



Last month as evacuees fled molten lava I ended with "...dig-in, stay put..."

-Easy enough for me to say- I may have added: *Barring disaster*, which exhibits my class bias by implying there is always an option to relocate.

Class runs deep.

Even while living on a shoe-string budget, despite an absence of affluence, I remain firmly rooted somewhere in the complex spectrum of Middle/upper middle class- lower upperclass? Our class consciousness goes well beyond our income levels. It is ingrained in our expectations, our behavior, and the choices we make in life.

I could never even afford to live in my hometown, described by one wit years ago as a **"Hotbed of social rest."** The cost of living in the strip-malled, gridlocked suburbs of Silicon valley goes way beyond financial considerations- working to pay high rents is one thing, but the soul-crushing reality common to the working class was not a thing I could abide for long. Like any refugee, I cast my fate in another direction, confidently **manifesting my own destiny.**

The essence of the traditional middle/working class experience is a sense that 'upward mobility' is at all times possible. Upward being the essential quality desired. The cliché **"Yuppie"** (Young Upwardly-Mobile Professionals) implied a college educated professional on the way up-making the leap to personal wealth, and it's promise of security, and certainty.

By the mid-eighties, as I was coming of age, (and discovering I had no interest in traditional professions)- **'Yuppie'** had become a slightly insulting, derogatory term used by us disillusioned and skeptical hipsters, to describe one that had the trappings, style, upbringing, potential, *and* desire for a successful run in the sweepstakes steeple chase of acquisition that defined the Nightmare of the **"American dream"** A trap of debt, and aspiration that was definitely not for me. I fancied myself a refugee, but this too belies my status- in a world filled with refugees, I am much too fortunate and privileged to ever seriously use that term.

There are many reasons to migrate, the difference between migrant and refugee is that the former is almost always voluntary. Both may be moves made in desperation, but to become a refugee means a panicked escape from a place that has become too dangerous, unstable, or frightening to continue life in.

A condition far too common in too many locales these days, doubly tragic when a Refuge becomes dangerous and unstable. Triply tragic, when refugees, are victimized again, as prisoners.

...



**SERIOUSLY-
WAKE UP!**

"Look, having nuclear— my uncle was a great professor and scientist and engineer, Dr. John Trump at MIT; good genes, very good genes, OK, very smart, the Wharton School of Finance, very good, very smart — you know, if you're a conservative Republican, if I were a liberal, if, like, OK, if I ran as a liberal Democrat, they would say I'm one of the smartest people anywhere in the world — it's true! — but when you're a conservative Republican they try — oh, do they do a number —

that's why I always start off: Went to Wharton, was a good student, went there, went there, did this, built a fortune — you know I have to give my like credentials all the time, because we're a little disadvantaged — but you look at the nuclear deal, the thing that really bothers me — it would have been so easy, and it's not as important as these lives are — nuclear is powerful; my uncle explained that to me many, many years ago, the power and that was 35 years ago; he would explain the power of what's going to happen and he was right, who would have thought? — but when you look at what's going on with the four prisoners — now it used to be three, now it's four — but when it was three and even now, I would have said it's all in the messenger; fellas, and it is fellas because, you know, they don't, they haven't figured that the women are smarter right now than the men, so, you know, it's gonna take them about another 150 years — but the Persians are great negotiators, the Iranians are great negotiators, so, and they, they just killed, they just killed us."

-Candidate Donald Trump- Magnolia Hall, Sun City, South Carolina, July 19, 2016

I used to wonder how it could have happened- Those wall-to-wall buildings found in our cities. The evolution from far flung outposts, settlements, ranches and farms, to transportation crossroads market hubs,, urban centers, fairly quickly defined **how the west was won.** Synthetic developments were even more puzzling. Visiting relatives in their brand new early '70s **Foster City** home was a little surreal. a new shiny, model 'burb, built on bay-fill, under **SFO** flightpaths- Now feeling the climate pinch with a ballot measure to tax themselves \$90 million, to raise the levies and keep out the rising bay water!

Now I'm old enough to have seen how urban development and gentrification so easily remake the tangible infrastructure that defines a place. No doubt total destruction by natural disaster or warfare makes for even more development opportunities, perhaps in the long, this is why **Capital seems drawn to destructive conflict.**

Too bad that *'in the long run'* is a long shot for the tattered victims of conflict. Suffering is relative, but no one deserves to suffer- The most common of law seeks justice to end suffering. By definition pursuing the suffering of others is unjust, and naturally, immoral. The very least every one of us as humans can do, is not cause suffering to others, and yet every day some do, some make it their daily work to do so. Why is that?

Don't all people want to exist without strife, in a community of their choosing, aligned with the common goal of a peaceful existence, where their families share food, friends and neighbors work together to solve problems, and develop meaning in their lives? Who could deny this to another?

The on going disaster of **Gaza** continues to defy all reason. Israel maintains control over life within Gaza's 141 square miles: it controls air and maritime space, and six of seven land crossings. It reserves the right to enter Gaza at will with its military and maintains a no-go buffer zone within the territory. Gaza is dependent on Israel for its water, electricity, telecommunications, and other utilities. With hostile, and heavily armed control, the population is not free to leave, or to freely import or export goods. The population is expected to reach 2.1 million by 2020, and could render Gaza unlivable. A ghetto, prison, containment, occupation, by any name, it is an unjustifiable collective punishment, defining a class deserving of a normalized human suffering.

Given just half a chance people can get by, even thrive. Wouldn't it be to everyone's advantage, to give that half a chance, just by leaving people the fuck alone?

During the **Great Depression** with fewer expectations, poor rural folk didn't suffer nearly as badly as the urban working class, if at all. Maybe there is hope for us humble urban refugees, after the wanna be rich burn out of the latest (green) gold rush, migrate elsewhere, leaving us alone to pick our peas.

Class out.

-Joshua Golden

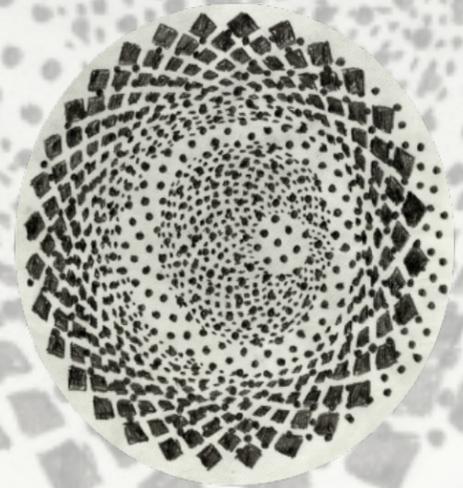
READING NEWTON

These harvest nights I want to touch you, leaning into the circle of lamplight that clear meadow

I have hung sun-flower galaxies along the rafters of our sleeping loft: come lie beside me

beneath the drying mint & betony while we read from old philosophers: function of world is motion of bodies.

Kathy Epling



"I despise the kind of book which tells you how to live, how to make yourself happy! Philosophers have no good news for you at this level! I believe the first duty of philosophy is making you understand what deep shit you are in!"

— Slavoj Žižek



Greenfuse is produced by the Waking Dog Collective:
media activists

Including- Joshua Golden, Paul Encimer, Shakti, Debra Carey, Tom O'Neil, Alyssa, Nezzie, Kate, The Muir's, & Goats galore.

Check us out at: **greenfuse.work** or Box 493, Redway CA 95560, (707) 923-4488 or 298-7702

We print an edition of 4,400 & distribute throughout

N. Sonoma, Mendocino & Humboldt Counties, All advertising goes towards our printing costs.

You can help spread the news further afield with contributions of any size:

(www.paypal.com/pools/c/81J4U2aiiN)

Subscribing is a crap shoot. We are all unpaid volunteers and nobody really likes doing that.

\$25 or more is a suggested gamble.

We are free to prisoners.

Hope for the best.