

# THE CLOCK IS TICKING. . . . .

There is nothing new in the fractious and divisive dynamics of our national politics; the history of congressional relations is filled with rancor and incivility. But historically there was usually a commonality, the democratic frame work in which diverse opinions live. While we have come to deify democracy, and take it for granted that it should be universally instituted, ironically, by force when *required*, it is not a given.

The concept of democratic "rule" was a revolution of political philosophy but has never been fully realized. How could it be? Voting districts are manipulated by political parties for their own advantage. Political awareness is stunted, false information and conditional compassion abounds, every citizen is entitled to a unique world view, without regard to reality, and add the fiction that every vote has equal value.

How can the vote of a deranged, uninformed, and selfish voter be equal to the vote of an enlightened and intelligent communitarian? The only real value of democracy that has been realized is in its contradiction to the alternatives.

**The danger of our current era is the drift towards an attractive autocracy.**

It is human nature to resist change and cling to what feels safe. Programmed by the cynical fears promoted by political players, voters tired of conflicting opinions and suspicious of progress crave simple answers. The unity of purpose that a "strong" leader promises offers the comfort they seek.

But like the **Wizard in OZ**, behind the curtain of autocracy stand the oligarchs who actually pull the strings of power: the enemies of democratic principles. With these odds, Democracy requires more citizen action than simply voting against fears. Politics beyond opposition requires convivial collaboration; only by practice over time, with focused intention can anything like a functioning democracy be achieved.

In our clearly broken world, perhaps hope for civility is all we can do. But in the current world, trust in that often seems like unwarranted optimism.

In Climate News:

the **U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres** delivered opening remarks to the **COP27** climate summit in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt in early November:

*"... the clock is ticking.*

*We are in the fight of our lives, and we are losing.*

*Greenhouse gas emissions keep growing.*

*Global temperatures keep rising.*

*And our planet is fast approaching tipping points that will make climate chaos irreversible.*

*We are on a highway to climate hell with our foot still on the accelerator."*



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*"A poet's work is to name the unnameable, to point at frauds, to take sides, start arguments, shape the world, and stop it going to sleep."*

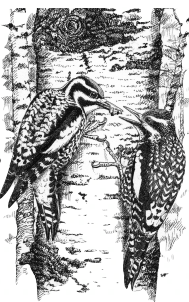
~ Salman Rushdie

*"If I'm going to Hell, I'm going there playing the piano."*

~ Jerry Lee Lewis  
b.9/29/35 d.10/28/22

*"We have to be militants for kindness, subversive for sweetness & radicals for tenderness."*

~ Cornel West



Much like the stalemate of will that climate repair/reform faces after 26 years of annual meetings, the UN itself struggles to maintain relevance. Created seventy-five years ago, October 1945, in the aftermath of World War II, the UN's primary purpose was to maintain international peace and security.



In order to ensure "**prompt and effective action**," the UN Charter established the **Security Council**, for that primary responsibility. The Security Council is composed of five permanent members, the victors of the Second World War: China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States, and six non-permanent members elected by the General Assembly for two-year terms.

Seventy-five years later, the world has changed profoundly and the Security Council is becoming less and less effective in crisis after crisis. Originally conceived on a basis of responsibility and capacity, rather than on a principle of representation, multiple reform proposals show a certain consensus among member states on the need for Security Council reform. But, because of the resistance the proposals raise, there is no consensus on the nature of such reform or how it could be achieved. None of the proposals has the unanimous support of the permanent members and would not be able to garner the support of two-thirds of member states, an impasse that contributes to the weakening authority, legitimacy and effectiveness of the Security Council that has always struggled with those attributes.

The current ridiculous, optional, destructive wars raging are stark examples of the inability of the United Nations to meet its mandate.

- Joshua Golden

**Don't allow the lucid moment to dissolve**

Let the radiant thought last in stillness  
though the page is almost filled and the flame flickers  
We haven't risen yet to the level of ourselves  
Knowledge grows slowly like a wisdom tooth  
The stature of a man is still notched  
high up on a white door  
From far off, the joyful voice of a trumpet  
and of a song rolled up like a cat  
What passes doesn't fall into a void  
A stoker is still feeding coal into the fire  
Don't allow the lucid moment to dissolve  
On a hard dry substance  
you have to engrave the truth

-Adam Zagajewski  
1945-2021



# This Production Brought to You by Civilization and its Discontent



"Trees seem okay unless something happens to them and something is always happening to trees."



~ Dean Young



A town full of empty storefronts  
The once mighty river now runs a thread.  
Stiff chilling wind dances the trees to madness.

This years' Autumn birds look me in the eye  
and ask: Where are the bushels of madrone berries?  
A scant handful of fruits hit the ground, unripe.



The dance of dearth and over-abundance  
Going nowhere fast.  
*Oh this world will never last.*

This world collapses under the weight of bleakness.  
Later, we will re-inhabit the ruins - perhaps. Perhaps.

Mistakes repeated Wealth squandered Lessons unlearned  
Bell towers, buildings, bridges burned  
Quiet, thoughtful stones unturned

Barrels full of blah and blah  
Busloads of babble boatloads of blather  
Too many devices, not much to say  
Dressed to thrill, but lost my way

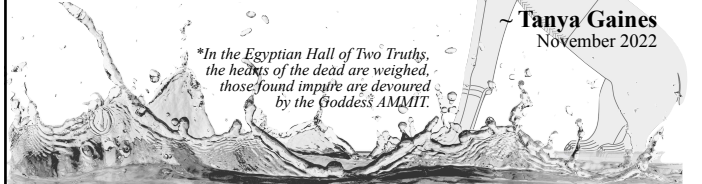


My heart heavier than an ostrich feather  
An amuse bouche for Ammit.\*

Blue jewel adrift in black space  
Planet - our home - paved plastered polished pulverized  
Plastic-wrapped, vacuum-packed  
Unsated hunger, unquenched thirst  
Too much will never be enough for some  
Me first me first.

It's time, Hurry up please. Hurry up please. It's time.

~ Tanya Gaines  
November 2022



*\*In the Egyptian Hall of Two Truths, the heads of the dead are weighed, those found impure are devoured by the Goddess AMMIT.*

# Donny, You're Out of Your Element!

The letter accompanying the House Select Committee subpoena of Trump reads like a criminal indictment. These are the articles of impeachment we should have had, but there was no time then for an investigation.

The next three pages, demand specific documents, and records the **The Lame Duck President** produced or received before, during, and after the January 6th 2021 attempted coup that he and his supporters deny.

"Dear President Trump:

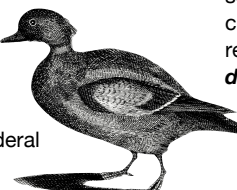
10/21/22

United States House of Representatives Resolution 503 instructs the Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol ("Select Committee") to investigate the facts, circumstances, and causes of the January 6th attack and issues relating to the peaceful transfer of power. Pursuant to that directive, we have interviewed more than a thousand witnesses, reviewed over a million documents, conducted public hearings, and vindicated our rights in court against those who have tried to keep relevant information from the Select Committee.

As demonstrated in our hearings, we have assembled overwhelming evidence, including from dozens of your former appointees and staff, that you personally orchestrated and oversaw a multi-part effort to overturn the 2020 presidential election and to obstruct the peaceful transition of power.

This multi-part effort included, but was not limited to:

- ❖ Purposely and maliciously disseminating false allegations of fraud related to the 2020 presidential election in order to aid your effort to overturn the election and for purposes of soliciting contributions;
- ❖ Attempting to corrupt the Department of Justice, including by soliciting and enlisting Department officials to make false statements and aid your effort to overturn the presidential election;
- ❖ Without any evidentiary basis, illegally pressuring state officials and legislators to change the results of the election in their states;
- ❖ Orchestrating and overseeing an effort to obtain and transmit false electoral certificates to Congress and the National Archives;
- ❖ Despite knowing specifically that it was illegal, corruptly pressuring your own Vice President to unilaterally refuse to count electoral votes during Congress's joint session on January 6th;
- ❖ Pressuring Members of Congress to validate slates of electors from several states;
- ❖ Filing false information, under oath, in federal court;



- ❖ Summoning tens of thousands of supporters to Washington and, knowing they were angry and some armed, sending them to the Capitol;
- ❖ Sending a social media message to the nation at 2:24 p.m. - while knowing full well that the violent attack on the Capitol was occurring - in which you incited further violence by publicly condemning your Vice President; and
- ❖ Refusing for hours to disband your rioting supporters by instructing them to leave the Capitol, while you watched the attack unfold on television.

You took all of these actions despite the rulings of more than 60 courts rejecting your election fraud claims and other challenges to the legality of the 2020 presidential election, despite having specific and detailed information from the Justice Department and your senior campaign staff informing you that your election claims were false, and despite your obligation as President to ensure that the laws of our nation are faithfully executed. In short, you were at the center of the first and only effort by any U.S. President to overturn an election and obstruct the peaceful transition of power, ultimately culminating in a bloody attack on our own Capitol and on the Congress itself. The evidence demonstrates that you knew this activity was illegal and unconstitutional, and also knew that your assertions of fraud were false.

**But, to be clear, even if you now claim that you actually believed your own false election claims, that is not a defense; your subjective belief could not render this conduct justified, excusable, or legal...**

The document also suggests that the committee believes that Trump was an avid user of the encrypted communications app **Signal** during his effort to subvert the election result. The panel wants Trump to provide records sent through Signal that refer "to the destruction of materials that previously existed and that would have been covered by any part of this subpoena."

The committee appears to be following up on its public allegations of **witness tampering** with request for "...All documents, including communications sent or received through Signal or any other means, from July, 2021, to the present, related to, or referring to the Select Committee and involving contacts with, or efforts to contact witnesses who appeared or were or might be expected to appear before the Select Committee, including witnesses who served as White House staff during the administration, who served as staff for your 2020 campaign, and who served or currently serve in the United States Secret Service; or counsel who represented such witnesses..." Trump was also required to identify "**every telephone or communications device**" that he used from 11/3/20 to 1/20/21.

**The Donald** is expected to declare his 3rd run for president a day after a no-show for the interview the subpoena required. His attorney's response was to sue the select committee.