefactors. The voting block. The value based voting. The sense of prepackaged identity. We have the package, but it doesn’t mean that it is going to be clean and pretty.

I don’t want to write discursively. I don’t want to convince people of anything. I want to reflect humanity. I want to reflect goodness and selfishness and love. I want to show something of the full nature of man which is much more nuanced than the legend of a saint. For what of ambitions, what of egos, what of considerations of others- fathers, mothers, sisters, brothers, your neighbor. Simple sentiments become fraught under the multichannel prismatic microscope of post-modern culture. We seek terms that bolster our perspective, a point of view that seeks to project and protect our interests. Our personal interests are way more interesting and humanizing than these big banner national issues.

Trumpism has been a test of our Democracy. His tactics are very instructive. Your jackboot acceptance of these tactics has given me new grounding for your hypocrisy. This turn of events freed me. Do you see?

01/07/2021

William Barr, Trump’s former Attorney General, accused the President of “orchestrating a mob to pressure Congress” and went on to call his conduct a “betrayal of his office.”

In response to riots that took place at the US Capitol on Wednesday, Barr said in statement sent to CNN: “Orchestrating a mob to pressure Congress is inexcusable. The President’s conduct yesterday was a betrayal of his office and supporters. (CNN)

Trump orchestrates an angry Mob to put pressure on Congress. They mob ends up pushing through security and the lawmakers need to be evacuated. 4 people lose their lives.

12/29/2020

The sanctity of the individual. We synthesize the traditions.

My family is good. My family is lovely. America is good. America is lovely. We are liberated by our politics. We are enslaved by our own politics. Our band of existence is both wider and yet somehow narrower than in the past.

Much pressure to conform- societal approval, economic stability

Some people achieve economic stability without extreme conformity.

The path of least resistance is conformity.

Become a Doctor.

Become a Lawyer.

Civil society jobs. You job is to be a representative of Medicine or Law to the People

There is only the individual.

There is only society.

There is only government.

Margaret Thatcher— there is only the individual and the family. Society is a myth.

The spectrum of INDIVIDUALISM and TOTALITARIANISM

Laws attempt to protect the individual and to protect society.

Good judgement. Sound judgement.

Why are we so angry? Politicians have always been maddening. Trump has had a gift of offending but like a good conman, brining along the faithful. He identified the faithful and used the faithful to rope in the leaders who might not want to follow. Truly impressive what he has been able to accomplish. Tough guy. Republicans want a tough guy. The Bushes were tough guys. Reagan was a tough guy. A cowboy. A firm hand. A traditional American. All of these subtle aspects that add up

12/28/2020

The Mormons have been less enthusiastic about Trump. Mormons have historically also experienced the burn of Nativist politics.

12/24/2020

Christian fundamentalists have an apocalyptic conception of the end of time, but balk at the prospect of an actual apocalypse— climate change.

Politically I see time cyclically,

Spiritually it is an apocalypse.

As near as we can figure out time is either cyclical and eternal or linear and apocalyptic.

What’s the most important part about being Catholic to you?

Why do you think only 1/3 of people are Catholic?

What do you think happens to non-Catholics when they die?

How about protestants? Mormons? Jews? Muslims? Hindus? Ba’hai, Wiccan, Janeism, Buddhism, Daoism, Confucism, Shintoism,

12/23/2020

Power prevails. We can seek to shift the power dynamics, but power prevails. We have attempted to live well—we have attempted to live honestly. We have attempt to live in harmony—why do I feel this pressure from my family regarding religion and politics. I feel pushed to the outside. But that is obvious. At this point I don’t really enjoy the company of my family very much—wow – there, I said it – I find being with them agitating and tiresome and always feel reaffirmed that my exit was the correct decision.

Chaos, controversy, attack radical left, attack the media, attack allies, attack neighbors, attack colleagues.

Politics is about messages, but it is also about tone.

The specter of White Nationalism was stopped, but the reality of the divisions remains—and we are in the midst of a pandemic unemployed. Feeling the value of time, feeling the heat of time burning behind me.

Are the parties valued colleagues or arch enemies?

What are the larger ramifications of a political system that gets so embroiled.

9 out of 10 black women voted for Biden

7 out of 10 Latinx women voted for Biden

White women vote Republican and they have done so since 1952 except LBJ & Bill Clinton’s reelection.

It’s the logic of claiming to be a loser, while winning. Of course, all women, conservative and liberal, at all levels of society, face real discrimination and sexism — but that makes donning the mantle of victimhood while perpetuating the patriarchy an even more cynical game. – *Washington Post*

White women benefit from the white patriarchy. Why risk the good we already have for evil which may occur?

Pro-Life

Pro-Gun

Pro-God

Pro-Trump

LIFE, GUN, GOD, TRUMP.

Is it okay to indiscriminately attack your fellow citizenry for being radical left.

14th Admendment opened the door for Abortion rights?

Abortions:

2016: 623,471

1990: 1,429,247

1980: 1,297,606

And are we grateful for the privileges and immunities of being a citizen of the United States of America?

Yes.

Land owner: entitled—given a title, given land, a kingdom, a place to be, security, status, income.

12/20/2020

I think people have a hard enough time figuring out what they want and need and value and have the wherewithal to pursue and maintain that dream, sometimes legislating what other people should do, or following other people’s legislation can start to seem like a bit too much.

Politics says this is a problem! Politics identifies problems.

Politics is a lot of complaining and finger pointing and name calling.

Religion offers criteria for judgement, a path to salvation, yokes believer with worldview/catechism

12/18/2020

Advertising.

The pitch.

The sale

Rhetoric is not dead,

Not dead at all.

Flaccid rhetoric, a saccharine tone

That seemed to threaten take my word for it.

My subjective enthusiasm is all the proof required, no?

Aggressive tactics and tone.

Define and conquer.

Fox speak.

Ditto heads

12/17/2020

God is a collective ideal managed by the associated religious organization.

Mormon, Protestant (Anglican, Calvinist, Baptist, Mennonite, Amish, Assembly of God and other Charismatic Churches, Episcipol, Prespritrian, Luther, assorted store front churches, Gnostic religions, Coptic Christians, Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Ba’hai, Wiccan, Janeism, Confucism, Secularism, Daoism, Shintoism, Tribal religions, local customs, family cultures, personal habits and so forth.

And then there is the Religion of Politics.

Please make the selection of which religion you would switch over to if you were given the opportunity to do so cleanly and with like a 7 year just to see if it is truly a good fit. I have made my selection and have been assured to live eternally, so talk your time with your reply. Feel free to research each religion and branch and sect and cult as deeply as you have the wherewithal to assimilate. Each church adhering to one of these doctirnes represents a hub or adherents whom each represent a specifically articaulated and lives experience of the belief system or tradition. This tradition has cross pollonated with other influences in your life. You are an amalgamation. You would have a difficult time explain yourself. You are glad of this.

Sense tells you never compromise, never settle, never sacrifice your integrity by not having your every little whim met. It is your way or the highway. You are not a bitch or a doormat. You are an auteur and a creative force. Automous and wise. Not a Businessman. A business, man!

12/16/2020

“The two parties which divide the state, the party of Conservatism and that of Innovation, are very old, and have disputed the possession of the world ever since it was made. This quarrel is the subject of civil history. The conservative party established the reverend hierarchies and monarchies of the most ancient world. The battle of patrician and plebeian, of parent state and colony, of old usage and accommodation to new facts, of the rich and the poor, reappears in all countries and times. The war rages not only in battle-fields, in national councils, and ecclesiastical synods, but agitates every man's bosom with opposing advantages every hour. On rolls the old world meantime, and now one, now the other gets the day, and still the fight renews itself as if for the first time, under new names and hot personalities.”

* Ralph Waldo Emerson December 9, 1841

12/15/2020

The IDES upon us.

No fear today.

Today at the center—

Out of time in the time that is temporal and eternal. All time unredeemable, infinitely repeating.

Something has changed in me.

Something has renewed.

Something has followed a cycle to completion and ascended, aged, sought wisdom, lost baby fat, bent to the flow of river, traveled to the source.

What is the truth.

Is the truth that you found the truth or did the truth find you,

Because if it is a heresy to say that you can find truth through reason,

Then it seems unreasonable to think that I would have found God on my timeline, or your timeline.

And you are telling me that we were all made for a purpose and that I might not even know what that purpose was until after I am dead. That is fantastic. I get to be a part of God’s plan without having to do all the observation and such. This is some very conservative stuff here.

Does not personality play a big role in how one lives his or her life.

These are accidents.

I am talking about attitudes.

Either you are daft and tone deaf or I don’t know.

Why are you writing these political things on this family chat?

When you write political messages on this family chatboard in

Support of a president that I find abhorrent, I feel very isolated,

Not even that I may be in the minority here of withholding support

For Mr. Trump, but more in that you would not have the wherewithal to

Take into account that A. this is not the venue to discuss politics especially in a highly charged partisan way. And B, seemingly without compunction that your messaging would be alienating towards me, or put me on the defensive, or just make me feel unwelcome

You made me feel unwelcome when you called the candidate that I was going to vote for Diabolic. You made me feel unwelcome when we gave shout outs to right-wing radio personalities. Okay I get that they are white knights in the fight for the “Pro-life” movement, but they are also, in my opinion, partisan propogandists, who have made their career off logical phallices. If you don’t know what that means, you should look at them and think about them and try to internalize them and stop using them against your son.

The point of this is not that I am smarter than you or know more that you or have a better handle on the truth. Cause I don’t. We are equal. 100% equal. That’s my whole point. We are both entitled to our points of view and we are both encumbered by society to make efforts to accommodate one another’s point of view and were we cannot accommodate, to perform of duty of civic engagement. But then, this is left for us to decide what kind of family debate we will have. What kind of family tone and culture we will have. My position in the family as the liberal non-Catholic puts me in a tricky relationship to my extended family.

This is what I am trying to unravel here. What is that relationship and how to manage it. That is the whole gig. To find a healthy conception and system of engagement. We love our family. We truly do, but I am over feeling conflicted about the fraught relationship. It is not completely my fault that these relationship has thinned and stretched. A bit factor here has been my personal growth, living abroad, living in another state, working jobs that afforded me very little vacation for nearly a decade and then before that being out of the country or in grad school.

Wow, that is a pretty clear crisp, explanation of the last decade— I had either ben living abroad, in grad school or working jobs with paltry vacation policies in an era of pregnancies and small child rearing. I feel like a lot of parents probably go through so sort of transformation that at some point in parenthood that have the wherewithal to step back and acknowledge or appreciate or reassess, or whatever the perspective happens to be when clarity desencds.

Political deal— each side saves the other from its worst impulses, each side sharpens the other, steel on steel. Politics is notoriously fraught, historically fraught, mythologicaclly fraught.

Understanding politics as the secular application of ideals. A bureaucratic nightmare married to the purest, lily white ideals you’ve ever seen.

The other side wants to destroy your way of life.

What ever happened to the ideal of a two party system that cooperates. That respects the other’s right to exist. Because, what is on the other side of war? What is on the other side of an election? How did it get this bad, because a Trump does not just happen. You need a Limbaugh and a Bush and an Obama and a Clinton and Twitter and Fox and China and Mexico and Russia and Nazis and Socialists and Proudboys and ANTIFA and diabolic women of color and a white night drawing black flies on his big night. And stuttering Joe sideling up with a smile concealed behind his regulation mask. What the hell happened here, I just have to ask.

A confederate flag waving in the breeze, not a racist symbol at all. Though Mississippi seems to think so. Let’s stick with facts. Where did this happen? Who was involved. You are talking about it so you seem like you know something or you have drawn some conclusions, but I am hearing a lot of conclusions, but not a lot of illuminating facts. A picture is worth a thousand words. Where do these

D.C. 450.

Nostalgia porn. Nationalist porn. National mythmaking.

12/14/2020

Joe Biden delivers speech to the nation after his victory is confirmed by the Electoral College. Donald Trump still has yet to concede, despite having lost by over 7 million votes and by a margin in the electoral college that he described as a landslide in 2016.

The country has now surpassed 300,000 Covid-19 related deaths since March.

9 months into this. Little Beth and Adam baby is truly a Covid baby.

People don’t have to do a goddamned thing.

There are efforts that can be made

There are attitudes that can be sustained.

There are arrangements that can be made,

Let us spread our wings and fly.

Let us pummel our Christian soldiers and

People would comment on our beautiful family.

I find myself in a different state than my family geographically, politically, economically, and religiously and that has put some strain on our relationship.

After my mother framed the up-coming Vice-Presidential debate as an opportunity to see the face of Satan himself in the visage of the Democratic nomination Kamala Harris and all the vileness she represents. How dare she uphold the law as Attorney General. She had it in her power to outlaw abortion and she did nothing. Then she conspired with Planned Parenthood to sell body parts of babies to Science!! Black babies!!! To study them for Aememia treatments!!! They wanted to use the unwanted babies to save people!! But they were stupid because the people who wanted to buy the baby parts weren’t really scientists, they were pro-life operatives fraudenlently attempting to buy baby parts, not for Science, but to just expose the sale of the baby parts. Obviously the whole story is gross and spun and there are many, many court cases on-going. Which is why I ultimately appreciate our courts. Its an abstraction we can count on. And one that has a pretty strong approval rating among the people, which is important, cause you know, its all about the ratings. Likes. Engagement. And hey divisiveness will get you places. It will stir up interest and support, but it is ultimately not an overall winning strategy, nor a sustainable one. Its difficult to court the middle when you play so heavily to one side of a divide. It’s a great way to build perceived strength, which does translate to actual strength if you control all the key levers or have at least neutralized or held at bay the levers you do not directly control (law, media, public opinion, external threats, internal threats).

Two semi-automatic firearms were retrieved from the scene, along with a bag believed to belong to the suspect containing a full can of gasoline, wire, rope, multiple knives, and a bible.

This occurred at the Cathedral for St. John the Divine in New York City 1047 Amsterdam /110th. The choir had just finished its performance on the steps of the church. The suspect approached the closed doors at the top of the steps where the choir still lingered after their performance, two semi-automatic handguns one in each hand—“Kill me,” he shouted, “Kill me!” And then he opened fire into the air.

12/13/2020

Rush with his golden microphone

Obama with his silver tongue.

8-0 supreme court decision rejecting the challenge to the legal 2020 election. Not a puppet court packed with loyalists, or kind of sort of, but not completely, thankfully it is all very complicated.

Politics is a lesser form of weather.

A partisan survival guide.

Why does my father continually feel compelled to point out that the record setting weather phenomenon, whatever it may be, are just predicable anomalies all part of an intricate cycle of the states of our earth. Pretty simple real. And we don’t have shit to do with it.

Message control.

Cancel culture.

Time now for our cyclical election year cathartic and cautionary drunk.

Marcus: “We have solid processes that just run a little hot sometimes.”

12/10/2020

This is a country of many forces. Why shouldn’t your force be as forcey as anyone else’s force?

The quodtian manna of your messaging starved us to epiphany,

Finding our right silence in the profoundity of our deep hungry.

Trying to communicate something to somebody who is unreceptive to your message is like trying to put a bulky woolen glove on a child who will not stretch the fingers from their fist.

12/07/2020

An f-16 crashed north of the Keeweenaw

12/03/2020

For me Trump’s most inexcusable trait was his leadership style. I worked under a Trump for two years— it was ultimately the worst job that I have ever had and have spent the last six months recovering from the trauma of it. The fact that Trump normalized and even seemed to champion by example this kind of bullying, asinine personally vindictive big boss man behavior feels extremely retrogressive.

So, yes, I am please with the outcome of the 2020 election.

Rush Limbaugh and his ilk have been terrible for politics. His “entertainment” branded political rage fest influence the way millions of people talked about politics. Their tone. A tone that Trump heard clearer than anyone. When I was younger I had often thought in an off hand way why Limbaugh didn’t run for office if he had so many great ideas and such a jazzy way of communicating them. Well them the whole pill popping thing came out and the fact that the guy made so much money doing HIS thing. Why would he cash in INFLUENCE for increased vulnerability. He didn’t have term limits the EIB. \

He was a very effective right wing propagandist. It truly makes me sad that so many people hold him in such high regard. I occasionally read transcripts of his show and it is such a fluffy mush of red belly poll baiting that it kind of turns my stomach. Your defensiveness makes me defensive. Everything gets fed into the insatiable appetite of your apocalyptic narrative.

12/2/2020

What has conservatism looked like over the decades? What has progressiveness looked like?

Rush Limbaugh awarded the national medal of Freedom?

That guy is a piece of shit. Gave Trump his Playbook and his tone and his Lexicon.

11/30/2020

In the midst of trying to pass legislation to outlaw the filming and posting of on-duty police officer in France, CCTV video is published of French police beating a 41 year old black man.

Newsmaxx => extension of Trump’s Twitter feed.

Tabloid Wars: denial, lawsuits, photo ops, fight for context, ad hominum uber alles.

Biden bringing a lot of women on to his team: Janet Yellen, Kamala Harris

12,000 people have died of COVID in ILLINOIS

Are you still a capitalist if you don’t have any capital? Only land owners used to be able to vote. Property taxes are outstandingly high. But real estate is still a sound investment if you plan on staying put somewhere for a while.

11/29/2020

We have old problems. We have old solutions.

Does what you tenuously understand make you sad.

You scaremongering and bigotry scored you 47%. Ain’t that a hoot! America loves a strong man.

Losing faith in a world moving forward.

Pumpkin spice zeitgeist.

I believe we have much less freedom than it first might appear.

Wouldn’t it be great if we were entitle to our hate?

You seem to think my politics are evil and you are right thye are… but so are yours. I’m okay with this evilness. Its called being human. The human condition in which we are both evil and good and experience evil and good in all aspects of our existence.

It is problematic for me to believe that everyone is wrong unless they believe exactly like me.

And not only is everyone wrong, but they are also immoral, under the influence of the devil and whether they know it or not out to destroy everything that I hold near and dear in this existence.

People who do not share my religious and political beliefs and wrong and headed to hell.

Christian liberals are wrong and headed to hell.

Secular liberals are wrong and headed to hell.

The language gap. The intention gap.

You are the old way, the world forever revolts before you.

Salvation. Mythic language. Striped. Applied to religion and politics and all. We make all other decision in our lives very pragmatically (or do we), but politics must go beyond pragmatics and connect with the ideological and in some cases religious identities of individuals. Giving us the sense that our values are in control. Our values have won the day.

Who do you trust more to improve civilization? God or Progress? This is obviously a false dichotomy, but politics is all about creating false dichotomies. Turning the grind of bureaucracy into some sort of burning hearted clash of the titans. And no one is wrong here. The emotion is real. The emotion is there. Often manipulated and funneled through false alternatives, but we are simple this: action, reaction; theis, antithesis, synthesis. If we are passionate about this life then we must be angry. If we believe that there is injustice I the world then we must be righteously enraged and engaged. We should be proud to allow our unmitigated rhetoric infiltrate the very fabric of our lives. We should let our political passions dominate our language and our thinking. We should think about these issues correctly. We should ride the party line. We should feel upset if we hear other people not following the party line. We should repeat slogans in support of our ideological standard bearers latest attack.

God bless you.

I’m praying for you.

He’s in a better place.

God Bless America.

By the blood of Christ I ride on glory bound.

Stitching together a culture. Carrying forth tradition and sentiment.

Redemptive power of music.

Amplifying power of music.

I am not against studying Christian things or even Catholic ones and incorporating their truths into my life and practice, but as far as stepping back into the Christian bubble goes, no thank you… the whole Christian approach of, all right, now how can I wrangle this text into alignment with my Christian Salvation message in the most efficient and blunt and nuanced thought discouraging way possible. A desire to escape the bubble, some sort of suburban, entitle, over-produced anthem written in Christian Pidgeon.

11/28/2020

2,500 suicide deaths in Japan last month.

You think I’m liberal… ho, ho, ho…

Political issues 2020

* An unhealthy obsession with an insider view of politics
* A locak of analytic rigor
* A failure to appreciate uncertainty
* A sluggishness to self-correct when new evidence contradicts pre-existing beliefs, narrow viewpoint that lacks perspective from the larger arc of American history

Finalish results:

Biden: 306 (80,117,438) 51.1%

Trump: 232 (73,923,438) 47.1%

Biden in..

Georgia: +13,000

Nevada: +30,000

Did Trump make HUGE gains in CA and TX?

Doubt is not always a pleasant condition but certainty is absurd.

25 people killed in demonstrations/protests. All but one killed by their fellow citizens…

L[ee Keltner](https://www.denverpost.com/2020/10/17/lee-keltner-protest-shooting-denver/), a navy veteran who made custom western hats, was shot after a “patriot rally” in Denver on 10 October. [Video and photographs of the](https://www.denverpost.com/2020/10/10/dueling-denver-rallies-fatal-shooting-photos/) incident appear to show Keltner slapping a security guard for a local news crew, who responds by pulling out a gun and shooting him.

[Aaron “Jay” Danielson](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/aug/31/portland-police-protest-unlawful-fatal-shooting), a far-right Trump supporter, was shot after a rally in Portland in August. Danielson’s suspected killer, [Michael Reinoehl](https://www.vice.com/en/article/v7g8vb/man-linked-to-killing-at-a-portland-protest-says-he-acted-in-self-defense), was a leftwing protester who called himself an “anti-fascist”, and who was later shot to death by law enforcement officials, an outcome Donald Trump referred to as “[retribution](https://www.oregonlive.com/crime/2020/09/president-trump-on-fatal-police-shooting-of-portland-killing-suspect-michael-reinoehl-thats-the-way-it-has-to-be-there-has-to-be-retribution.html)”.

[Garrett Foster](https://www.texastribune.org/2020/07/31/daniel-perry-austin-protest-garrett-foster/) was [reportedly carrying an AK-47 rifle](https://www.texastribune.org/2020/07/30/garrett-foster-austin-texas-stand-your-ground-self-defense/)when he was shot to death in July by an armed man who had been driving a car through a crowd of [Black Lives Matter](https://www.kvue.com/article/news/local/protests/austin-protest-shooting-the-story-behind-garrett-foster-and-whitney-mitchell/269-6e16209b-9102-491e-81f4-463634de3b85) protesters in Austin. Whether Foster [threatened the driver](https://www.texastribune.org/2020/07/30/garrett-foster-austin-texas-stand-your-ground-self-defense/) with his gun is still disputed. The man who shot and killed Foster, the US army sergeant Daniel Perry, had previously tweeted “Now is the time to take up arms and protect yourselves against violence” and [responded to a Trump tweet](https://www.texastribune.org/2020/07/31/daniel-perry-austin-protest-garrett-foster/) in June about “protesters, anarchists, agitators, looters” by saying,“Send them to Texas we will show them why we say don’t mess with Texas.”

Citing those tweets, analysts at a thinktank that monitors domestic terrorism classified the shooting as an act of [“violent far-right” domestic terrorism](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/oct/22/white-supremacists-rightwing-domestic-terror-2020). But Perry has not yet faced any criminal charges, and a local prosecutor in Texas said the incident was [still under investigation](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/oct/22/white-supremacists-rightwing-domestic-terror-2020).

Both Reinoehl and Perry have claimed they were acting in self-defense when they opened fire and that they felt their own lives were in danger.

In Kenosha in August, a 17-year-old carrying a rifle he was not old enough to legally possess [shot and killed two people](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/aug/26/jacob-blake-shooting-gun-battle-in-kenosha-on-third-night-of-unrest), Joseph Rosenbaum and Anthony Huber, and seriously injured a third at a [volatile late-night protest](https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2020/10/03/kenosha-shooting-victims/?arc404=true). His lawyer has argued the teenager, who came to Kenosha from Illinois, was [also acting in self-defense](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/sep/15/kenosha-shooter-kyle-rittenhouse-trump-republicans).

In Louisville, the photographer [Tyler Gerth](https://www.courier-journal.com/story/news/local/2020/06/28/breonna-taylor-jefferson-square-park-shooting-victim-identified/3274412001/) was shot and killed at a downtown park where protesters gathered. The alleged shooter, Steven Nelson Lopez, was homeless and had a history of severe mental illness, and had [reportedly been asked to leave](https://abc7.com/alleged-killer-of-protester-was-homeless-had-history-of-mental-illness/6294297/) the park earlier because of his behavior. Many of the protesters in the park were armed and on edge, and returned fire when Lopez started shooting, [local news outlets reported](https://abc7.com/alleged-killer-of-protester-was-homeless-had-history-of-mental-illness/6294297/).

In Las Vegas, Jorge Gomez was [wearing body armor and carrying several guns](https://lasvegassun.com/news/2020/jun/07/the-last-minutes-of-jorge-gomezs-life/) when he was shot to death by Las Vegas police at a protest in June. Before he was shot, several protesters told Gomez they disapproved of him being armed, and even a journalist questioned him about why he was holding his gun in his hand with his finger on the trigger, [the Las Vegas Sun reported](https://lasvegassun.com/news/2020/jun/07/the-last-minutes-of-jorge-gomezs-life/). Las Vegas police officer Shay Mikalonis was shot in the head during the same protest, and reportedly [remains paralyzed](https://www.kolotv.com/2020/09/19/man-pleads-not-guilty-to-shooting-paralyzing-las-vegas-officer/) from the injury. Officials have said the 20-year-old Las Vegas resident charged in the shooting had not been participating in the protest before the attack, the [Las Vegas Review-Journal reported](https://www.reviewjournal.com/crime/courts/suspect-in-shooting-of-officer-shay-mikalonis-must-stand-trial-2105611/).

Other law enforcement officers have been injured in non-fatal shootings this year, including two Los Angeles sheriff’s deputies [shot in Compton while sitting in their patrol car](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/sep/13/two-los-angeles-sheriffs-deputies-wounded-compton-ambush-trump)in mid-September, and two Louisville [police officers shot in late September](https://www.cnn.com/2020/09/30/us/louisville-police-officer-shot-protests-recovery/index.html)during a protest over the[lack of serious charges](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/sep/23/protests-erupt-breonna-taylor-decision)against police officers in Breonna Taylor’s killing.

[James Scurlock](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/jun/11/james-juju-scurlock-why-you-should-say-his-name-too), a Black Lives Matter protester with an infant daughter, was shot to death in Omaha in May after a [confrontation with a white bar owner](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/jun/11/james-juju-scurlock-why-you-should-say-his-name-too) outside the man’s bar.

11/27/2020

I feel like I am losing my mind; I feel like the country is losing its mind.

His political project is cynical and reprehensible. He is a rabid partisan. He cloaks “values” in a no-nothing loyalty to the cause— he understands power and biases and the expediency and catchiness for marketing purposes of employing catch insulting nicknames and catch phrases.

“Just saw the vote tabulations. There is NO WAY Biden got 80,000,000 votes!!

This was a 100% rigged election. Trump Tweet.

Thank you to the regarders, observers, seers, hearers, hopers, prayers, save-the-whatevers, the comics, the ones who keep the streets safe, those who seek consensus when the can and should, and not just stacking out their negotiated dogma every 4 boring years.

11/26/2020

Deep blue

1994 beatable

1996 WON

2004 too goo to even bother…

11/24/2020

What is the German Right scene like right now? Has it connected with the American scene at all?

Validate my effort to invalidate millions of valid cast ballots.

Conspiracy theory: ounce of truth, pound of life.

Trump continues to operate his own little reality show.

11/23/2020

‘Sometimes,’ Helena continued. ‘I have a terrible dream of the future. Not now, but presently, people may forget their loyalty to their kings and emperors and take power for themselves Instead of letting one victim bear this frightful curse they will take it all on themselves, each one of them. Think of all the misery of a whole world possessed by Power without Grace.” (from *Helena* by Evelyn Waugh)

Want to spray my grievance in the face of every man.

How do you talk about politics in a balanced, inclusive, constructive way, if the whole idea about discussing politics has become this obnoxious sports enthusiast rhetorical crassness blasting like a braindead megaphone into the public domain, the collective consciousness, the collective brain. What’s the going rate for a WORD from our SPONSER, what’s the going GET for a CLICK?

Politicking, like salesmenship is a form of railroading and opportunisci manipulation at its best is straight up relationship alienating.

Generic tag-drop

The tone and language of your politicking seems to communicate an aggressive defensiveness and insecurity that keeps you from being empathetic and Christlike, open to difference, tolerant of otherness and progress.

Any rhetoric that categorically groups people together and casts sweeping projections on them is dangerous. Especially if its disparaging, especially if it confirms existing biases, reinforces them, deepens them. Rain fall beating through erodible limestone.

People are very complex, knowing something about the electorate is important to understand what the results mean. We seem to be in this battle between white rural America and multi-ethnic urban America. We necessarily are going to arrive at some different conclusions. The suburbs seem to be mitigating this standoff.

Trump has lost and politics limps forward amongst lame ducks and specious lawsuits. Christmas is coming and the goose is getting fat.

11/22/2020

There’s a 5 o’clock curfew in California.

Something’s spreading… understanding a bit more about how rumors and conspiracies are spread on the internet and beyond.

We really did dodge a bullet by not reelecting a terrible lead. How do you love the other side while also judging the other side. I think it is overly simplistic and obfuscating to talk about “the other side”, especially domestically. There is no other side. We are all Americans. We are all part of the same system. Sure it has flexpoints and shortcomings, but I think we can all agree that we are operating under the same system— but then that takes us into the mythic realm— the existential realm— who are we? What rhetoric do we want to construct around the mythos of our sense of being? What is the tone of our carrion call for self-determination.

My answer to this— which shall be my life project is to claim shared ancestry and tradition with all people— humans against the universe. There are leaders that help us transcend ourselves and help bring us in closer to the whole, closer to God if you will. There are leaders that emphasize our selfness and the otherness of others.

I want to live my life in in incessant prayer with that which binds us at the heart of my meditation. And that which extends me beyond my mean, singular, solidary, circumscribed existence.

11/21/2020

Much like the Catholic Church, the Republican party is now lashed to the libidos of uneducated white men.

11/20/2020

Conspiracy theories abound. We are drowning in a familiar sea. Acrimonious. A personality completely derailed the American Political Conversation. He has done his best to dominate the conversation. And he has. And it has been exhausting for us all.

Given latitude to challenge without mounting a credible case.

What are we even talking about right now? The whole thing was a vote. I cast my vote. Now they need to do their good work. In four more years let’s have another chat about it. Has anything in the last 40 years made you think that okay, maybe I will vote Democratic this time.

I know it’s a process. But the whole thing is absurd. Another example of the difference between the CROWD and the INDIVIDUAL. What is our role as citizens for politicking in the crowd and politicking in private? With the current polarization, nuance and middle ground and begrudging support have all been steamrolled by partisan fury. If you are not enraged then you are weak. If you are not afraid then you are stupid.

Am I simply seeking the courage to be perceived by my family as weak and stupid? To humbly go before them and say, okay I hear what you are saying, I don’t think we see eye to eye on this, now what do you want to do? Do you want to keep talking about it a lot and kind of define our relationship around it, or are we going to grow past it, over it? My mother seemed to conflate not talking about political things as not talking about religious ones either and this makes sense because her two catchphrase or jargon packed rhetorical practices are Catholic and Conservative and these two orthodoxies inform her thinking and judgement on everything. She carries her truths out ahead as truths that one believes strongly in as the One good and pure truths should. She feels justified in her self-righteous tone and her indignate proclaimations against an ever murkier cast of THEYs

“It’s difficult to image a worse, more undemocratic action by a sitting American President.” M.R. re: D.T.

Tucker Carlson:

Now to be perfectly clear, we did not dismiss any of it. We don’t dismiss anything anymore, particularly when its related to technology. We’ve talked to too many Silicon Valley whistleblowers and we’ve seen too much after four years on the air. We literally do UFO segments, not because we’re crazy or even very interested in the subject, but because there is evidence that UFOs are real and everyone lies about it.

There’s evidence that a lot of what responsible people dismiss out of hand as ridiculous are in fact real.

The louder the Yale political science department and the staff at the Atlantic Monthly scream “conspiracy theory” the more interested we tend to be.

Political messaging demands the absence of doubt, reasonable concession, humility and even a certain degree of humanity.

Trumpian fascism uses race to drum up support

For its base fear politics

While accusing the opposition for fear mongering,

Relentlessly attacking the media for attacking him.

He wants a fight, it’s the only way he can operate.

With him you are either loyal and subservient or at odds.

I pledge you. I pledge myself

To a new deal for the American people.

**Date Covid Deaths**

8/24 172,807

9/11 190,000

11/21 253,000

4/30/21 575,000

11/19/2020

4Chan, QANON, Comet, PingPong, Pizzagate

11/18/2020

Need more details of the Eucahrist… the terminology, the vestements, the crucibles, the gilded instruments and apparatuses.

A dream of Donald Trump performing the Eucharist— maskless and coughing all over the host and drooling sputum that he hacked up from his lungs. He hacks/hawks a loogie into the golden goblet he is rambling over— bigly, the goldenest.

The faithful line up to take the body that has been broken for them. Some people said it was the best eucharist they had ever had. Perhaps ever. The best.

Writing, including details as they bubble up— suggest themselves, you know, what can you say to art— the million choices that go in to all that you would like to make— and some make and make it— and other fall apart angry and shitty— bitched out and mother consumed— you called the Governor a Nazi, you floated out highly debatable assertions into national conversations on race and equality and the like— social justice.

I want to fly over the tropes and the traps of white liberation. We cannot help but be sucked into the politicking of the moment though can we…

Would love to say that I only do politicks in the even of all out war.

Politicking is all about dividing. Setting up camps. Securing funding. Using the scalpel and the sledgehammer of language to railroad the conversation inti a narrow set of clear choices— it is the opposite of reality and the opposite of the free market— a proliferation of choice, ultimate choice, ultimate competition.

In the political arena there have been concerted efforts by both parties to restrict the “free market” of the political system— there certainly has been much written about this. I accept that we have a system— I recognize that it is limited and imperfect and I accept that.

Will Donald Trump make a mint when he gets out of office or will it ruin him?

All hail unverified information

That confirms our biases.

You are the new violence.

Essential reading

With your hidden and not so hidden

Messages and massages.

Keep eating your Wheaties, Sweety!

Moonlight and magnolias

Old bar stocked full

Of spirits of various proofs

Ghosts in the parlor

Madame waiting to begin the ceremony

Cook in the kitchen

With midnight’s feast a’stewing.

Mark my words,

Their unilateral uniformity will end up

Being key to your eventual ruin.

Our rude undoing.

Buried hunches in your garden plot.

Regard your belly warmed gold. You, my dear, are not the keeper of the truth. Nor is your lover, Don Juan. Dad, probably had it closest in the end— winner of trophies, keeper of the middle miles of our great nation.

11/17/2020

11/17/1973: “I am not a crook.”

11/16/2020

Turnout in Philadelphia precincts where the population is predominantly Black was down 6 percent. In mostly rural areas across the South that are predominantly Black, turnout was up only slightly, and there was a modest shift to Mr. Trump. The exception was heavily contested Georgia, where turnout in areas with a large share of Black voters was way up, and shifted to Mr. Biden.

2016 2020 new

Rep 63m 73m 10.1m

Dem 65.8m 78.5m 12.6m

Trump gained in Hispanic majority areas (+200,000 in Dade county alone) and rural heartland, massive voter drive in rural areas.

The Piedmont South: from Atlantic coast to Appalachian mountains.

Biden benefited from a substantial increase of support from white college educated white people.

“Trump’s character and antics in office sent his backing among this large group plummeting. Blue-collar whites loved it, but their numbers could not substitute for losses elsewhere.”

Stay at home advisor:

* Leave home for work, school, medical care, grocery store, pharmacy, take out food.
* Social distancing and face masks
* Limit household gatherings
* Avoid all non-essential travel
* Limit to 10 person gatherings inside and outside.

Christina Victoria Grimmie

Born: 3/12/1994

Died: 6/10/2016

* Zeldaxlove64 (youtube channel)
* Just a dream: 160 million views
* The third place finisher on the Voice was shot dead…what? Christina Victoria Grimmie was shot by an obsessive fan after a performance in Orlando. She greeted the fan, Kevin Hames Loibl with open arms and he shot her three times and then broke away and shot himself….
* Shot by an obsessive fan. She greeted him with a hug. And he fucking shot her…Sex and violence…powerlessness.. power… connection at all costs?
* Killer: Kevin James Loibl: weight loss, hair-plugs, eye surgery (to make himself more attractive for Christina; became angry and defensive when asked about his obsession. Reflecting on the many, many layers of obsessive, tangled mess of inchoate desires and plans. Realities. Necessities. Liberties.
* Something tragic about talent, and popularity and celebrity and violence. And fascinating/horrifying Florida. Orlando where the three closest restaurants to my apartment were McDonalds and I was alone and car commuting and hiding from the heat with the air-conditioner blasting frost on all the windows when I was out for the day that one time.
* Could expand on that tragedy- she was a contestant and third place finisher on that show *The Voice*. Before that prominence she had been a youtube celebrity and after the voice she seemed to be managing her career well. And then a super fan who had had dental work and hair plugs put in and the traveled to Orlando from his far flung Florida home and shot the woman as she was spreading her arms out to embrace him. He shot her three times and then shot himself dead after struggling with the original victims brother and then breaking free. Very sad. Her mother died two years later from cancer. All in all a pretty tragic family, no? Who was this crazy guy though? Why do people do that kind of stuff? What happens between the bad feeling and the bad action. That is the shadow. That is the shadow, I know I know…
* How did she communicate with fans. How did fans react to her death?

Had my parents become religious fascist who valued strength at the expense of nuance, or even reality, an old-testement sort of strength. Solid and trumpeted and righteous. Not some lame ass consensus seeking sychophant, wetting his pants while he waits for the chaperone to fetch his pony.

11/14/2020

My programming backlog has me feeling full low.

Caught in a moment unable to embrace the familial warmth all around.

Conflicted about when to work, when to play, a very old story, no?

Hating Saturday for its ambiguity and seen from both ways-ness

Caught up wrestling with this other mind, this Saturday mind,

Suddenly only half-convinced of the wisdom of the mission.

No, that’s not it, it’s all or nothing, it’s ***Alles oder Nichts!***

Tired of this Saturday mind. Tired of feeling conflicted about time

And space and religion and politics . How can it all be so tiresome despite all our dear technology… or perhaps so tiresome because of it. The ubiquity. The pumped into our house-ness. Way more invasive than anything George Orwell cooked up for 1984 back in 1948.

What’s the point of any of this other than to play our part? I personally like my part and think it is a very good one. I have a good one. Satanic self-ness my mother says— as I faulter in the green of her fundamentalist dream kingdom. And I am rubbing smoke and sparking aggression. Feeling the false energy in my bones— nervous system— because the night expands only and does not contract and death is the hunter of the infinite night.

11/13/2020

To a narcissist other people are either great or terrible.

Effective in weaponizing rhetoric. Demonizing opposition. These are not new tactics.

Money got behind the white masses.

White Christian Nationalists.

2,500 counties vs. 500 (more populous, more prosperous)

Governor Nazi vs. I’d vote for Hitler over him at this point.

This type of rhetoric does not get expressed in a bubble or in a non-recorded transcript. With ears to hear, or eyes to see we put these toxins into the public domain.

Mother fucker is using a sacred national monument to make a highly partisan speech on a weekend in which should be about national unity— not demonization and political posturing— where is on iota of your leadership ideal in this guy? Where is the Jesus flavor you have always demanded in your leaders. Pensive Mike has that in spades! That creepy white haired fuck. He seems fake as shit if you ask me.

How do we bridge the divide between the conservative and progressive camps in our country.

Ralph Waldo Emerson Conservative and Progressive quote.

Gabriel Garcia Marquez quote about conservatives and liberals.

Fascist and Communist epithets have been being lobbed back and forth for some time.

Why are you so angry, Mother?

Why are you so angry, Father?

How do you communicate across divides in order to reframe the conversation around mutually beneficial goals? How do we achieve well-functioning, responsible, administration of this immense and diverse country of ours? How do we keep trying to see past and grow past our biases? How do we lift up without patronizing? How do we humble ourselves without stumbling into oblivion and insecurity? These are the questions worth posing. Needles worth squinting over so we can eventually thread our threads through.

Eastland Disaster: 7/27/1915

Tulsa Massacre: 8/11/1921

We’ve abstracted the process: Now I can take the government down with my vote alone.

11/03/2021

Jasmine Mulan

Elsa Ariel

Elsa Belle

Cinderella Ariel

Aurora Pochahontas

Tiana Belle

High becomes low low becomes high.

Madison…Mackenzie…Taylor…

**Trump**. The word in such phrases as a *trumped up affair*, *trumpery*, etc., is the same words as *trumpet*; from Fr. *trompe*, a trumpet, whence *tromper* which, originally meaning “to play on a trumpet,” came to mean to beguile, deceive, impose upon.

**The last trump*.*** The final end of all things earthly; the Day of Judgement.

*We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump. – 1 Cor. Xv, 51,52.*

**To play one’s last trump.** To be reduced to one’s last expedient: a phrase from cardplaying.

**Trumpet.** *See* Trump *above*.

**To blow one’s own trumpet**. To publish one’s own praises, good deeds, etc. The allusion is to heralds, who used to announce with a flourish of trumpets the knights who entered a list. Similarly, *your trumpeter* *is dead* means that you are obliged to sound your own praised because no one will do it for you.

11/12/2020

**YEAR Candidate Counties vwotes GDP%**

2016 H.C. 472 65,853.625 64%

D.T. 2,584 62,985,106 36%

2020 J.B. 477 75,602,458 70%

D.T. 2,497 71,216,709 29%

Culture, identity, power: different swathes of the economy

Left leaning, but wanting to do right by my family.

How do I reverse this?

11/21/2020

My truths are all foreknown.

I’m naked to the bone.

Disarmed for my protection.

A shield of naked flesh.

A lot of questions, not many answers.

Setting up a confrontation.

Looking for a fight.

Stating something to prove his rightness.

How smart he is.

How indignant the other side makes him.

The rage of history rattling the clapboard shutters on their hinges.

A provocateur.

This is a style.

An entertainer.

A coiner of phrases.

An exaggerator.

But what is his intention?

What is his heart?

What is his milleu? Purpose? Intention? Role?

Is this the best source? Why do you listen to him?

11/11/2020

Presidents who defeated an incumbent this century:

Roosevelt 1932

Reagan 1980

Clinton 1992

Biden 2020

Judge Daniel Kiley agreed with election official’s assertions that the public “has a right to know how flimsy (the) plaintiffs evidence actually is.

2000 Supreme court stopped the recount => would cast “a needless and unjustified cloud” over his legitimate election.

Popular vote Gore Bush

48.38% 47.87%

All hale fear. A fear that divides us and strips us of all human dignity.

I want out of your apocalyptic politics.

Take up your cross in love.

There are many different ways that you can manifest the love of Christ. What is the point? What is the purpose of your religious practice. To manifest the love of Christ or something? Are you? But? Any time there is a But between your stated ideal and goal and your actual performance and actions, you should take a hard look at that but.

Our comforts just ain’t that dangerous to the old devil.

No more bullets, no more snideness, no more attacking when attacked, of course tact— of course truth, questions sure, but no bullets— no rage— but can we call rage— it’s the rage and anger I have tried to mitigate. I don’t give a shit about a league of saints. I would like to be a morally solid person and to grow in my moral judgement but not at the price of becoming a stodgy embittered moralist who can’t take in any new information. I read that piece and it seems to be calling for a cessation of masks and social distancing. What about the shared sacrifice and inconvenience of public health measures— getting over your ego and accepting that you can make theses simple sacrifices and mitigate the risk faced by your fellow citizens. That seems more reasonable than just unmasking and stopping social distancing and telling letting God decide who lives or dies— which is ultimately true anyways, but it is quite common for us as a group to accept measures to mitigate risk of death for ourselves and others— tobacco taxes, smoking bans, alcohol tax, drunk driving statutes, traffic laws, motocycle helmet laws, seat belt laws, regulations on food and drugs and products, building codes, health guidelines, preventative medicine, personal moderation and diet, home security systems, locks, security cameras, legal code in general, torts, caution signs.

11/09/2020

Distrustful of the government they demand that it codifies their morality into law.

There are 86,400 seconds / day

31,536,000 / year

31.7 years = 1,000,000,000 seconds

D R

9/3/20 334 204

10/3/20 332 206

11/9/2020 306 232

50.7% 47.7%

75,462,478 70,952,231

I went around and notated where the 2 Bide signs were in my Neighbrohood!! Now I know where my enemy lives and eats.

Dems don’t create, all they understand is Burn-Loot-Murder

So much anger and rage and demonizeing of the other side.

A month before the election the incumbent and a few of his allies were hospitalized with the virus.

Do you believe the media is a critical piece of our democracy.

Why is it he seems to do all of things he accuses other people of doing?

Democracy: it creates the obligations to submit to the will of the majority. Legally, since the individual has agreed to its rul; morally, since he is still obeying his will, which is that this general will shall rule.

Joe Biden will be sworn in as the next American President on January 20, 2021 at 12:00 noon.

“I wish Godspeed to the man who was my former opponent and will be my president.” – John McCain to Pres. Obama after ceding defeat in the 2008 election.

All writers are narcissistic. Which isn’t to say that all writers are narcissists as in sociopaths. Most writers think about their thoughts more than the average person. And that is a narcissistic behavior? Philosophy is a narcissistic behavior? Analysis is a narcissistic behavior? Descension is a form of narcissistic behavior? My issue with my mother’s comments on the feed and then during our conversation on the phone was this deep disappointment of her lack of self-awareness. How she was letting these big mouths, these big personalities take the bullhorn of her message an amplify it and meld it in with all this anti-science, anti-technology, anti-prgress, anit-globalism, anti-immigration, anti-city, anti-minority, anti-secular mix of inchoate rage and then you unloaded it on me. Snarling about people putting bricks through windows and Governor Nazi and how THEY had caused such a problem in Texas pushing for wind power and how if THEY cared about health so much why weren’t THEY making sure that Katie got a second maternity leave. And if THEY cared about health so much why were THEY pushing for 5 am bars and expanded gambling. What the hell were THEY thinking? What are we even talking about here? The conversation is being directed from above. The two camps expend a lot of effort to frame the issues and the elections as they see fit, as they are surveyed and analyzed into a Plan of Action. Politics goes on and on and on. The Manichean distinctions. Evil and good. Light and darkness.

Attacked facts sometimes can only mumble back

Their response can be hard to catch, especially if your ears are plugged.

I have been affected by politics in ways I can hardly comphrehend. And By rhetoric and by the rhetoric of the times and by having to react to other epople’s rhetoric. Bring my anxiety and their anxiety in to conversation. Are you seeing someone? Are you writing? Are you finding ways to take care of your emotional Bowel Movements? The last four years have been the best and the worst four years of my life. I have suffered to get myt family off the ground. I have suffered and then was delivered up to oblivion and now having inherited my dowery of nothingness I am sullend and shifty eyed and wild. I am a broken child. And this is the desert moment. The moment to seek the source.

11/10/2020

Trump has the Republican Party locked up.

What will be the story next year?

2016 Trump winning

2017 Tax cut?

2018 Worse Mid-term drubbing since Watergate fallout for the Republicans.

2019 Impeachment

2020 Contested election

2021 Capital invasion, Biden inauguration,

Is this your party’s country, or is this the citizen’s country. This country does not belong to any party.

We have a process. We have a tradition. We have decorum. We have laws. We have a constitution. We have a president who doesn’t give a fuck.

“Communism” and “Fascism” are kneejerk words used forever to divide Americans.

Strength in difference, comfort where we overlap.

Respecting the process.

I know what we should do… let’s leverage Jesus and whiteness and fear

Personal responsibility:

* Individuality, self-expression, kindness, choice (options) religions freedom

I don’t feel religiously free, because your every insinuation is that unless I agree with you on religion and seemingly on politics because your politics are so deeply and pious rooted in your religion that I am the enemy, unsaved, lost, living in sin, in need of evangelism, a reminded of Christs love, your reminder of Chirsts love comes across as a reminder to me that you feel like I need a reminder of Christs love and its not that I just forgot, but that I am willfully trying to avoid Him. I am willfully attempting to resist and sinfully ignore the true calling of God and these are fine messages for me to receive from you because they are the truth. Like your other truths about evil liberals and what every THEY you are complaining about when we talk. Thus far THEY have been whoever is responsible for pushing for expanded bar hours in Michigan, legalizing internet gambling and building electric windmills in Texas which at least in her telling were a big reason for all the suffering down there. THEY didn’t think about the windmills icing up did they? Not in Texas now did. Given that there are windmills all over the country and in much less temperate climates than Texas, I’m thinking some thought was given to cold conditions for those things, but whatever. Oh, yeah, and they were also who ever is legislating our public health response and our family leave. THEY say they care about the poor so much, but when Katie has two babies in one year does her private employer who has zero legal liability to do so denies her a second maternity leave it is THERE fault that she is slipping through the cracks. And THEY are the working poor. THEY ended up coming through though and sending Kate $5,000 + which I am sure made taking a little bit of time with her newborn easier.

How do you debunk without falling into the gotcha game? How do you engage with rage and not get enraged yourself. How do you speak calmly when any attempt at nuance or common ground is rebuffed as weakness, immorality, or non-traditional and therefore disrespectful to our forefathers who must be deities of good judgement despite them all of course being heroically and trajeically lashed to the fashions of their times as we all are. For humanity does not advance by some simple generic illumination, but my a successful, unpredictable, bottle up and exploded, trickle out and erode everything and all in between. A processions of needs.

History is a procession of needs.

A condition of complete simplicity, consisting of not less than everything.

We are fellow citizens. Not enemy combatants.

Red meat and an inherited economy ain’t gonna cut it.

Red meat callousness and a war on facts aint gonna cut it at all.

Any aid that comes near T is required to don protective garb according to a person familiar with the matter.

11/09/2020

Tucker Carlson and Sean Hannity: “We don’t know”, “I’m just saying”

Rigged, fraud, stolen

‘The stolen election fantasy is the new birtherism, right down to the racist incantations about Philadelphia.” – Evan Osnos

Never-ending, nonstop psychotic rage and hatred for four years.

This is a knotty issue. Everything has become an existential threat.

Advertising— fear, ignorance, individuality: we are all snowflakes now.

11/08/2020

2016 Grand Rapids, MI rally

2020 Grand Rapids, MI rally

We want a normal life.

Normal life. Take us back. Take us back.

Seven months ago.

Every country is proud and exceptional and gifted and cursed and we live at the mercy of fate.

Rudy Guliani holding press conference at the Four Season in Philadelphia… the Four Season’s Total landscaping, a squat building in an industrial part of the city between an adult bookstore and a crematorium.

Momentum would eventually shift against Trump and his consistently belligerent tone.

We are reminded of the import weight and stabilizing pols of America’s Democratic Institutions.

Where does the “America First Movement” go from here.

Does he sow doubt in the system and stoke prejudice against fellow citizens?>

Governor Nazi, she snarls.

How do you not recognize the toxicity of this mother fucker?

He has led you down a road of marginalization.

Sound the last Trump!

We’ve moved on from your toothless ruthlessness.

We’d like a little more finesse would that be all right?

The darkening night, blankets on amnesia, ambrosia for Abram-man, lamb by lamb

Day by day, chasing skirts by night, dame by dame

11/06/2020

Miracle, the answer to the corona virus, nation of miracles, he was winning and then miraculously then he wasn’t. Sharpie gate- weather system was worried about contradicting the President and the President was just talking out of his ass about weather, but then had the audacity to try and pawn off an obviously altered map, a map that had been altered with a sharpie marker… “Stop the Steal”. Mass campaign that I note here on the 11/05/2020 and that would ultimate reach its ultimate crescendo on 01/06/2020 on the day congress had gathered to certify the electoral college votes (and also just the vote in general) only to have their work interrupted by an angry mob of “Stop the steal” enraged Trump supporters. The whole thing was disgraceful and sordid and shook the institutions of our country right to the core. They endured though. They held. The sum greater than the parts, no matter how powerful the branch, the trunk kept us whole despite his lies.

But this was all later. Now. Right now. We are still in November, 2020. Three days ago we held an election. Trump once again had levered boomers latent rebellious nature to rebel against sense and logic and facts in his endless electioning and tweet firestorms. Truly taking the bully pulpit to some new heights of bully. Even as his wax figurine first lady is pushing for great bully awareness and protectful. It would be farcical if it wasn’t so goddamned weird and sad. And the Christian right are all up his ass. My parents just enthrall. You know sometimes God uses fornicating mean (no another word meaning sexually impure) men who were strong leaders, ro something about god understanding and needing strong leaders with libidos or some weird shit. This is why I need to jot this stuff down. This is why it is such a discipline. Just like my CRM work in my watch selling career, if I am going to stay on top of all of this I am going to need to deal with it consistently.

Against the other we are.

Patriots. Anti-immigration. Pro-guns and low taxes, Christian religious hegemony

Politics is a badminton fiasco of learning to turn any criticism back upon the criticizer, an agile act, or a rabid one, whatever it takes to flip the bird back.

Trump won MI by 10,000 votes in 2016

11/03/2020

Presidential Popular vote 2020:

DEMS (BIDEN) REPS(TRUMP)

**51.3% (81,281,502) 46.9% (75,222,593)**

Dems- PA, GA, NV, WI, MI

Resp- NC

Total votes cast: **158,394,605**

Would your world view crumble if America was no longer exceptional?

New World, New Eden, religious freedom (what did that look like?) Manifest Destiny to take the continent. Economic Dynamism fed by immigration, immense natural resources and stable borders saving us from the never ending threat of war— we held the Vikings at bay.

War of Independence, War of 1812 (30 years), Civil War (50 years), W.War I (50 years), WWII (20 years), Korean War (5 years), Vietnam War (10-15 years), Gulf War (15 years), Gulf War II / Afganistan (10 years)… and that was 15 years…(rough average of every 25 years or so we start another major conflict…)

Incompetent, narcissistic, cruel, and relentlessly dishonest.

I don’t like the culture that your worldview creates or tries to uphold, or falsely, fasciistly attempts to recreate.

Guess whose wrong here? All of us. We are all wrong. If history has taught us anything— despite out ideals and religoions and fervor and education and lengthening life expectancies we are still very wrong about a few key things (many key things in fact, in fact there are likely keys that we don’t even know about yet, and other keys that we are death grip holding on to that are yielding nothing… So what to make of this wrongness— this prison earth, this prison body, the evil steel cage around my heart, my withering attempts to be.

The Cleveland River river and Lake Eire on fire and everything that went into making that pollution situation crest out of control.

10/31/2020

Why are cities historical liberal and rural areas conservative? What does this say about society? History? Politics? Geography?

We have an economic interest in liberals in the city— immigration, diversity of needs, ethnic diversity, culinary diversity, eclectic influences. Progress. The cutting of the edge. The pushing of envelops generally happens more often in cities. More anonymity. Different social expectations. Old friend can travel a mile away. A half mile a way and still not reach out. Time and space are different in the city. Less convenience. More confined. More possibility of contengncies. More need for order and regulation. We don’t have the buffer space and good fences that can resolve much in less dense communities.

That said, Wendell Berry seems to embody a positive creative conservatism that is a boon. I am open now and a cypher and I’m ready to let the light in.

Annoyances are symptoms of something. Bias pathology can be tricky to follow though.

11/02/2020

Shoot from the hip.

Pitch in your two pence.

Call on our nation of miracles

To act with passion in the most mundane of ways.

Do it as you would have your teeth cleaned

Or hair cut or dog groomed or gutters unblocked.

Go on now— get your coat.

Go vote.

Somewhere a good mother is just getting off the late shift,

Somewhere twin brothers are committing suicide, too troubled by health concerns and unbearable thoughts of separation. Somewhere a billionaire is running a sex ring of minors. Cocks fight in the open. People talk of systems theoretical and broken. Idealistic and flawed. When did management become just an act of imagination. Rhetorical flourish, ketchup on fries, shit on flies.

10/30/2020

A queer country put (clown, silly, shallow-pile)

Are we giving purity tests now? 1,000,000 tests a day.

I just want some assurances that I can expect kindness from you.

Old usage vs. accommodation to new facts.

* They arrived with new facts and were hated instantly.

Pussyfoot Johnson (1882-1945)

W.E. Johnson who gained the sobriquet from his unwavering advocating of prohibition and his silent, stealthy, relentless methods of enforcing it. It is partly owing to his determination and pertinacity that Prohibition was introduced in 1919.

10/27/2020

The microphone drone on and on but says nothing of the most pressing issue of the day. The rhetorical shives run ripshod over reality. Cherry picking indicators and data we are able to shape any message into an avalanche of words and emotions— emotion, dreams, ideals, eschatological paranoia bubbling, bubbling up from the ancient pathways of our guts— organs that have been running the same code for millennia— your consciousness— so pumped up with self-importance— is but a software update at best. It believes it is in control, but aside from solving the problems that it created itself, it doesn’t get much done.

We leave the day to day,

Nuts and bolts of it— the breathing, blood flow, digestion,

To the entrenched bianary symphony of the organs.

I am in charge, I am not in charge…

The Packer Suck. They haven’t won a superbowl in forever. Their fans are just a bunch of rednecks.

Maybe the depression had to run through me like a fever— maybe I just needed some time to settle in and establish myself. Understand my mind— write throuogh the block that resulted from the split and collapse fo my personality during my hustle years. My mind has changed from a year ago- my outlook has changed rom a year ago. I have at last melded my working and private persona to a much greated degree. I am thrilled with this development. And this progress has been made by cutting back on alcohol and marijuana in fact. Finding a vocational path that inspires me. Putting in place a hard break from my paretns and their corrosive idealogoy and smouldering grievances. I tried to stay vulnerable with my mother and my father, but now I have completely reversed my emotive fialial obligations. I need to be free to love them. I can no longer be vulnerable and wounded with them. Our separation is hurtful, but is it not the most necessary thing generation to generation and if I have been unkind or unaccepting, then I apologivze, but you need to realize that your words have consequences and emotive, sometimes ttactking, aggressive import.

10/24/2020

Why does religion, like politics have to be something that is done in public- if at all.

Idealism = bullets

No more bullets.

Arizona, Georgia, Iowa, N. Carolina, Texas, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Wisconsin

Parallel and intersecting commitments

Synchronous tasks

Middle-aged

Tired, sore, overcommitted,

Over-worked, under compensated.

Exercise, drink less, smoke less, lose weight, more writing, more reading.

Be not afraid to live in words

Politicians lie even when they are being honest.

Political veracity ain’t a good barometer to sync your mood to.

Is my anxiety amplified by the political process?

Should I concede that some of that drama is fabricated, and shouldn’t be regarded as the full truth of the matter, should I ground my peace in that which I value and that which I have the most direct ability to protect and support. Should I abstract some of the more complicated threads of our society. Should I be willfully ignorant about some things despite the fact that so, so many things are clamoring to explain themselves to me. Should I let other people’s values threaten me.

What are we talking about here exactly?

What are we calling for?

What are the options?

What are we voting on?

What is the proposition that we are weighing in on?

What are the key controversies with this topic. Get them to articulate the controversy. Get them to talk through the controversy and why they are so made about it. Take notes on what they express and how they characterize the opposition. The incessant demonization and belittling of the opposition certainly comes out of the sporting instinct to oppositionally define oneself. Aggressive demonization of the opposition has always seemed unhinged to me. Especially if the more extreme and violent expressions are able to find footing on the less aggressive, less offensive artifacts. I take issue with how puerile a lot of it is. Not even in good humor or good taste. Just tacky political noise. Protest Kitsch. A black hand middle finger patch to add to your jean jacket.

True or false the secular is synonymous with the Satanic?

10/23/2020

Key Swing States: Arizona, Florida, Michigan, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin

10/22/2020

Thank you, Trump. Thank you, White Nationalism, thank you cancel culture salvation theory, thank you for eternally ripping me from my mother’s poisoned mind. Thank you Robert Bly and Joseph Campbell. I went to her room and took the key, unleashed the Wildman and obsconded to the forest. Where the Woodman and the laughing Buddha met me. And since then, I’ve been free.

No more bullets- engage and question.

All through the 4th of July

a transciprt of a country divided

Transcript of another lost chance

24/7 cycle, 24/7 psycho

We discussed the confederacy over coffee. And you spoke up for all the good things about the confederacy, which you never explicitly detailed. I don’t know that I wanted to hear them.

The Conferdate Flag is not a racist symbol… but when the neighbors ran one up the poll when Ben Carson, a black doctor moved in, it turned out to be a blessing, because it stared the dialogue that ultimately brought peace and acceptance in the neighborhood. So this community pressured their neighbor into rejecting their racist symbols. She sort of praised the flag as an ice breaker. I tried to get clever and personal and silly. Hans got all quiet and “thoughtful” and santimonious. Maybe he is a little schizophrenic.

Don’t speak in hypotheticals about political things. Let’s talk about fact and reality and performance and approval rating.

10/21/2020

My drinking at Thanksgiving 2016 was absolutely a cry for help. That was some of the craziest drinking I have ever done. To get that drunk around my family. That was perhaps only rivaled by how drunk I got in 2008 when Obama was elected and we were in southern Yunnan. Or the lightening drunk I engaged in on the 25th of November which provided the impetus to dial it back on the drinking.

But, yeah, the Thanksgiving drinking was unhinged- I was despairing- I hated my job, had no idea what the fuck I was going to do with my life and no clear path for finding a way forward. Fast forward 4 years and I am 2.5 years into my openness to tech. During that time I have been able to unwind from the emotional trauma that the last 8 years of working a dead end job that played against my strengths- a draining occupation, trying to work a profession that you were ill-suited for. Working at it and doing well at it and earning a little bit of money to float us through the family establishing years, the kids birthday years.

12 Year Cycle

What if I had told you in 2008 that you would live in Beijing for two years and then struggle to find an in for your Chinese and then fall into luxury retail and work that for almost 8 years during which time you will have two daughters, first an African American President will be elected for 8 years followed by a nativist Donald Trump, and then aided by a global pandemic and a generational legacy of racial violence freed up to focus on my dual vocation of writing and coding.

Undeserved suffering, renewed exceptionalism, triumphant crowing. We claim our American exceptionalism once more.

Mass movements absorb individual angst, alienation, suffering.

10/20/2020

Biden 52.2%

Trump 41.9%

Trump Approval: 42.8%

Trump disapproval: 53.3%

10/19/2020

Aware, please away with your newly minted truths. Your sudden tying in “cancel culture” with your salvation theology. Its absurd and heartbreaking. But this clash of ideas and ots absurdity finally shattered the thin plexiglass divider between politics and theology which has always been dangerous thin in our household growing up. Ultimately this was the rocket fuel for the fire that burned out and dissolved many of the unhealthy, unwinnable, unresolvable unconstructive conflicts in my life. Yes, mother, yourntying your thoughts on salvation to Trumpian rhetoric has finally launched me free of your spiritual and intellectual orbit. I no longer feel obligated to hold in awe your standard. You have denigrated good sense with your poor judgement and bline allegieance. You who love to speak of how this and that is just like the Nazis. Look around you woman and listen to the rhetoric. Look at your tent and all around at the pale uneducated masses, crassly lurching this way and that spasmodically gesticulating with mirth. Let me be the first to say— it makes a man thirsty. And look at me, well north of 30. Burnt out and falling into myself. Winding the string from the kite faraway to my hand just here, near, close, familiar, familial.

Well regarded. Honest. Easy to control.

My mom has always been a sort of Imam— so loving, but also super judgemental. So giving, but also carrying with it some whiff of spiritual or moral superiority. I have paid deference to her all thes years. Somehow I think I got it into my head that I could somehow mitigate my heretical status in the faniy by feeling bad about it and keep my resistance, passive, keep my rhetoric conciliatory. Keep my responses neutral or inquisitive—

Be quick to surrender. If you are handily winning the war anyone battle is of no great import. Attrition breaks in your favor. Perserving family order and calm and harmony I realize that I was able to maintain this status quo by internalzing their messages of otherness and failure to see the light. My mom would send me emails with quotes from Catholic thinkers— which is fine, except there would always be some introductory remarks from her framiung the knowledge as an opportunity to overcome my ignorance so that my refusal of Christ’s invitation to dine at his banquet would be made out of self-exclusion instead of ignorance.

This dynamic of having these ignorance messages hurled at me— my blindness, my wilfullness, my selfishness— all iminating from the very woman who birthed me. Whose name is Mary and who is very Cahtolic. Froma family of 9 children. She had isx and now at the time of writing she has 18 grandchildren with one on the way. I am ostracized in my family for not being Catholic and not fully embracing LIFE in general (anti-abortion, anti-contraconcption, etc.) all the messages, as an ernest loving son have been internalized. My lack of vocational vision has stood before me for the last decade plus as exhibit “A” in the I don’t know the first fucking thing about running my life. Three out of my four siblings followed dad to the T and didn’t seek a career outside of the house and instead married a medical professional. We now have a P.A., another doctor, and a floor managing nurse on our family roster. I am not a medical professional. Nor did I marry one. I am not Cahtolic. Npor did I marry one. This is uniwue among all of my siblings and their significant others. Bet and I are the only non-Cahtolics in my whole family. I am also not a Trump support nor do I own MAGA hats. This has been a long time coming. Right after 9/11 I remember the first thing my mother asking me was would I be willing to go to war and fight for this country. And my honest first, unspoken reaction was what the fuck , Mom?

10/16/2020

Oh praise the informal economy. Amway, Mary Kay, Norwex, Wine Direct, Kratom Direct, Fixer, Nutrife, Uber, UberEats, Lyft, GrubbHub, Lyft Eats, goPuff, Instacart,

The Asian, Caucasian, African cyclists have a dull smart, relaxed way of talking that is comfortaing and unengaging, but full of good will , they have coffess and they pass the coffee around having some miss communication on which ones have cream and which ones do not. They are in a park waiting for the rest of their pelllaton. It is a beaultiful Sunady in the fall and the whole downtown is dug up with improivements going on all around.

Suburban moderates, disaffected Republicans, traditional working class Democrats, ethnic minorities and liberal true believers

Republicans won the popular vote in the House races in 2016 and lost it by 10,000,000 in 2018. Trump had the Senate and the House and he pissed both majorities away.

Jan 2011- 2018 Republicans held House majority.

2018 plus 41 seats for the Dems was the largest party gain since the 1974 post-watergate election.

Idaho is a state that has long been synonymous with violent right wing extremists. The South of the North. Aryan Nations.

Claim of moral superiority.

Do you claim to be morally superior. Is their bviolence in that claim. The micro and not so micro aggression of the morally superior asnd their attempts to frame the discourse as from one above to one below.

10/15/2020

Five ThirtyEight had give Clinton an 85% chance of winning in 2016. This time around they gave Biden an 87% chance.

I’ve done a great job. Next year is going to be better than ever.

Trump has become Clinto- an arrogan seklf-satisfied, unlikeable politician convinced they will win.

The party of traditional Judeo-Christian is very white.

Let’s say we are not racist. Racism does not exist. Let’s just look at the break down of the parties and how they are responding to the various messages.

We are but messages on the wind

Artful or awfully released upon the world.

Brain feast- cornucopia of reason and imagination and emotion and faith and doubt and concentration and distraction and stirring and settling.

I’m soirry to say, but Jesus weren’t even a capitalist…

Liar, lunatic, or Lord… why so defensive???

2004-2014 Foreign land ownership in Wisconsin increased by 500%.

They. The liberals. The other.

This or that? You must choose.

Liberals and progressives will destroy everything we have. Everything we hold dear.

Politics is all about power struggle. Theology with its struggle for belief orthodoxy has always been political. It has always been about what is possible, necessary.

We hate to be tricked, but we prefer our politicians to be cunning.

Oceans and mountains

Mounds and mounds of Vatican Gold.

Elite. Power Control.

Are you engaging or just spraying bullets.

There has never been an administration that has done so much so well.

A president that has done more for black people than any president since Abraham Lincoln.

National ticket:

DEMS: 54%

REPS: 42%

10/14/2020

Misinformation like an oil slick up and down both coasts

Iridescent ring around the inlands seas.

Unsubstantiated bias confirming information is rarely carried on the wings of love.

Hope and history rarely rhyme

American Darkness or American Greatness?

Dangerous magical thinking or just a nation of miracles?

Fucking get rid of that thing before someone considers it a citizen.

Its not worth it to argue with you. Honestly, what do I have to gain? Do I want to disabuse you of your worldview… aspects of it yes, but will that really improve either of our lives. Your happiness and contentment and perspective and groundness and moods are your own business. Something out of my control. My 2 year old has emotional cycles that I cannot control. We have to communicate with her on parallel planes. This takes energy. We need patience and wherewithal and often need to subjugate our own perspective to fully grasp where she is coming from. We have to slip into her tiny shoes and enter into her emotional read of the situation and attempt to balance things out from there. This is exhausting…

The problem isn’t the problem or at least her problem with the problem isn’t my problem with the problem. We are both trying to solve a problem, but the problems are ultimately not the same one. We are not on the same problem. And in the end, like many problems between parents and kids the problem isn’t even about the problem at hand, but some larger struggle of will which likely has something to do with the natural ego/personality building that is incessantly unfolding with a child. The sequence of the resolution is as important to the resolution. We have interfaces. I love interfaces. Be it books. Or a sale. What’s my interface? I have an ability to put myself into a very neutral mindset. I think it is a learners mindset. It is something akin to depression. Or at least there is some cross over with a depressed mindset- loss of interest in many things (in the service of focusing on one project) or at least this is something I have worked to cultivate. It’s kind of a dangerous game. It puts this moat of shit between you and creation and your ability to wade through the shit to get to the citadel of creativity is the whole gig. Will you be consumed by your metaphor? Once the incubus is attached, will it strengthen you, or suck you dry completely.

Abstraction arises out of order, not chaos.

Is it a cope out to drop out or is that a part of freedom too?

I found myself centered, then leaning left with not a modicum of hate in my heart for conservatives and how can you generalize? The conservative base is incredibly diverse. The necessity for two legislatively strong parties to our political process is of the upmost importance. Seeing how a single party dominated government like China is able to operate— I would, despite our dueling hysteria, take our dysfunctional family any day. We need some fraternity back though!. I say this with total earnestness— it concerns me that DT is running the Rebuplican Party into the ground. His personality, his conduct is so unpopular right now it is absolutely clear that he needs to go— if somehow he doesn’t, we will all be the wiser as we were in 2016.

There have always been outrages. What people get outraged about is very much a part of politics. It has to be. Rage. Grievance. Spin. Distrust. Reform. Suppression. Yellow journalism.

My reasons are not deep enough.

I am shallow.

I have a narrow world view.

I am the superficial one. I have refused the truth of the Catholic Church.

I have self-excluded from the celebration and the communion with Christ.

This argument is both heretical, impolite, and frankly kind of mean.

We are a country founded on the Constitution, not the bible.

And so its up to you, you can totally lose your shit over this whole fucking disaster of an election year- or you can Clint Eastwood-style keep you head- see the room and then just take every mother fucker out. Keep your head. You know what you are up to and you are excited about it. Throw out your false modesty. You are finally locked in. You can finally admit to yourself that you are all in with your life You no longer have to apologize. You have found a way to work and you will work in this way and this way will open unexpected paths as well as expected paths and you will find your way through because you are talented and you do work hard and you will necessarily have to deal with other people’s shit and other people’s tone and attitudes and weird micro-aggressions and such. And you know what, you can endure these. More than ever because your vision is clearer than it has ever been. You enjoy working in this way and you are spiraling your way through this unfolding process. You have discovered an arching vision to your life and are no longer afraid to pursue it. You are open to fear. You are open to threat. You are open to challenge. You are open to head wind. You have consolidated your position and strengthen your shaped. You have claimed your organs place with your pen. The place of your breath with your pen. Breathing and stretching have become writing again. Eat, sleep and breath it. But in a healthy way. Can you decide that your obsessions are healthy? How do you navigate an obsession along a healthy canal. Ruts can be very creative in that sometimes you have to dig in and get work done or stick with a structure that you created. See through to the end the result you intuited. I had a vision that all I had to do to get the opportunity to pursue my dual vocations of writing and coding was to ask what the plan for reopening safetly with the backdrop of the pandemic and civic unrest that had resulted in the looting and smashing of stores’s façade (an assault added by a 20ft U-Haul truck). I had a vision, that by asking that one question and then walking back out of the temporary door set into the decidedly unluxurious plywood façade, I would exit through the gyre and enter my new reality. This sounds fucking crazy, but it is not untrue.

I am open to challenges. I am open to opportunities.

62% of ex- Trump votes list the pandemic handling as main reason for switch.

47% cite Trump’s personality and behavior.

66% of Trump Voters worry the election will be rigged.

Likeability: Biden 57%... Trump 32%?

The redemption motif road map overwhelmed.

What to value? What to be outraged about?

The postmodernism isn’t about a vector of ideas that are to be foisted upon you, but merely a reality you must accept. The conservatives are striking me as the most post-modern of all. Values out the window, clutching after power. They have given voice to powerfully disaffected and aggrieved voices. Legitimate personal grievances whose toxicity has been amplified and whose coherence has been muddled and unleashed by megamytic mouthpiece of the American presidency. We saw a president that attempt to grab as much populist power as he possibly could. Who fanned his power base by framing the conflict as Don vs. the establishment. We have a process for dealing with the establishment. Its well established. But when we feel a legitimate path closing, we spread our vision further afield. Manipulated packets of data deployed to achieve a desired result. Flood the zone with shit.

To too many on the left today religion is hate. Superstition is science. Freedom is oppression. Lies are truth. The Rule of Law is bigotry. The Constitution is evil. And American is irredeemably racist.

You must follow the one true faith of progressives or else.

The left has become the very poison they seek to irradicate.

Ideological radicalization.

The left. The right. Excesses on both sides. Mistakes were made.

Should read “100 years of Solitude” seems a fitting moment for it.

10/13/2020

I think Rush Limbaugh did a fine job as president.

What an embarrassment. So caustic. So defensive. So loose with the truth and reality. Married to superlative, making every great thing meaningless.

Is the world substantially worse that in 1979?

Mother you are very analytic, but your logic is lazy and tied into unnecessary inhuman judgements. Our phones are fucking us up!

Don’t write about this political stuff… why are you?

Talking politics… tips, strategies…

It’s your tone. You you let your righteous anger poison your loving heart. Your precious morality or perceived ideals has convinced you that you and your ideas are so morally superior to everyone that you get to be nasty and rage-filled and disparaging towards your fellow citizens. Because they are murders and represent dark forces. While your side represents light and goodness and America!! That is fucking crazy and fascist and undemocratic and exactly what has been going on for a very long time. You are a cliché mother. You are a clich of an old Catholic Church lady. Suddenly at the end of your career and your expert status is slipping away and you will once more just be a citizen tied into the same matrix of tensions and pressures as the rest of us.

Your holier than thou attitude. Somehow implying that my love for my children is tainted And you and those who are voting for your candidate have untainted love. You seem to imply these things. And they are ugly and you should fucking stop them. I am not responsible for abortion any more than I responsible for war. Yes- we as citizens should have informed perspectives on these issues and vote our values. I believe abortion is a personal choice and one that should ultimately be protected. Am I enthusiastic about abortion, do I think it is a great victorious right. No, but I recognize it as a necessary right. There are many tragedies- income inequality, opportunity inequality, violence- domestic and community. Inclusivity and an American identiy that can swagging into the 21st century… we don’t have much of a swagger. Trumpp brought the swagger, but he is so unhinged and removed from truth and reality that it doesn’t come off as heroic, it comes off as moronic. We cannot lead by pure selfisheness. We can lead by appealing to mutual self-interest, but we cannot lead by grievances. We can break away and isolate and leverage and threaten and upend agreements and create tension and ambiguity, but we cannot lead.

Trump out performed national polls by 1 to 2 percent in 2016

Oct. 28th- Comey letter to Congress

The record setting unpopularity of Clinton and Trump in 2016

What are the origins of cancel culture? Get a liberal and a conservative perspective on this. What is it referring to exactly— because my cursory understanding is that it can be used to refer to the surpression of unpopular beliefs— a message that was primary pushed by White Supremacists.

Mother you are full of love

Full of anger

Fully of forgiveness

Full of judgement

Full of sadness

Full of joy

Thank you for handing over your mantle of moral authority. I had always felt compelled by conscience to move away from you politically, but I carried your judgement of my views or at leas “my side”. This separation is painful. This separation is adulthood. This separation is my life independent from your own. My mind independent from you own. My soul independent from your own. My path, which at times parallel, at times perpendicular to your own. Your rabid partisanship has set me free. Thank you. Not your religious beliefs, not your virtue, not your values. Your rabid partisanship. Think about that. And be made about it or however you would like to feel, but this is how I feel. And those feels are real. And you may have some arguments for why you are not a rabid partisan… but your enthusiastic support of Rush Limbaugh is all that needs to be said. He is a conservative propagandist of the worst kind and I put a good deal of the political trash we are dealing with now at the base of his golden phallis. It is truly looking bright over the next 4 years that the two biggest conservative blowhards will be exiting the stage. Now I can’t predict exactly what your reaction would be to this, but I feel like you would feel attacked. You would feel misunderstood, you would feel unheard, unlistened, unseen… you would feel like me.

I don’t want to talk with you about politics. I don’t want to hear about Amenesha or any of your other people projects. Your good heart, keeps you from focusing on yourself without feeling conflicted about it. I believe I have internalized this a bit and it has made me unnecessarily sensitive to time conflicts. Working/learning from home has been such a challenge as times with only a door between my put upon wife and our stir-crazed girls. The intensity of concentration for new subject matter is both something I craze, but is also a drain. It is marathon training. It weakens me. Sometimes the whole thing feels like its going to topple when I can’t seem to pull together consecutive hours of study.

Context- we need to decide on some context. And maybe some basic assumkpotions about hat context and proceed from there. Straight Ideological debates with cherry picked examples and unreal hypotheticals are not productive. They are advertisements for things we do not understand. Blasting the grapevine with whatever party line is currently streaming.

I don’t like that the President has a direct line to me through my mother. It makes me uncomfortable. Angry.

We are at the beach and she catches me off guard with a comment about Governor Nazi. Wait. What? Did she just take the last name that our family shares with the Governor of Michigan and substitute it with the word Nazi?

My brother’s family is exhausted— the boys who are both around Esme’s age have run wild and their parents are exhausted and spaced out. The kids go barging into the gift shop when they should be heading to the parking garage- this dynamic time and gain the unwieldy big family— I don’t have the desire or the wherewithal for it. The squeeze comes in the election year. It has been a banner 4 years, a bunch of conservative judges added to the courts, including three to the supreme court.

We’ve added 4 grandchildren to the mix with three more on the way… so let’s just call it 7 because life begins at conception. Which is fine until you consider the 900,000 miscarriages that occur every year in America. That’s a fuck ton of lives snuffed our before they could be horn— There she is a whole lot of biology tied up with them opaque spiritual truths.

And the next day the 12 arrests for the plot to kidnap Governor Whitmer and I am horrified and kind of traumatized. I have self-diagnosed myself as having BPD which I mostly attribute to my inability to fully heal the festering wounds of politics and religion and I have psychic scars and I compulsively consume more alcohol and pot than I should. Oh, fuck, I am America.

The spin doctors have always been there but under this Trump-Limbaugh ticket ticket has turned meanewr, nastier, less grounded in concrete leadership or even values and instead the president has retreated into the mythological tropes of the office and the country. Some vague idea of tradiation and past greatness as if any of this greatness would have ebeen achieved without the pressure and work and sacfifice of the progrewssives, But I think when You start to demonize parties on either side—the gig is up! Because, as they should be, they are mirros. They are two sides of the same coin. But this president failed us on…

Sometimes for illustrative purposes, simplicity is important.

PROGRESSIVE-CONSERVATIVE  
LIFE-DEATH

He had multiple chances to be a president for the whole country, but that wasn’t his brand. He needed to stay on brand, be a street fighter at every turn. Progressives seem to be more open to “new information” than conservatives. When faced with the pandemic conservatives sheltered in their ideology and angrily sacrificed 100,000s of lives of the most vulnerable all on the alter of freedom. Fredoom. All death is laid upon the alter of freedom.

I am working through this and I am feeling good about working through this.

I don’t want to get out of control like that any more. I don’t need to. I am out.

I am beyond.

Time will break the world.

The spin doctors have always been there but under this Trump-Limbaugh regime it has turned meaner, nastier, less grounded in truth, or even concrete value-based leadership, instead the president has retreated into the mythological tropes of the office and the country. Some vague idea of traditions and past greatness— as of any of this greatness would have been achieved without the pressure and work and sacrifice of the progressive wing of U.S. politics, the very force, organization that he demonizes as an enemy within. When you start to demonize parties on either side— the gig is up because, as they should be, they are two sides of the same coin. But this president failed us on so many fronts- failed to unite us against the pandemic, or racial injustice, failed to unite us around the election and our institutions. He institutionalized his “outsiderness” and lionized his “revolutionary” credentials. Successfully built a cult of personality in which loyalty to him personally- over party, over country became the mission. He’s the only one that can protect us. He’s the only one that is fighting for us. He’s the only one we can believe.

I believe our political leaders are christened with oil by Christ himself, so to speak.

The New Magnolia vs. 1798 seal of Mississippi Terrority. The choice put forward in a referendum on Nov. 3rd. Regardless of which design wins out, neither of them have the confederate flag on them. That symbol has been removed by popular opinion. Canceled if you will. Cancelled though? I’m not sure. We can look at precedent and attempt to tie the removal of a symbol from the public mien, the public visage, the public representational cadre of symbols.

Mother you took umbrage with removing the Confedate flage from things And my first reaction is why the hell does she even care. And my second question is has she really thought about this at all. Does she really believe it is not a racist flag? Flown by a rebel army with a white supremescist agenda. Thes people were literarly fighting for their right to own other people. Black people. They felt so strongly about this that they were ready and willing to get and kill other white people, country men. And to show that they thought the stars and stripes was a bunch of bullshit they invented their own flag. This is a flag without a country. It is an ideological flag. It can represent rebellion in general which will always be a compelling symbolic cache in general and more prickly and problematic up close- Che Guevera, Comandante Marcos,

Moonlight and Magnolias. Buring crosses beside of robust river.

Our river artery. Bleeding our chemical blood into the silty strangled Delta.

Waters gonna rise, levy is gonna break.

All your chains are rusted out of doors.

The trust I have in me ain’t what it should be.

10/12/2020

Settling in, just trying to collect some sort of heat-index as we move into the last three weeks of the election.

They- conveniently and dehumanizingly lump them all together as they.

“We’ve been on the right side of this from the start” Rush Limbaugh on the pandemic… the right side of this… how does a pandemic have a side?

Fuck. What about Governor Fuck? Governor Nazi? Yeah, What a fucking cunt!

Texted Bob a BM text about my mom’s political debasement— now this is therapy or reinforcement?

The difference being

therapy heals and brings change

and reinforcement just reinforces the pathology.

Text to bob:

Digging my guitar kit! Tired of this election shit. I'm writing like 3.5 protest songs a day though so its cool. No, it's not cool, I really do hate election years. Had to remind my mom that I am a heretic. Again! AND that I most certainly would not be voting for Mr. Trump. She seemed surprised. Which really worries me. And then I accused her of aggressive politics because she referred to Governor Whitmer as Govenor Nazi which was just weird and wrong on so many levels. And then the next day, the very day after I leveied my wild aggressive accusation there were no less than 12 arrests in the plot to kidnap the Govenor. I'm not saying my mother was a co-conspirator but she is certainly bowing down to whatever insane zeitgeist has possessed a scattered minority of Michiganders. It ain't pretty. But perhaps 2020 has brought some clarity after all...

Response from Bob:

Well that was a loaded statement haha. Why are you writing protest signs? I live in a red State/county and everyone in around is pretty decent on both sides. I'm no fan of trump, but I'm no fan of Biden either. Wish Andrew yang made a real push. If libertarians made a real push I'd probably align with them. Anti government off gridding home schooling and home steading. Just trying to find a better paying job so I could work 2 jobs and get the ball rolling.

Trump is in a likeability hole. 42% approval rate.

And but yet still, the best president since Eisenhower.

You don’t have the American people behind the opposition to Trump.

Headline: The WHO has reversed its position— obviously a conspiracy theory.

One employee of the WHO, whose position in leadership is not abundantly clear, seems to be more of a rank and file official expressed the importance of a balanced approach to addressing the pandemic and that lockdowns alone are not effective and can even hurt the poor. Foxnews spun a few quotes for the man as a whole hearted repudiation of the WHOs guidelines heretofore, which they were absolutely not! Why do you have to read to article to figure out what it is actually saying. Why do we have to read the article to fact check the headline? A cleave system of insinuation and myth making.

My friends around a cozy autumnal fire predict that Trump will try to contest the results of the election and that black people need guns. My friend who is not black says he has a machete. Don’t need bullets.

In 2016 Trump won Michigan by 10,000 votes.

13/100 chances for Trump

87/100 chances for Biden

Popular vote projection / (actual)

Biden: 53.5% / (51.1%)

Trump: 45.3% / (47.1%)

Suppression polls? MAGA supports don’t participate in polls?

(Fox news reported Siena College polls)

Michigan: 48%-40%

Wisconsin: 51%-41%

In 2016 late deciding voters broke decisively for Trump.

Voters without degrees disproportionately concentrated in swing states.

My family seems to relish these ideological debates. I do not. Their values and agenda align with the white and the wealthy who would like the status quo to stand indefinitely. This is a stabilizing ballast to our society. But it certainly keels a bit shrill at times. Conservatives offer us a grounding perspective, but they need to be still need to be prodded, they need to be challenged if they continue to insist on the moral absoluteness of their dear party. There is a balance of power that must be maintained. What do you think is happening here? Yes, the Democrats want win, clear up, fight to the finish, but within the system. They are committed to the system. The Republicans are also committed to the system, deeply, deeply, but under Trump have also tried to court the anti-establishment disaffected on the right and they have apparently been successful with this. Trump has reached the point where he has dug in not anywhere near the actual battleground. Almost as if he is afraid to loss the ground he has by attempting to expand it. His only hope is to energize as many white, uneducated voters as possible, disaffected Cuban Latinos who have their own politics going on and even border Hispanics(I wonder if the keeping the migrants in Mexico was popular in the border communities…). He is pushing toward more power the only way he knows how— double down, double down, then double down again. He has been playing with house money these last four years, but unfortunately for him— the capital is just about all used up.

What are the origins of “cancel culture”?

How is it defined across the political spectrum?

Burned by a poet’s sensibilities and his insufferable thrist.

While Mr. Trump’s surprising victory in 2016 lent him an aura of political invincibility (he was now playing with House money after all), he spent the next four years losing the presidency, the House, and the Senate with the redmeat inspired antics. His winning coalition was always a fragile on ethough. The former president’s margin of victory was extremely narrow and he failed to reach 50% of the vote in each of the decisive states. He also did so against an unusually unpopular opponent, Mrs. Clinton.

Dead sick of lies on both sides.

Regard the world unsurprised

Through suspended, jaundiced eyes.

Be present, don’t let the means of production completely throw you off your game.

This eschatological pipedream of looking ahead to some far off reward. No, no, look around, the reward is here, the reward is now. The eternal has arrived. Don’t blink. You might just miss it!

10/11/2020

Lindsey Graham is such a good and loyal friend to Donald Trump. When Trump turns on him or vice versa. It is really a new chapter… but is it… because we have seen him turn on everyone: Steven Bannon, Jeff Sessions, William Barr, Chris Christie, Mike Pence, Mitch McConnel, The Bushes, Mitt Romney, John McCain, Paul Ryan, Jeff Flake, Liz Cheney, Ben Sasse,

Meet this moment in history…

Back in the business of leading the world…

Like you would not believe…

This aggressive “American” overbearing style of leadership or training of ideology, this winner take all, project only strength, give no ground, draw your lines deeply and push like a bulldog to advance your agenda. How cacn this kind of an attitude not be an earthly consolation. Pride is an earthly consolation. Claims of power (even democratic power) are an earthly consolation.

10/10/2020

Trump is complaining that Paul Ryan is poisoning Fox against him.

Less than a month before the election the President is likely toast.

2020 is a referendum on your loser president. He freed us all up to be assholes. Lets thank him and then ride him on a rail straight the fuck out of dodge!

Re: abortion

Why so intent on expending so much political capital on non-citizens? I thought that was the Democrats gig?

Fever dream of American politicians feasting on aborted fetuses. Fetus soup ala China. They do it for health, for importality, for power, for priviledge.

I am in the world of men. The world of man. Humankind. Something shining in my hand.

You have ghosts and I have bones,

Why the sticks, why the stones.

Hell encircles and serpents whisper ego ether over mortal en.

Sex and love and melody. Inappropriate comments and incontinent rage.

We have drugged ourselves into carrying this weight along— this child fear of the mother’s disapproval. Your approval for Donald Trump has freed me from your opinion of me. The soundness of your judgement and the transcendent rightness and power of your values have been used and manipulated by a narcissistic, mean-spirited demagogue, infinitely more committed to his own power project than any lasting improvement of our country. Time and time again he has placed his interests ahead of his country and even his party. He has ravished his own party! He has damaged relationships abroad. His leadership has stirred up partisanship to such a fever pitch that former Republican partisans are jumping ship— it is extraordinary— a wonderful testament to the wisdom and robustness of our political system. Checks, balances, beliefes in the importance of institutional integrity.

Running a country is different than running a company or a church.

Fratelli Tutti (Pope Francis’s third encyclical)

"on fraternity and social friendship"

“a concept of popular and national unity influenced by various ideologies in creating new forms of selfishness and a loss of the social sense under the guise of defending national interest.”

Why does the pope speak so beautifully and your words are like dog-breath in my face. Have you been eating dogshit again? Cause I noticed you have been collecting a lot of dog shit lately. You didn’t eat it all did you? In one sitting!?! Whoa….

And yes, I must admit— marijuana has provided me a drill to excavate with, a sedative to sit with, and a stimulant to get some track laid— was I overdoing it? Yes. Today is day one. Remember the $10 a day challenge for date night? Run with that because you are well aware that while marijuana does stimulate thought production, it also erodes order and immediacy— spending too much time in Faery is a fairly dangerous proposition.

And but yet still, let us doff our hats to weed for getting us from there to here and creating a buffer between my family inherited ideology and my own. It was an immature, temporary solution; luckily I still have time to grow, mature, evolve, fully come into my own. Fully accept responsibility for me and my family and relinquish the feelings of ideological loyalty or elevation that I have projected upon my parent’s belief system— the gold standard of being since I first came to be.

“Micro-aggressions are meant to cast in subtle, but sharp relief that you are not part of the group and that ca have wide-ranging consequences. “

That feeling of not being accepted can dent confidence. Working for an employer who worshipped Trump and would parade semi-automatic rifles through our work space and talk about “hitting people hard”. A man who praised his team, but didn’t take care of them. Burnout and high turnover abounded. I have never worked in a less enjoyable environment. Shitty benefits, 2 weeks vacation, working holidays with a constant drum of messaging to SUCK this up and be a TEAM player.

I am nothing. I have served my economic betters. I have stood in silence awaiting bread floating through doors. I have shutdown thought processes and stuffed away expectations. I have made product knowledge my source of power and poured over the luxury literature— making rich peoples bobbles my field of expertise. All while being subjected to an employer empowered to bully, micro-aggress and fire with zero accountability. That is not a good environment to work in, much less work in.

My faith in uncdertainty has served me well .

Do you like guns and money and whiteness? Are your abortion blinders on? Good. Now come with me right this way. Right this way, please.

And I need to get back to my computer studies— this is the vocation that can replace my parents as my financial backstop. I am so GRATEFUL for this development. And while it has been a challenge, I have found a process, I have found an auspicious path to follow… through the wood, and optimistically beyond.

You once were a paperweight fit within my hand— an aid for contemplation. Packed into you. Compacted into your dreams. My themes, my creative intuition, my coherent sense of self- politically and religiously. My culturally and politically and religiously conservative parents, who seem to have a more favorable opinion of their President than their Pope (which I find very troubling) and who then accuse me of disrespect and of taking an active role in creating my own hell through embracing so called “Cancel Culture”: effectively combining ancient sacred salvation theology with fly-by night autocratic no-nothingness and the cult of personality of a debase Reality T.V. star. This is fucking crazy! The fact that you can’t see that or even concede that anything is untoward or odd or unideal is really disconcerting and feels like some sort of Brainwashedness. A process I suppose you have both been engaged in for sometime as sources surgically attempt to bolster your radicalized and partisan worldview.

This whole thing was set off by my withering request to keep politics off the cross Atlantic family feed that we have going with my sister who lives in the Cotswolds and her extended family, who may also be rather conservative, though I can’t image that they have a good impression of Donald Trump. I do not know this for sure, but I just can’t imagine it. The request to avoid politics had been long standing— we had all cheerily agreed to a “politics” free zone on this feed. I had not even been in the negotiations of this. My family had already managed to offend and send off my brother-in-law’s sister with their ridiculous comments about race and reluctance to be upset about the George Floyd killing. This moratorium was well-established and generally respected and frankly wise and kind and good, so when you, Mother, started posting things about Trump and Rush Limbaugh and then against Kamala Harris and her diabolical agenda— “gripped by the worst sort of darkness” I felt that they only way that I could comfortably remain on the chat was to express my frustration that you were not adhering to the politics free zone. What did I write? Something like— “would truly appreciate it if we could keep the feed a politics free zone— again, a call that had been made several times over the last year though never by me. The quick response from my brother attacked me for “scolding” my mother who “loves me more than I will ever know” and of not respecting her wisdom and being unwilling to learn from her. I was ordered to bite my tongue and suck it up.

Though in a way my plan worked sort of perfectly. I truly hope the British-in-laws were a little bit horrified at the aggressive tone and attack and that ultimately my dumb brother was embarrassed.

I spoke with my bother on the phone shortly after. He had texted me this long rambling text about hwo he was sorry that we can’t discuss these things wout getting emotional and that this aggression was coming from a place of love… “maybe we just love each other too much”. I called him and assured him not to wrroy about it. And that I had wanted to be out of the group for awhile(the unexplained subtext here was that my brother and his cross-cultural cringeworthiness and the fact that it was a feed focusing on my sister-in-law and her family and their shared Catholicism, side note being that I am in zero other family feeds with my sibling’s in-laws.

I looked at the situation and thought, what is the best possible outcome here. The best possible outcome would be to get out of the feed. And that isult and shoddy treatment I received on the feed was just the lever to get me out. So long Catholic-in-laws, love to all the chaps.

All right, enough politics, but goddman it, how can my ultra-Catholic parents seem more influence by Trump than their own Pope? The fact that my salvation got framed in terms of Trumpian Cancel Culture really distanced me. Erik Trump has zero to say about my Salvation. Donald Trump has zero to say about my salvation. And now you have zero to say about my salvation. Thank you for releasing me.

10/12/2020

He doesn’t want to do anything on the stimulus package and then all of a sudden he wants to do more than what either the Republicans or the Democrats are demanding.

Nathan Bedford Forrest

* 31 monuments in Tennessee
* “Wizard of the Saddle”
* “Butcher of Fort Pillow”
* 1st Grand Wizard of the KKK
* Ugliest Confederate Statue in Memphis funded by James Earl Ray’s Lawyer
* Acquired prodigious wealth selling slaves into the plantation horros of the deep south
* Proponent of “Convict Leasing”
* Worshipped by the Sons of Confederate Veterans

Parental income, while not everything, does have an outsized influence on a child’s economic future.

This country has violent blindspots- violent past, raping killing ancestors. We’ve at times fictionalized and sanitized the confederacy, ignoring deathm ignoring enslavement, ignoring terror.

The USS Atlanta (a wild armored boat)- commissioned by the Confederacy, captured by Union. Used by the Union and then sold to Haiti in May 1869. Lost at sea December 1869

And the news barked quickly by the hour and then a more lugubrious performance at 7 (PBH)

WHIP: (BB + H) / IP

Babe, Ruth, Ty Cobb, Honus Wagner

6/4/3 double play from Baez, sponsored by Bells Two-Hearted Ale and Oberon. Alcohol represents a level of happiness and contentedness that I have not achieved yet. Therefore any of its good feelings are all lent with interest with variable terms and poison pill clauses which I accept to the letter without question.

My drinking had become a bit fraught.

* 1. Voter suppression in the world’s most famous Democracy. What hypocrisy! How disturbing!

Does China come in here?

CHINA:

* Gordon Chang is not a fan of China. Is it kind of his Jam to be Chinese-America but to always have something critical to say about China? If he is Taiwanese I get it. If he is from the mainland, I wouldn’t put it past him to be an opportunist. More power to him!

10/07

Super weird… still can’t find a Democrat whose been infected.

I mean who knows maybe it is all about stopping the supreme court nomination. I don’t know, like some kind of bioterrorism. I put nothing past the left. NOTHING.

It’s pretty peculiar that the China Plague somehow knows to target only members of the Sen. Judiciary committee.

The sorrow in your sword,

the blood on your horizon

Runaway slaves all on a chain gang— BANG, BANG, BANG

Can righteousness be cruel?

Can righteousness be callous?

Can righteous anger be justified?

If you think we’re gonna lose. And I’m not going to tolerate anybody out there thinking we’re gonna lose. I you think we’re going to lose, then you keep it to yourself, but you do your best to outclass that and overcome that. We’re not going to lose. The American Country. The American People are not going to lose. You got it? -Rush Limbaugh

I don’t know how to restore any kind of human decenty whatsoever to the American left, the Deomcrat Party, the American Media. I don’t know how to do it. They literally are a bunch of scaremongers.”

How do you see the world? How do you see the country?

An average Joe in every way. So average he is some sort of mythological figure of averageness. There are more of me than there are of you so just show me when to vote and we’ll see how it goes at the poles.

Is this going to be my ODE to the STATUS quo?

They say George Washington distrusted permanent political parties.

Dear Prohibition Party, Equal Rights Party, Populist Party, Greenbacks, Progressives, Dixicrats, American Independent Party, Reform Party, Green Party, Tea Party, OANON, Proud Boys, Oath Keepers, ANTIFA

We’ve been scribbling in the margins of a story that is patently absurd.

How do we love in absurd circumstances? How can we transcend our circumstances and ourselves to love those around us and love those who are not around us? Will they know we are Christian by our love.

“They’ll know we are Christians by our caustic memes”

What was Adali Stevenson’s Illinois connection

10/05/2020

Excess passion for or interest in the politics of the day amounts to a sort of historical narcissism which cannot help but produce a sort of intellectual myopathy.

Hair-Eyes-Strength

Samson and Delilah

I don’t want to be angry, but I do want to feel.

Trump on trial by 2023?

We have more enthusiasm than anybody.

We love the USA and we love what’s happening.

2011 in TEXAS they accepted GOVERNMENT IDs including gun cards, but would not accept university ids from STATE schools.

Since 1992 REPS have won the presidential popular vote only once 2004 (and this during a wartime rally)

And yet… they have occupied the White House almost half of those 28 years

**Popular vote for president:**

DEMS: 1992, 1996, 2000, 2008, 2012, 2016, 2020

REPS: 2004

**YEARS WON:**

DEMS: 1992, 1996, 2008, 2012, 2020

REPS: 2000, 2004, 2016

January 6th, 2021: Congress convenes (10/5/2020- would not have imagined what would go down on that day. And now as we speak the second impeachment tril is in progress in Washingotn.

10/03

Callous indifference to the people he is supposed to protect.

Not like an angel, not like an angel at all.

“You can’t say no to the President!”

Enforce positive thinking

Optimism is a force multiplier

10/01

Is a rational exchange of ideas too much to ask for?

Did you enjoy that chaotic, messy, frankly traumatic first debate?

Dominate, rude, no decorum, unhinged from reality.

9/30/2020

Movement = time

Stillness = eternity

Experiencing the eternal aspect of the temporal = the mythological/ideological => meditating on eternity

9/23/2020

“We live a very low state of the world and pay unwilling tribute to governments founded on force” RWE

9/27/2020

9/20/2020

PROJECTION (FINAL RESULT)

Biden: 51% (11/3: final: 51%)

Trump: 44% (11/3: final: 47%)

9/17/2020

She threw a left-hook and made a right winged exit.

He entranced the white masses and got himself elected

And things worked out about as well as can be expected.

But really what sort of hallowed out truth can we make out of his ashes.   
Fucking fascist, dishonest, sales sleeze, making money keeps his flag flying ear to ear.

Growing up I did a fair amount of driving in cars long Little Bay de Noc between our bedroom community Gladstone and all the business that were 7 miles up the road in Escanaba, drinking Peis and eating Cheez-its, listening to Rush Limbaugh crow through the afternoon. What a long show— he would talk for hours and hours, spinning a minor news story into some bloated, jokey diatribe, just absolutely packed to the gills with commercial breaks. I remember wondering— given his rabid fan base, a good number of my family’s friends were Dittoheads, why Rush didn’t just run for president. People loved this guy. They loved him. Or hated him.

What is up with that personality type. That strong bold type that can be loved or despised depending.

9/16/2020

Pathologically self-congratulatory, buck passing audacious falsehoods..

The President has yet to find the language or the appeals that might turn around an election he so far seems to be losing

The President’s hardline culture war rhetoric is unlike to sweep him into a second term.

To him a lie is not a lie. Its just what he thinks. He doesn’t know the difference between the truth and a lie. Coats to Matthis.

Pandemic response: dishonest and inept and bumblingly spun and spun and spun.

Orwellian world

Rhetoric is alive and well. Opportunistic. Bombastic. Supported by producers and sponsors and bright lights and make up. Special tone. Special content. The glared up dog shit that feels a whole lot grimier at street level.

But such a view relies on an interpretation that distorts the traditional sense that the buck stops on the Oval office desk and instead relies on voters to believe a flagrant act of salesmanship that defies the reality of their own lives.

Herd mentality will make it go away.

We’d lose several million lives if we employed herd immunity alone.

9/14/2020

Bitter fascist breath

Some shit, supposedly

Spearmint. And she

With her sights set on my situation, indignant.

Common sense mixed with sentimental racist rages

She’s been like this for ages.

Pathological. Narcissistic. Bay of Pig Big Wig. Phd in the arithmetic of Armageddon.

My Best Friend’s Wedding. Foreign Meddling. Election

results. Erectile dysfunction, conjunction junction,

dictations, transcriptions, prefixes, suffixes, semantics, sarcasm.

Hypocrites, diplomats, laundromats, cosmonauts, surrendering armies,

bad faith and car bombs, slapstick and stunt double adverse acrobatic auteurs, an old well insured mess of an artist, just as obsessed with the significance of almost dying as the next guy, though much more often significantly closer to death than most people. When was the last time you almost died? Or even considered the possibility that you could die any second now. That death was just around the corner.

Larry Sabado centerforpolitics.org D: 269 ; R: 204

I sympathize with you do. I do. It must be kind of difficult to always have to be dragged into the future.

“If you do wish to publish this op-ed in the People’s Daily, you should make substantive revisions based on facts in the principle of equality and mutual respect,” the state media publication said in its rejection letter (rejecting Terry Branstad’s(U.S. Ambassador to China) inflammatory op-ed submission)

“If China were a “mature power” it would respect the right of Washingto to speak directly to the Chinese people” retorted Mike Pompeo

Our country is going to be fine one way or another. Trump projecting confidence. Down playing the pandemic.

James Matthis at the national cathedral praying and reflecting on what his responsibility would be if there was some sort of nuclear exchange with North Korea.

He prays. (From Woodward reporting)

They are ANIMALS that need to be HIT HARD

9/13/2020

The optics of merging official and campaign activities. Now your government is telling you who should rule you.

HATCH act: Citizen Trump Vs. President Trump

* Politicizing foreign policy undermines our position and flouts the law.

9/12/2020

“We are a nation of miracles.”

Boogaloo Confederate

George Floyd (MN)

Jacob Blake (WI)

Confederate statues and Columbus statues come under fire.

“Kneel before God, stand for our flag”

Never cower to the mob

Vaccine by the end of the year claims Pence at the RNC (in limited doses this is coming to pass, though it will be months before the vaccine is widely available 12/10/2020)

9/11/2020

Political turmoil from around the world

* Alexander Lukashenko won’t step down in Belarus
* Alexei Navalny => Poisoned
* Thanathorn Juangroongruangkit and the “He who cannot be named protests” in Thailand

Alphabet, Amazon, Apple, Facebook, Microsoft (1/5 of S&P 500)

Date— Covid deaths—

8/24— 172,807

9/11— 190,000

Sweden and the Netherlands did not mandate face mask wearning.

A virus is a package of genetic material that exploits other organisms in order to reproduce. They are unimaginabllly varied and ubiquitous.

6/4/2020

[Police were chasing a suspect](https://chicago.cbslocal.com/2020/06/03/suspect-crashes-one-vehicle-after-police-pursuit-carjacks-another/) who was wanted for multiple crimes in the suburbs. On Thursday, CBS 2 Investigator Megan Hickey was asking whether the chase broke with police policy.

Chicago Police on Thursday said the chase was under investigation by the Civilian Office of Police Accountability. The horrific crash was captured on video at the intersection of at Ashland Avenue and Irving Park Road, and it is difficult to watch.

Flowers and a splintered tree trunk mark the spot 37-year-old Guadalupe Franco-Martinez [lost her life Wednesday night.](https://chicago.cbslocal.com/2020/06/04/police-pursuit/)

As seen in the video, a marked CPD vehicle with emergency lights activated ripped through the intersection and collided with a Ford Explorer with such force that the vehicles burst into flames – lighting up the night sky with a flash of light.

Then, the squad car spun out and struck a Hummer, injuring the

The need to arrest the suspect needs to outweight the danger of the pursuit.

Police pursuit? Is it a good idea?

These are very hard questions and questions that get more complicated due to accidents and unexpected outcomes. Correlation does not always equal causation.

This was the Gyre though

**Guadalupe Franco-Martinez**

We watched her death approach from a long ways off.

The video is so close. She passes into the intersection. Blindsided by a car waiting in the left turn lane. He nose sticks out and is immediately slammed by the police cuiser traveling at 100 + mph.

Betsy ran to the back porch, just like we did in 2014 when the Cubs won the world Series. The spontaneous celebrating.

Betsy and I watching the NBA finals in 2005- the Piston’s vs. the Spur’s… the one commercial they played over and over again at half time. A PBR commercial advertising soccer. Otherwise for every T.V timeout the coverage would cut to some far off camera way up in the rafters of the stadium, completely breaking up the epileptic rhythm of sport action—pitch—sport action— sales pitch. It was probably a lot like a Soccer match in that way.

Bayern Munchen and Manchester United game in a Freiburg student bar with the geological rebel student rolling a spliff for us to enjoy during the game right in the bar room. Oh, Europe, I have see that even very familiar scenes can be a bit different and sometimes that difference is brilliant and life affirming in a way that you had not expected.

The big beefy German guy who dealt in housing materials shitting all over Americas cheap insubstantial fixtures and building practices. Me thinking, a- I don’t care, and b- huh, maybe we are better capitalists, keep pumping out and consuming crap at huge quantities. This is a model we are not going to win with India and China and their billions of crap produces and consumers. What can we fertilize with all of this crap?

Some en vogue charity like 4Ocean a for profit company that sells 29 cent plastic bracelets for $20.00 based on the big trust agreement that 4Ocean will give a least some percentage of the proceeds towards combating the ocean plastic pollution issue. How much of the insane profit margin goes to this end? What percentage? They don’t have to say. And they’re not saying.

**Body and Blood**

Cloned body of Christ from the shroud of Turin -- people want to eat it-- how was it prepared. Donald Trump Presides over it.

Fleshy jowls intone flatly—this is my body broken for you, and he rips his left cheek off and daintily shreds the fleshy meat with his hands into a golden chalice proffered by a beaming blonde child. Then he takes a bejeweled dagger from the table before him and runs the blade across his forearm leaving a rivulet of blood trickling behind the smoothly advancing blade. The child now holds a second chalice aloft to collect the dripping blood of the man as he carefully gathers the billowing sleeve of his vestement to free the flow of blood from his arm into the proffered chalice.

Everything that suffers, everything that hangs on the Cross is divine… We all hang on the Cross, consequently we are divine. We alone are divine. Christianity was a victory, a nobler disposition perished by it.

KULTURE

[Kulture action plan](#action_plan)

Kulture:  the universal human capacity to classify and encode human [experiences](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Experience) [symbolically](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symbol), and to communicate symbolically encoded experiences socially.

How so I allow absolute message shape my sub messages?

**Personal culture**

* Values
* Practices
* Habits
* Beliefs
* Language
* Behaviors
* History
* Tradition
* Heritage
* Mythology
* Preconceptions
* Judgements
* Interfaces

**Family culture**

When what you depend on changes, you have to change too. If you mention it then you are dependent on it.

**Racial culture**

**National culture**

**Religious culture**

**Sports culture**

**Political culture**

**Community culture**

**Professional culture**

**Company culture**

**City culture**

**Regional Culture**

Mobile

The vacant addictive affirmation of people we have never dined with tapping heart and thumb shaped icons on cold LCD screens.

Loneliness centers around the art of being seen.

* Witnessed
* Accepted
* Desired

[Love Minus Zero](#Love_Minus_Zero)

**06/16/2021**

Rush Limbaugh🡪 serious political figure/voice or entertainer?

“That’s entertainment!”

Amusement-- the muse, the show must go on…

Entertainers-- reflecting popular culture, an arrangement of mirrors (a derangement of mirrors)

Moments of knowing.

Lost in the Funhouse

**06/07/2021**

**Apparent culture**

**Ground culture**

Attempting to meaningfully inhabit our culture.

**05/25/2021**

Intentional Culture vs. Unintentional Culture

* Are we aware of the success or the failure of our personal and family culture.

**What’s so fucking funny?**

**Are you trying to score points or are you trying to be a leader and build a strong, open, resilient, welcoming family culture?**

**05/15/2021**

**Persecuted Secular Martyrs**

Pilates- Joseph Pilates being interned by the Brits in WWI

Carbonated water guy Joseph Priestly? Had house burnt to the ground in Birmingham for being a dissenter.

Milliernarism: ‘the end is nye’

05/06/2021

Time. Expenditures of time. What is your social media habit costing you? No really. An of your habits. What are you losing out on by continuing X behavior which consumes X quantity of resources(time, money, attention). The importance of budgeting time, money, attention.

Messages and behavior— Culture- we value these messages, we value these behaviors.

How we talk => input and output.

* The quintessential role of information consumption
* Advertising (paying for a piece of the public attention pie).

How is culture even possible with all of these underlying contradictions and tensions and ultimately soul crushing realities and potentialities for despair and of course our ultimate death which is a guaranteed phenomenon. Our worst fears are definitely going to be realized someday. What is fear? What do we fear? We fear missing out on things. I fear missing out on my life with my daughters and my wife and our extended family and friends because I don’t have the wherewithal to be physically present or fully emotionally and mentally present because of my inability to each an abiding peace about my vocational trajectory, sustainability, appeal. Confronting this achingly unresolved question and not just theoretically, but pragmatically has been the most abiding question that I have wrestled with over the last 20 years.

And how can a single text (story, film, poem, etc.) be shared between such wildly different cultural contexts and still create meaning? Hold truth? Emotion? How do cultural texts transmit between cultures? Is it the texts themselves or our attitude towards the texts?

The state of college sports, as it edges towards a more equitably just professionalized stage— why shouldn’t it change and evolve. Our economy has changed and evolved and continues to change and evolve. To survive in this country and culture you have to be focused on something, but you also have to avoid the trap of feeling like you have to focus on everything.

Could write more about the culture that I came from and the culture that I entered. The symbols of the previous culture and symbols of the new culture. A miasma of ideas. Not some revolutionary minds. But smart, curious, funny, caustic, generous dudes.

02/21/2021

Inherited tendencies, cultures, modes, messages, attention, competition for attention, manufactured concerns, legitimate concerns distorted by marketing and lobbying and politicking.

Money where mouth

* Tithing: ideological support, life schema, tradition, nostalgic, traditional, expansive.
* Taxes: ideological support, patriotic support
* Engagement, business, commerce
* Habit, cycle, contact
* IN and OUT

01/30/2021

The importance of interfaces

01/15/2021

How to be engaged without being enraged?

12/07/2020

How does one fit into a culture? How does one align with a culture? What produces a culture? What are the controllable factors? What are the factors that cannot be controlled?

C 032010

G(7) 220001

F 003211 or 033211

Dm x00231

Since Dylan's guitar isn't the most prominent one, I've given the plain chords (without the G7), played by the other main guitar.

The main accompaniment goes something like this, with a strong separation between bass downstrokes and treble upstrokes, and an emphasis on the middle string for the G F part (the downstroke on the G on the last beat of the second measure is somewhat undetermined: could be a hint of the bass strings, could be the middle strings):

C G F C G F

: . . . : . . . : . . . : . . .

|-------0---0---0-|-------0---------|-----------------|-------0---------|

|-------1---1---1-|-------1---0---1-|-------1---1---1-|-------1---0---1-|

|-------0---0---0-|-------0---0---2-|-------2---2---0-|-------0---0---2-| etc.

|-2---2-----------|-----------0---3-|-------3---3---2-|-----------0---3-|

|-3---3---3---3---|-3---3---3-------|-3---3---3---3---|-3---3---3-------|

|-0---0---0---0---|-0---0---0-------|-0---0---0---0---|-0---0---0-------|

C

My love she speaks like silence,

G F C

Without ideals or violence,

G F C

She doesn't have to say she's faithful,

Dm F G

Yet she's true, like ice, like fire.

C

People carry roses,

G F C

And make promises by the hours,

G F C

My love she laughs like the flowers,

Dm G C

Valentines can't buy her.

My love she speaks like silence,  
Without ideals or violence,  
She doesn't have to say she's faithful,  
Yet she's true, like ice, like fire.  
People carry roses,  
Make promises by the hours,  
My love she laughs like the flowers,  
Valentines can't buy her.

In the dime stores and bus stations,  
People talk of situations,  
Read books, repeat quotations,  
Draw conclusions on the wall.  
Some speak of the future,  
My love she speaks softly,  
She knows there's no success like failure  
And that failure's no success at all.

The cloak and dagger dangles,  
Madams light the candles.  
In ceremonies of the horsemen,  
Even the pawn must hold a grudge.  
Statues made of match sticks,  
Crumble into one another,  
My love winks, she does not bother,  
She knows too much to argue or to judge.

The bridge at midnight trembles,  
The country doctor rambles,  
Bankers' nieces seek perfection,  
Expecting all the gifts that wise men bring.  
The wind howls like a hammer,  
The night blows cold and rainy,  
My love she's like some raven  
At my window with a broken wing.

03/14/2021

the arts and other manifestations of human intellectual achievement regarded collectively, as in the arts, the humanities, intellectual achievements, intellectual activity, literature, music, painting, philosophy

the customs, arts, social institutions, and achievements of a particular nation, people, or other social group, as in civilization, society, way of life, lifestyle, customs, traditions, heritage, habits, ways, mores, values.

An integrated pattern of human knowledge, belief, and behavior. The outlook, attitudes, values, morals, goals, and customs shared by a society

maintain (tissue cells, bacteria, etc.) in conditions suitable for growth

Human symbolic expression developed as prehistoric humans reached behavioral modernity.

Humans acquire culture through the [learning](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Learning) processes of [enculturation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Enculturation) and [socialization](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Socialization), which is shown by the diversity of cultures across societies

Manipulating Culture to produce false consciousness.

Within [cultural anthropology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cultural_anthropology), the ideology and analytical stance of [cultural relativism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cultural_relativism) hold that cultures cannot easily be objectively ranked or evaluated because any evaluation is necessarily situated within the value system of a given culture

growth, development, evolution, [involution](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Involution_(esoterism)), renovation, [reconception](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Reconception&action=edit&redlink=1" \o "Reconception (page does not exist)), reform, [innovation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_innovation), revivalism, [revolution](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_revolution), [mutation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mutation), [progress](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_progress), [diffusion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diffusion), [osmosis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_osmosis), borrowing, [eclecticism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eclecticism), [syncretism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syncretism), modernization, [indigenization](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indigenization), and transformation

[Cultural invention](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cultural_invention) has come to mean any innovation that is new and found to be useful to a group of people and expressed in their behavior but which does not exist as a physical object

Social conflict and the development of technologies can produce changes within a society by altering social dynamics and promoting new [cultural models](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Schema_(psychology)), and spurring or enabling [generative action](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Generative_actor). These social shifts may accompany [ideological](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ideology) shifts and other types of cultural change.

[transculturation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transculturation). The transnational flow of culture has played a major role in merging different cultures and sharing thoughts, ideas, and beliefs.

[*bildung*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bildung): "Enlightenment is man's emergence from his self-incurred immaturity. – Kant

i.e Bildungsroman

He argued that this immaturity comes not from a lack of understanding, but from a lack of courage to think independently.

[Johann Gottfried Herder](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Johann_Gottfried_Herder) (1744–1803) argued that human creativity, which necessarily takes unpredictable and highly diverse forms, is as important as human rationality.

a more inclusive notion of culture as "[worldview](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_view)" (*Weltanschauung*)- Different groups, ethnicities, tribes have different Weltanschauung (Collective Bildung)… can we put values on these primitive, advanced, etc?

 "culture" vs "the state of nature"

“culture” vs “anarchy” (though what of that anarchy of common decency, where we protect one another, or feel compelled to do so, fo no reason other than soul facing soul)

Culture or cultivating can be corrupting. Especially if it is all symbolism and no substance. A deep appreciation of film or music or food is one thing, a superficial act of “name dropping” or making an appearance or paying lip service or brandishing one’s class, or wealth, or power is empty and hollow and vapid.

Other 19th-century critics, following Rousseau, have accepted this differentiation between higher and lower culture, but have seen the refinement and [sophistication](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sophistication) of high culture as corrupting and unnatural developments that obscure and distort people's essential nature. These critics considered [folk music](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Folk_music) (as produced by "the folk," i.e., rural, illiterate, peasants) to honestly express a natural way of life, while classical music seemed superficial and decadent. Equally, this view often portrayed [indigenous peoples](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indigenous_peoples) as "[noble savages](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Noble_savage)" living [authentic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Authenticity_(philosophy)) and unblemished lives, uncomplicated and uncorrupted by the highly stratified [capitalist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Capitalism) systems of [the West](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Western_culture).

 Following nineteenth-century Romantics, they identified "culture" with consumption goods and leisure activities (such as art, music, film, [food](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Food), sports, and clothing). They saw patterns of consumption and leisure as determined by [relations of production](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Relations_of_production), which led them to focus on class relations and the organization of production

Cultural studies is concerned with the [meaning](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Value_(personal_and_cultural)) and practices of everyday life.

These practices comprise the ways people do particular things (such as watching television or eating out) in a given culture. It also studies the meanings and uses people attribute to various objects and practices. In the context of cultural studies, the idea of a *text* includes not only [written language](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Written_language), but also [films](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Film), [photographs](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Photography), [fashion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fashion) or [hairstyles](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hairstyle): the texts of cultural studies comprise all the meaningful artifacts of culture

Cultural lenses may also make people view the same outcome of events differently. Westerners are more motivated by their successes than their failures, while East Asians are better motivated by the avoidance of failure.

“There’s no success like failure and failure is no success at all.”

Kulturbrille- “culture glasses” – the refined lenses that allow us to make sense of our own culture, but which can blind us to things that outsiders pick up on immediately.

Critical theory, hermeneutics (structuralists, postmoderns)

Sociologists of Culture- more quantitative

Cultural Sociologist- more hermenueticall approach: focusing on words, artifacts and symbols

12/19/2020

The reconciliation of mind to the conditions of life is fundamental to all creation stories… and all acts of creation.

12/18/2020

We create our family cultures via messages and behaviors.

We create our family cultures by the systems we put into place to solves the following challenges of **Security, Health, Education.**

How we respond to these fundamental challenges deeply impacts and shapes our family culture and therefore the development of our children and our continued development as adults which of course continues to occur throughout middle-age and into our elderly years.

We must pursue beauty and cultivate beauty. In our family cultures we emphasis certain things and we offer certain opportunities. Not all, but some. Left to use to feel out how we can approach this challenges:

* Security(physical and financial well-being, stable, safe housing, etc.)
* Health (physical, emotional, spiritual)
* Education (developmental, academic, physical)

There was this strange block between my life and my writing. Was I protecting my writing because I didn’t know how to talk about it. Because it worried me how important it was, but it also perplexed me, because its importance seemed disporprtionate with the benefits it was providing me with both materially and personally and relationally.

Is this activity improving your life MATERIALLY?

Is this activity improving your life PERSONALLY?

Is this activity improving your life RELATIONALLY?

When I began this first novel I was very insecure and had apparently learned nothing in college about the importance of sketching out or outlining a project before trying to build a first draft. I think I had this Beatnick idea that I just needed to get enough forward momentum, whatever could provide that ambiguous commodity and or physical/inspirational force.

They post a mawkish video of an elderly women reciting a singsong poem about suffering polishing ones diamond so that it shines even brighter for all eternity. My mind takes this several places.

1. Flashback to the culture of mindless enthusiasm at Razny. Cultural Team Spirit!!
   1. Go get ‘em! Kill ‘em! Fight like hell!
2. The problematic metaphor of arguing that polishing a jewel will make it brighter

b. Jewels reflect the most light when the are carefully and intentionally cut and stay the shiniest over time if they are well-protected to avoid scratches, wear and cleaving, and kept clean and fresh with regular washing and maintenance.

The problem with language. The difficult to maintain matrix of language processing that needs to be in place t4o have our messages be interpreted correctly. The problem with humor. What is it about our family culture/psychology that we feel compleeled to make inappropriate, politically tinged, not that funny jokes that seem to hint at the tension below the surface. We do this because we do not have any other outlets for it. Writign has been a good outlet for me to help me process my inchoate thoughts. I am not saying that I have been able to process all of my inchoat thoughts, but I believe I have found a way to flush out a lot of conflicted thoughts and try to approach them from new and potentially constructive angle. This is a very important part of writing for me. It is a way that I can cordon off approaching certain material in a more controlled, iterative environment. This gives me the freedom the really think about and consider the sensitive topic and think about the message that is most appropriate for the given context. What is my larger message? What message can address this subtopic without clouding or obscuring my larger message. How so I allow absolute message shape my sub messages?

01/15/2021

I am writing all of this in my approach. I am approaching as I write this—the mind approaches as it creates. This doing is an overflow of being. We work and maintain and nurture—your personal project is not the national political project. Be clear on what you are working towards and mark the blessings where they’re met. Your values will be shoehorned somewhere—vote as such. This political project goes on and on and the fight for its legitimacy and ability to maintain legitimacy is a struggle worth the effort, but it is far from the only struggle in the world and thankfully compared to most personal struggles it is but a cacophonous backdrop. Our modern condition brings messages like weather and wind. Some go in one ear and right out the other. Some messages are stickier.

Your family pushed you out of its culture as it closed ranks around their conservative Catholicism. And so here we are finally. Firmly cast out into the family of man.

Like returning to that job with the corrosive culture and disorganized bosswoman.

Similar tension and mania in my family—activites, go, plan, add anxiety, add 6 kids and 19 grandchildren, pile on the blessings—how we possibly grow close with this configuration. We can grow—yes, we can, we are growing and we will have negative emotions when our differences alienate us from one another, but there is a deeper love, a deeper wisdom, a deeper commitment that can assuage this chest tightening emotion, this brain browning out gust—distant, dislocated, tight and caught in our old thoughts—corrosive loops, a centrifuge of short-comings sped up and smashed into one another in the quiet, reflective moments of your life.

**KULTURE KOMFORT action plan**

1. **Better conversations with family and friends**

* Prepare what you have to share. How would you answer the questions below?
* Prepare questions you want to ask; make goals about who you want to connect with. Open ended questions. Connection people together with what you learn. Share what you learn with other people. Contribute to the culture that you are attracted to by echoing back messages that deserve affimation.

1. **Be Excited about the texts all around!**
2. **Record—**write to the culture, tech to the culture, picture to the culture.
3. **Celebrate aspects of culture that inspire and nourish you and your people**
4. **Being, learning, creating**

8/23/2021

Wilson Edwards -- fake Swiss Scientist created by Chinese intelligence services.

“So obsessed with attacking China on the origin tracing issue that it is reluctant to open its eyes to the data and findings.

Enlightened consumption is still consumption.