

The Winds of Optimism

I've been rightfully accused of being a committed pessimist by those that know me well. For a Conservative, it's easy to do. The permanent ruling class in D.C. has morphed "We the People". Into "You, our Subjects". The same people who used to riot for the freedom of speech in their youth, now scream for more censorship of any speech they don't agree with. Those who used to champion for fiscal responsibility can't wait to pass pork-laden spending bills, and retain Representatives who lied to their voters. Those that pretend to lead us... silently sit on their hands while our traditional values emblematic of what God graced us with are one-by-one mocked, persecuted, and outlawed. It's like up is down, and down is up...at least when we concentrate on the disfunction in Washington.

Four thousand, five hundred million dollars (yes 4.5 billion) being wasted on fraudulent Covid Economic Injury Disaster Loans, and 2.1 million to encourage Ethiopians to wear shoes. We have not been good stewards of our tax dollars. The consequences are quickly approaching, and all the animals on the savannah seem restless, fearful, and ready to "fight or flight". Each political side points fingers at the other, oblivious that both major parties have the same poor habits. Of course, all this division allows little time for questioning, analysis, and treating each other with respect. That's exactly what the ruling class wants us to do...be preoccupied with theatre. So, it can be a challenge to be filled with positivity, especially when we look at our national condition.

Edward Ring in *American Greatness* recently wrote about pessimism. "Pessimism provides the fertile soil into which manipulative agendas are planted, sowing guilt, resentment, hatred, and the dark comfort of extremist solutions to manufactured problems. Pessimism and the products of pessimism are the body on which evil festers and grows." In other words, being pessimistic, hopeless, and "giving up" is how those who are evil...promote *more* evil. Ouch.

Then, a new year dawns some interesting, and important shifts in what I feel. Common sense seems to be crawling out of its' hibernation den. People of all persuasions are questioning the Federal Government at many levels and seeing the hypocrisy in our "leaders" for what it is...evil. "Follow the Science" was really "Follow the Political Science". We all see the ways big tech has manipulated the narrative, and the joy that some had in suppression of speech is now being replaced with the chilling thought..."it could happen to me". The "elites" at the Davos conference, flying in on their private jets while suggesting we eat bugs and freeze are being openly mocked. We dare to demand covered up Gov't files from 60 years ago, and video tapes declared off-limits due to "national security" will soon be released. One candidate gets falsely smeared as a Russian asset to be defeated, while another is totally protected from any inquiries about his international dealings. Now it seems the long knives are out for our current President, because permanent Washington has determined he needs to go. So, once again maybe it's time to adopt that old bumper sticker that said, "Question Everything". That's our unique right as

Americans. We have the right (and obligation) to hold the powerful to task. It's a muscle that has atrophied, and it will take a bit to get back in shape. No, it's not un-American to demand our elected representatives actually read a bill they are voting on, and yes...our Constitutional Republic flourishes when opposing sides disagree and peacefully clash. If you need an example of a nice, peaceful political process just look at the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). Everyone is ~~forced~~ *encouraged* to be on the same page, or else. Just ask the Uyghur Muslims.

Robert B. Charles wrote in *AMAC Magazine* "Our record – the trajectory of our history – is persistent resistance to anyone, foreign or domestic, who infringes on our liberty. Invariably, we choose courage over cowardice, determination over dependence, guts over graft."

Americans are tired of living in fear. It's against our nature. The greater majority just want a level playing field to do their best, and then to be left alone to do it. "Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness" ...yep. Just try to listen to "*Chicken Fried*" from the *Zac Brown Band*...and not smile!

So, Optimism in measured amounts is warranted. Optimism that Good People are starting to cock their heads, and question what's really going on. Optimism that our national culture will match our Jonesborough culture is a good place to start, I say to myself. Maybe it's the pride of a shared history (complete with warts) that binds us together and draws so many to this town. So be it.