

the scene

No one likes being used.
No one likes being told what to believe.
We're known to rebel if we feel someone is manipulating us.
Modern Consciousness is like that.

We know living together in Society requires obeying laws:
 seat belts, traffic lights...
Rules intended to promote the safety, health and well-being of all;
while Democracy ensures that all of us have a say in making them.

When it comes to informing Ourselves —
we're known to turn and listen to One Another, read and think things over;
though in the end, we each understand things in our own way;
 the meaning of scenes we're living through,
 the options available to us.

Many of us are aware of the serious perils we face.
The climate crisis, sea and forest degradations,
 nuclear armaments, high-tech weaponry, cyber and information warfare,
 the global suffering resulting from centuries of colonization,
 the on-going economic and social inequity.

Problems we need to solve — for the children's sake.
Problems we can solve; but only by working together.
 Everyone minded in the same direction / working toward the same goal.
That requirement, however, we are sorely lacking.

Acknowledging our limitations,
we've been focusing on what's happening here in the United States;
 on lands taken from People who had been living here for at least 15,000 years,
 and who have yet to be compensated for the nameless enormity.
Here, a crater deep and wide as the grand canyon
divides us regarding Truth.

We will try to describe it.
On one side —
Conservatives don't like the changes wrought by feminism and civil rights activism.
They believe that People are lazy and greedy by Nature;
 that it's all a competition.
And that government shouldn't be in the business of helping the disadvantaged.
Theirs a harsh version of the Ego Narrative.

Conservatives advocate slashing taxes and eliminating government regulations. They promote the continued use of fossil fuels and the destruction of labor unions. The Right opposes affirmative action programs aimed at creating equality.

On the other side of the chasm —
you have those who make up the Political Left / People often labeled Liberals;
also called Progressives, Socialists, Bleeding Hearts, Radicals, Snowflakes...
(And in the interest of full disclosure, this includes the author and editor)

Those on this side of the divide believe in Science and Education.
Most trust in the ultimate goodness of Humankind.
Some carry on the long struggle for Peace and Social Justice.
Most on the Left hold the opinion that Government has a role in making our lives better;
and advocate programs aimed at doing so — paid for with taxes.

Of course, the actual People associated with the one side or the other
are much more complicated than these categories would suggest.
Intentions, motivations and activities overlap.
Kindness and intelligence are found on both sides,
and the Ego Narrative is also engaged and practiced by both, as well.
Most would have a difficult time imagining those with wealth
freely giving away their fortunes to help others who are in need.

Yet historians, sociologists and political scientists generally agree —
and an analysis of the daily news might lead one to the same conclusion,
American society is polarized.
Conservatives / Liberals. Left / Right. Red / Blue. Democrats / Republicans.

The roots of our present extreme opposition,
reach back to the Founding Fathers.
Although they declared, “all men are created equal...”
they failed to address the problem that they themselves were a part of.
They wrote and ratified a Constitution that permitted slavery —
tacitly approving a racist mindset that lingers with us still,
while creating a situation that ultimately led to the Civil War.

That War began in 1860, when the Southern States,
led by an elite class who stood to lose wealth from the abolition of slavery,
declared all men *not* created equal
and seceded from the Union.

The carnage finally ended in 1865,
after having taken 750,000 lives;
leaving the South both physically and psychologically in ruins.

During the period of Reconstruction,
it was assumed that White Southerners would accept the results of the conflict.
But the occupying Northern Army couldn't force the recognition of equality;
the effort failed —
Northerners, too, had absorbed the racism modality of the Ego Narrative.
Whites, both North and South, left powerless by the economic social hierarchy,
were told that at least they were 'above Blacks.'

Once the troops were withdrawn,
Jim Crow laws were passed by Southern legislators,
effectively producing an apartheid system.
Separate water fountains, restrooms, lunch counters, where you sat on the bus.
Segregated education / often no education available at all for Blacks.
Voting restrictions and intimidation effecting near total disenfranchisement.
and lynchings.

It took until the Sixties, and individuals willing to risk and lose their lives,
endure beatings, dogs, tear gas, water cannons, jail...
before Democrats passed Federal Laws —
guaranteeing Everyone the Right to Vote,
securing Everyone their Civil Rights;
these, along with Liberal leaning Judicial renderings,
upended segregation.

Signs were coming down / a new day dawning.
But the Republican Party — instead of helping,
saw the situation as an opportunity for possible exploitation.
Just as the "New South" was rising,
just as racist narratives were slowly losing their grip on People's minds;
The GOP launched its "Southern Strategy."
Exploiting the old White Southern Culture by emphasizing an "us vs. them" narrative,
warning Southerners that their way of life was going to disappear;
stirring up and reinvigorating racist attitudes — North and South.

In the ensuing years, the Conservative media elaborated on this theme —
translating Women's Liberation as an attack on male identity,
any empowerment of People of Color as "racism in reverse,"
spinning the cultural revolution as a threat to religion;
Cultivating a voter base driven by fear and prejudice.

Courting that base,
with a mix of permission giving crude behavior,
blatantly racist statements and misogynist performance;
while welcoming the assistance of the Russian government to help with his campaign,
the former president managed to get elected in 2016.

Then, in 2020, the People rejected him and the corruption that he represented.
But if losers in a Democracy refuse to accept the result of elections,
the system is undermined.
and this is what ensued —

It began with the former president, the loser,
claiming — without evidence, that the election had been stolen from him.
After that fabrication lost in every courtroom, all the way up to the Supreme Court;
he tried to overturn the election results from within the government;
and when that failed (only because individuals remained true to the Constitution);
he instigated and failed in a violent coup attempt, an assault on the Capitol.
without admitting defeat, he left office.
Only to commandeer his Party.

As of this writing / October, 2021,
in an open display of political cynicism,
without regard for the Constitution,
without respect for Democracy and the Rule of Law —
the Republican Party is engaged in a scale of gamesmanship,
unprecedented in living memory.

Not only is that Party refusing to cooperate in the investigation
of the January 6 attack on Congress,
violence that included death and injury
as well as the erection of a gallows outside the building;
but they've yet to disavow the falsehood that the election was stolen.
Some are still promoting it,
despite the over 40 cases of alleged fraud that have gone to court,
(often in courtrooms presided over by Republican appointed judges)
and in each, the allegations were found to be groundless / without evidence,
thrown out.

If this public undermining of Truth,
and effort to destroy our trust in the electoral system weren't enough —
under the guise of that same Election Theft Lie,
(that there was fraud, when there was none)

Republican state legislatures have changed and are changing voting laws;
some undercutting independent electoral commissions,
all making it more difficult, rather than more easy to vote.

If to this Political charade, we add their response to Covid-19 —
the scene turns incomprehensible.

We should be / we could be — all pulling together.

Working at protecting One Another and overcoming this lethal virus;
showing profound recognition and support for our frontline medical heroes;
each of us doing our part by getting vaccinated, wearing masks, distancing.
Because of Science.

Instead, Republican leaders are obstructing efforts to mandate masks.
Not doing all they can to persuade People to get vaccinated.
While Right wing media and social networks continue to spew misinformation,
discourse aimed at discrediting our best Medical Professionals;
and worse.

Blatantly endangering themselves and others —
at the cost of hundreds of thousands of Lives.

It sounds like hyperbole;
like a scene miswritten / that it belongs somewhere else,
in some other historical setting.
Maybe from the nightmare part of a fairytale.

What is happening?

Questions cascade —
How far can this go?
Can we hope this madness will just correct itself?
Trust that the Republicans will just come to their senses?
What's the risk of not acting?
What could be done?

When we earlier explored the question of "How,"
How do we get closer to the Real of Who-we-are?
Our rethinking brought us a simple and straight forward answer:
We could do it with a Change of Heart.

Turning back to that formula —
aware that only an act of Free Will can bring Love,
and only Love can create the kinds of Changes we desperately need;

it follows that we will have little luck in addressing our Problems,
unless Everyone's Heart can be won over to create the World all of us desire.

"Naïve," Cynical Politics responds,
"You're never going to get everyone to agree about that World or how to get there."

Yet, consider the following.

The largest segment of the United States population
have not succumbed to the disparagement of Truth.
Most of the People still trust Science, Education, peer reviewed Journalism.
They believe in Reason and Compassion.
The majority is most likely already on board, ready for a World of Love;
only the way forward has been in question.
So how could it be done?

First, by understanding that the present situation is not determined;
that we're Free to create the World all of us desire in our Hearts.
We know that Subjectivity means that we can choose,
that we're Free to think our thoughts,
Free to give voice to them.

We observed earlier the role that voting plays in a democracy.
How it fits with the integrity of each of us as equal members in the larger system.
How it draws us toward a mutual respect for One Another.

We also know that voting accords with understandings learned from Complexity Theory.
Real change happens, not from the Top Down / an imposition;
but rather from the Bottom Up / by individual commitments to a common vision.
Participation by agents of a complex system proves to be the most successful strategy.

2022 is the year of Mid-term Elections.
Typically the Party occupying the White House loses seats,
in one or both Chambers of Congress.
If we're looking for a miracle —
here is where we can start.

If there would be a massive, unprecedented Voter turnout;
participation in a mid-term election as has never been seen before,
and the vote overwhelmingly favor the Party now in the White House,
across the board — turning all expectations upside down.
It would be historic. Unexpected. Fully unpredictable.

Most importantly, though,
It would be a clear message to Ourselves and all the World,
to the People of China, Russia, the Middle East...
not only saying how much democracy means to us —
but also that it can work.
When things go wrong / we can correct them.

And things, at this time, have gone terribly wrong with the Republican Party.
That's why, at this election —
We need to put the Democrats fully in charge, at least for the moment.
Giving the GOP some time for Self-reflection.
A landslide would demonstrate and renew our trust and faith in One Another;
and in our system.

Not exactly an impossible fantasy.
Something like that could happen.
And it wouldn't require any kind of central organization.
It could come about by Self-organization —
individuals responding in whatever way they choose,
within and without organizations.

But it would take each of us doing more —
probably more than we ever imagined ourselves doing for an election before.
Beginning with encouraging One Another so that Everyone's voice is heard.
Reaching out and helping Others to overcome any barriers set up
by the Republican's new laws.
Both the effort and results would have to be spectacular. Head turning.

If it were successful, it would be a glorious first step.
Only a first step, however —
for although we might envisage that our imagined lopsided election results
would impress some People;
it wouldn't sit the same with everyone.
Those on the other side, for instance, who voted Republican.

They may feel that such a turn will only make matters worse.
They may even feel threatened by it.
“What is this going to do to me?” we can imagine them asking.
Which Right wing radio hosts will only be too happy to answer.

Based on recent history,
we might even anticipate the Republican Party scorning the event,
downplaying its significance; engaging in more fear mongering.

As a People, we've weathered these kinds of difficulties before.
We can remain confident.
We know something about Who-we-are —
 from the Quarks sharing energy at the Heart of Matter,
 to the altruism of the Organelles within our every cell.
We know that Everyone, every Particle is entangled in the Universe.

The goodness of anyone of us can never be entirely obscured.
We can be misled by persuasive political argumentation;
 we can be deceived.
But we are neither Determined by a corrupt Human Nature,
 nor is our Consciousness welded to what we once were thinking.
Intelligence is defined by the capacity to Change our Minds.

If Democrats were to secure both Chambers of Congress,
and if they were to act swiftly and carefully —
 while staying on their avowed trajectory,
they could pass the legislation that the Republicans have been blocking;
create and pass so much more.

And if they were to deliver big time —
People everywhere would experience the benefits from it:
 infrastructure / fair wages / childcare / healthcare / environment / jobs...
signs that we can heal the Planet,
and renewed Hope that we can find a way to World Peace.

Come the 2024 elections,
there would inevitably be an even wider and deeper affirmative response.
More and more People wanting to be a part of this larger change-making "Peace Train."

This is what a government of the People, by the People,
 and for the People is about.
None of us want to pass a World rife with trouble onto our children.
 Species are dying all around us.
 We and our Planet are in peril.
If we work together, we can at least begin to fix what's broken.

Will it unfold like this?
It could / or maybe not.

Ultimately,
what's being proposed is not a referendum on the Biden Administration,
nor a reflection on how we feel about Congress;

it's a vote for a Possibility.

We see all around us the mess that the Self-as-Separate Ego Idea has made.

We need to move beyond this pathways' end.

We have the opportunity to see if the idea of helping One Another could work.

In our Hearts, we may already believe that it can.