



BIDEN OUR TIME At The Edge of the Apocalypse

Bernie says, "Despair isn't an option." I usually say, "Keep false hope alive." But as I reach desperately for a solution, the I Ching tells me that not only have the inferior taken over everywhere but I am in danger of being personally harmed and should just pull the covers over my head like an accommodating liberal.

Which do I believe? The stakes aren't just high, they are poised at the heart of our species. We are fixin' to die. Biden our time with fascism light, or, as my almost guru, Sheldon Wolin, called it, Inverted Totalitarianism, is a fix that is loaded with fentanyl. Sure, Biden may still flub the dub bigtime, but Bernie will never be allowed to take office while the two billionaire parties are in full flower.

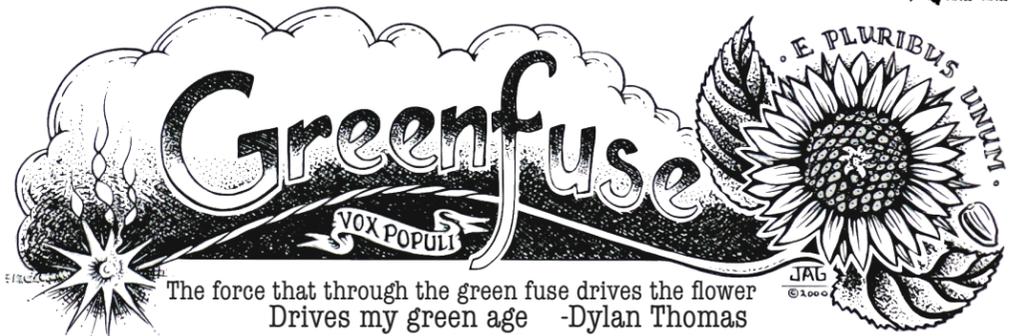
In any case, I don't think we have the margin to be Biden our time with 4 years of wheel spinning - at best. I voted for Bernie. I will vote for Bernie again against Trump. I have a big green Bernie sign which I will continue to fly on the street. But I will not support Joe Biden. The billionaire forces can duke it out in the media but the choice between the two parties is on a scale between ridiculous and functionally nonexistent. One is stepping on the gas towards planetary death and the other is putting people to sleep with hot air while we careen towards death at a speed slightly slower than the "opposition."

This is usually not a hard choice for me. I am a Weimar leftist, eternally angry at what the German Social Democrats did to Rosa Luxemburg. Wah wah. In today's terms, I am bitter at what Biden has and does represent - how he will act like Obama, offering a compromise to the right and then compromising that. It looked good before Hitler took power to say, "Let him run his course," and we can pick up the pieces. After all, after WWII the commies got a third of Germany. Unfortunately, under Biden's 4 years or Trump's 4 there won't be many pieces to pick up.

I am the sole member of the Surprise Party but I am willing to abandon my revolutionary aspirations to work on behalf of Democratic Socialism - but **that's not coming**. It is nuts to expect that any government of the USofA can stop demonizing and punishing - with all the money and the military at its disposal - **any solution** which allows breathing room for poor and working people. I can point out Venezuela as an example of Democratic Socialism, but we are at war to the death with what Venezuela represents. Didn't you see the Democrats standing to applaud "our president" Juan Guaido?

The USofA will always claim that an election is fraudulent when capitalism loses ground. In Venezuela, where the elections are fair by Jimmy Carter standards, where corporate media and privileged property still flourish, the USofA hasn't hesitated to kill an estimated 40,000 people by an undeclared war. **The good ole USofA fears any alternative that doesn't use money and military power as the sole source of legitimacy.** In Bolivia - at this very moment - our corporate clients have used a combination of fraud and military coup to remove a legitimately elected President for The People. Just like the previous coup in Brazil where the Money and the Military put the popular candidate, Lula, in prison so he couldn't run to a certain victory. That's being repeated in Bolivia of course and **it will be repeated here against Bernie.**

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Hindsight is 2020

There is so much propoganda peddled today in the mainstream media about "Bernie Bros" brought to you by establishment interests and their fear of loosing their stranglehold on the people and planet. It's about as logical as claiming Bernie condones sexual harassment (because of a staff member conflict), pedophilia (because he supports voter rights of prisoners), that he is not a feminist and racial justice warrior (because he is a white man). Enough of this nonsense, look at his policies, look at his record, and look at his unwavering integrity under the most insane pressure undoubtedly.

WE MUST overcome this narrative (and others) because there is so little difference between the DNC and RNC candidates, beyond slight and varying degree of harm promised. Trump and Biden are both business as usual, brought to you by different billionaires who are terrified of a Bernie presidency and it's impact on their bottom line. The establishment, both Republican and Democratic arms are doing everything in their immense power to stop this rEvolution for The People and by The People. We mustn't let them.

I am proud to be a "Bernie bro" because I am a Mother without access to childcare or paternity leave, in one of only a few countries that do not offer it worldwide. It's not the 50's folks. Women do not get to choose to work we **HAVE TO** work outside the home (while care-taking for our families) in

addition to our partner's work, just to afford the basics for our families. This means that in 2020, without subsidized childcare or any government safety nets you are essentially guaranteed to live in poverty if you choose to have a family in America, and you do not come from some amount of wealth. These are not appropriate or sustainable options for people doing the most natural thing a human can do, and in the richest country in the world.

I am proud to be a "Bernie Bro" because I am the wife of an incredible, hardworking and talented man who migrated here due to US foreign policies that caused immense violence and disenfranchising his country's economy and so his prospects of staying there. My husband and myself have been stuck in the impossible and expensive "legal immigration" process that not only doesn't allow you to work legally sometimes for years, but also leaves one with constant fear of deportations and ICE raids, yes even if you are married to a citizen. We are supposedly the lucky ones and I am here to say from experience that the "legal immigration" system doesn't really exist for the majority of people. Did you know that you cannot sponsor your own spouse unless you make over a certain amount of taxed income? This means that much of the population doesn't have the right to fall in love with someone from another country. This is a complete violation of our basic human right to love.

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A Report Back in the Mexico that Doesn't Work

We dreamed "that the patriarchy burned" and that it was possible to inhabit spaces free of cruelty. The **Zapatista** women have achieved this: their demands from 1994 turned into reality, spaces without cruelty and without femicides, without human trafficking, or pedophilia, or the sex trade, or corruption, or drug trafficking, or individualized competition, without self-victimization. Spaces free of capitalism. These autonomous and self-managed Zapatista rebel islands, that have multiplied in the past year, resist within a rough sea of generalized violence that led to **38,000 murders in 2019 in a Mexico that doesn't work.**

For a long time, we graffitied it, theorized it, protested for it, and proposed it. We then came to shout this dream in a **territory free of femicides**. Here we cried it and wailed it. Here we sang it, danced it, cared for it in this valley of organization and work. From December 26 - 29, 2019, the Zapatista women sheltered us in their collective and rebellious lap to clothe us in dignity. We arrived at this gathering that never should have been. Violence against women, the topic of discussion at this international gathering, should have decreased. But it hasn't. That same violence impacts billions of people, particularly women, boys and girls, as explained by the some **4,000 women who came from 49 countries that also don't work.**

Dozens of organizations of indigenous and campesina women are present, demonstrating the importance of this gathering and an example of the intersection of struggles of women from several countries who are defending territory, human rights, and women's organizational processes.

The Zapatistas present a performance that combines the strength and discipline of the militawomen with the joy of a cumbia dance that makes us wonder, "what if this is love, what if this is love?" They are the daughters and granddaughters of those who put their bodies and lives into the uprising 26 years ago. Many come wearing bows and colored arrows and some without them. When the *cumbia* stops, the girl Esperanza places herself in the center of the seedbed and expresses her need for help against violence. The militawomen shout that they must protect her and they do. They run around her in concentric rows, forming a conch. Those armed with bow and arrow aim at the circular horizon while a thrice-given instruction asks them to "ready and aim" without firing. The nationals and internationals observe in silence. Around the seedbed which men are not permitted to enter, these militawomen armed with bows and arrows will take care of us, be it under the sun or under a tender moon that is beginning to grow.

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CORONAVIRUS ~ BEYOND THE COSMETIC

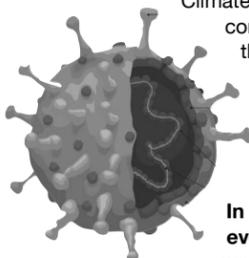
A microscopic virus has been unsettling global business as usual: killing people all over the world, hospitalizing countless others, and spreading a pandemic of fear. This unpredictable intrusion of an invisible being into the vast human machine is slowly grinding down the world in its deadly track. At the same time, the world machine is being threatened by something much more dangerous: **climate change.**

The human machine is made up of armies, nuclear bombs, international trade, construction, buying, selling, traveling, waging war, logging of forests, the burning of the Amazon, plundering each other and the natural world, rural exodus to the overcrowded cities, obese and hungry people sleeping next to each other: some sleeping in luxury and others in the streets. Meanwhile, in the midst of these social and ecological calamities, privileges rain on the rich and super UN and other climate scientists have given policy makers about ten years for the elimination of fossil fuels.

Government officials and the World Health Organization see no connection between this hell on Earth, the failed international order and the virus. They confine themselves in issuing instructions on the magnitude and symptoms of the corona disease. Not a word that perhaps this sort of thing - anthropogenic onslaught on the Earth resembling biological warfare -- is likely **the explanation for the corona virus.**

Diseases come from ecological disturbances, too much cold, too much heat, bad food, no food, and pollution and wars. Conventional reports, however, suggest that the corona virus emerged in December 2019 in the wild animal markets of the large city of Wuhan, China. It would not be farfetched to speculate that the origins of the virus pandemic is found in the deleterious human effects on the natural world, our Mother Earth

This is big deal because the Earth has always been Mother Earth: source of all life, animal and human, and civilization. Humans have reached a state of technological wherewithal that threatens their own existence (with any deployment of nuclear weapons) or the slower undermining of their civilization (with burning fossil fuels and aggressive ecocidal policies).



Climate change is changing agriculture for the worst. Corporate managers and scientists continue fiddling with the genetic engineering of crops. They also continue increasing the amounts of toxic and carcinogenic pesticides they spray the very food people eat. Animal farms, major sources of greenhouse gases, have become symbols of affluence. Mass slaughtering and eating of animals is fashionable and on the rise. Warmer seas and oceans are increasingly becoming less hospitable to life, including fish. Add commercial overfishing, and the future of fish supplementing human diet becomes problematic and dark.

In 2019, world population was 7.7 billion. The numbers of people keep increasing, even doubling every few decades. This assures class tensions, exploitation of the weak by the powerful, impoverishment of the natural world and perpetual waves of migrants and refugees seeking a better life. War, as in Syria, and higher temperatures make this population movement inevitable, tragic, and dangerous.

Our catastrophe has been encoded on the DNA of those who have been building nuclear bombs and still keep them as potential bullets against their enemies. Holding on to such destructive and genocidal weapons makes possible all other atrocities against the natural world and against humans.

What should we say about these facts? Dare we connect them to science and progress? UN and other climate scientists have given policy makers about ten years for the elimination of fossil fuels. The challenge of reinventing and making the world is immense. The fire of Prometheus is still burning among us. Let's use it for the benefit of all humanity. Focus in the restoration of environmental and public health. Nothing is possible without health.

If I am right in my speculation, a real rather than a cosmetic solution of the pandemic would require the remaking of our world: banning nuclear weapons and nuclear power plants; enforcing a strict worldwide population control like that of China; ending fossil fuels, replacing them with solar, wind and other renewable forms of energy; returning to small-scale democratic and ecological farming without synthetic fertilizers and pesticides.

And, of course, a worldwide ban of the plundering of the natural world.

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