

Of This and That and the Cheering on of Hobbits!

Paralysis without all that much analysis has been the name of the game on the personal front, both in terms of any contributions to this fledgling blog viexercise, and pretty much everything else. This has been because of a few setbacks on the personal front whilst also dealing with the overall cultural and cognitive dissonance on the international stage involving the so-called pandemic.

On the personal front I had a botched surgery last August to clean up a botched surgery from around 2008 in Canada – a simple umbilical hernia mesh insert whose stitches were poking out and causing minor, but continual, infection – after which I had a bad case of fistulitis, a medical way of saying that all the fluids around the intestines were infected, after which I had strong antibiotics by injection, after which I was walking around like a zombie for about two months, weak and dizzy at the end of which period, whilst still a bit woozy but almost better, I stupidly blew up a jar of ethanol used in a futile attempt to get green wood to fire up and warm the house in so doing giving my hand on both sides and inner forearm second degree burns which, five months later, are still healing and it looks like I will never be able to use my right arm and hand in a normal fashion again because for some reason the nerves in the shoulder area were even more traumatized than those in the hand – which suffered the brunt of such stupidity – so the range of motion is limited and also any force brought to bear by or onto the entire limb is curtailed, meaning I can't do simple things like shunt the body up or down the bed, or reach

into the back seat for a sombrero, or push the inner dome light switch on or off, or reach across the table to pass my wife the soy sauce or chili pepper flakes – or reach around back to put on or take off my braces for that matter. And so on.

Meanwhile, the world has moved on apace, with a new normal yet to be revealed but the old normal little more than a dust-filled blur in the rear-view mirror.

‘And so,’ as the great Kurt Vonnegut was wont to say, ‘it goes.’

I don’t know if this is going to work, but as am finally coming out of the pain-killer-filled phase of recovering from that bad burn, something which in some sense has scorched the psyche as much as the somewhat-important right arm and hand, am going to see if can use this blog space as an opportunity to contribute regular short articles about this and that, to which end arose an idea yesterday which intend to give a chance – though not with today’s offering – of taking little thoughts that arise and composing short pieces about them, perhaps only a few paragraphs long, constructing over time, perhaps, a sort of mosaic or puzzle which fits together but not in any overt narrative or intellectually structured way. Will see.

Meanwhile today am going to attempt, in a hopefully not too long piece, to summarize this ‘paralysis with little analysis’ phase of the past year viz how world events have effected me personally, especially insofar as any

inclination – let alone ability – to form clear opinions about it all – or anything for that matter. So here goes:

On the one hand I might have held back from offering commentary out of fear of being pegged as pro-this or anti-that. But actually it's more like since I'm not clearly pro or anti this or that – at least in terms they are usually discussed – that I don't want to wade in. Well, that's partly true and partly false. Let me explain:

In term of US politics which I follow, despite not having lived there since the 1980's apart from one winter in 2016, I was very disturbed during all of Trump's Presidency by how he was treated in the public square, such treatment being largely influenced – if not outright controlled – by what can simply be termed 'Intelligence.' Most US Presidents go through the ringer, but it seems nearly always it is the right-sided ones who get the worst of it, like Nixon, Reagan, Bush and now Trump. Clinton was tarred and feathered, but not so much by Intelligence and the Press as by his political opponents after he engaged in admittedly sleazy behavior involving cigars and interns in the Oval Office. Carter was excoriated but he also wasn't an inspiring national leader. Kennedy paid the highest price of all, but if he were alive and running today, he'd be a Republican for sure, especially given he was going up against the Federal Reserve credit cartel system and the already out-of-control CIA; such things have a way of summoning magic bullets from the ether, just as Trump's anti-Establishment proclivities seem to have magically summoned record-breaking numbers of votes for a campaign that never did any rallies greater than a thousand people and somehow managed to garner more votes than voters in no end of small counties all over the country.

So first I was disturbed by how he was being treated – about which a little more later – and then I was disturbed by how the election was so poorly handled. No matter which side of the partisan fence you sit, clearly the election was highly irregular and, more importantly, apart from a couple of small counties like Antrim in Michigan, no major courts agreed to hear evidence or order full audits or anything – nearly always due to lack of standing or because it was moot (aka too late so it wouldn't matter, thus implying that fraud in elections doesn't matter as long as it doesn't effect the outcome, thereby intimating that, contrary to their own ruling, fraud does NOT vitiate everything, i.e. nullify that candidacy entirely). To this day, not one State has conducted a full, thorough audit of both the paper ballots and the electronic counting machines including any communications they had via the internet with networks in Europe and China. Not one State. The Supreme Court maintained that Texas and about sixteen other States had no standing in any possible fraud in Pennsylvania because electing a President as a result of fraudulent election processes in one State doesn't constitute harm to the citizens of another State. If I remember correctly, this argument was offered in the form of a single sentence.

Then we have similar dynamics connected with the pandemic, about which I will say far less, albeit I find the two big issues on my personal front regarding goings-on in the public sphere, remarkably similar in that they seem to involve the crafting and imposition of over-arching narratives on an increasingly victim and victimized citizenry so much so

that whether you are dealing with a national political event or a global medical emergency, the two extremely different scenarios play out in extremely similar – indeed almost symbiotic – ways. Maybe it's true: maybe there's a little group of nine meeting together once or twice a year on a little island in the Caribbean plotting how the world will turn next. Or something like that. I find it hard to believe, but it seems to explain things better than more popular tropes, like 'never underestimate the stupidity of national governments and their intelligence services' and so on.

Alright. Now to explain WHY I was upset about Trump's treatment. But before doing so, let me explain just a little about what I think about Trump himself. The answer is: not all that much. That said, I watched (too many of) his stump speeches in '16 whilst soaking in the tub to reduce symptoms of Lyme Disease, which was especially bad that year - a tub filled with Hydrogen Peroxide and Epsom salts BTW, which I highly recommend to anyone with aches and pains of whatever provenance. I became fascinated by two aspects: on the one hand I found his speeches stylistically lively albeit generally lacking any substantive content, whilst on the other hand was struck by the solidarity his supporters increasingly evidenced, so much so that the rallies began to feel like revivalist community meetings or sporting events, the community in question calling itself 'America' or 'The Heartland' or later thanks to Hillary Clinton's crowning gift which said it all much better, 'The Deplorables.'

Why did 'the Deplorables' stick? For the same reason Trump's candidacy galvanized their previously suppressed sense of community, which is essentially middle class Americans who work, pay taxes, raise children and want to feel like life is worth living and their country is worth sacrificing for if need be. In other words, ordinary law-abiding citizens who in these latter days of this still relatively young (260 years or so) experimental Republic have been increasingly made to feel marginalized, unwelcome and even foreign in their own country which their own ancestors built, much of which in the last century so within living memory of still-living senior citizens born in the 20's to 40's and therefore also their children and grandchildren who grew up under their influence and within their cultural presence field.

So my interest in Trump had - and still has - far more to do with the overall cultural context which galvanized his support than the man himself. Then when he became President, I was deeply concerned by the over-the-top meanness of the forces against him from the get-go who, to put it simply, treated him as a common criminal unworthy of the office the People had voted him into, and also unworthy to have taken the Oath of that office which they in their superior wisdom decided to entirely disrespect (and thus violate themselves) thereby degrading the entire Constitution and nation even as they were accusing their victim elected President of the same. It seemed to me, therefore, that the way they were treating both the President and the Presidency was both symptom and cause of the increasingly evident decline, if not outright destruction, of the Republic they were claiming to be protecting.

So that is why I was disturbed about the treatment accorded Trump, including both impeachments, the 'Russia-Russia' story and so many other things later found to have been wrong, either that the premise of such stories was entirely false, or that something he had said which they had branded a total lie turned out to be essentially true – such as his building Trump Tower in Manhattan having been 'wire-tapped' in 2016.

As to the pandemic, the jury is still out, but some things seem increasingly clear at this point in June 2021. First, it neither was nor is a veritable 'pandemic.' A very nasty flu, maybe, and maybe also one whose nastiness is partly due to bio lab experimentation carried out in the US, Canada and China, but with a mortality rate well below any reasonable definition of a pandemic. Furthermore, the way the counting segued from deaths to 'cases' as soon as the former started dropping is not only unprecedented but suspicious, especially given how a few days after Biden was finally inaugurated the WHO recommended that everyone drop the deliberately high parameter used for the test from around 30 or so to the recommended 17 (?) because the former was known to give excessive numbers of false positives to provide the necessary narrative lift to keep people frightened enough to cooperate in the economically devastating shut downs which have driven tens of thousands of small business permanently out of existence.

Meanwhile, proven prophylactic and post-infection therapeutics (aka medicines) like hydroxychloroquine with zinc, and later in the year Ivermectin – not to mention fresh air, sunshine, vitamin D, going to the ocean etc. - were not just deliberately obfuscated by widespread vilification, but indeed outright suppressed. (It took me three months to

get HCQ from India at one point. And then early in 2021 one of only two factories making the prerequisite ingredients for this widely used, super-safe anti-malarial mysteriously burned down in Taiwan.)

Now enters new gene-editing mRNA non-vaccine ‘vaccines’ being pushed on everyone, including children who are at no risk of either getting or giving this particular flu. We are supposed to believe that about ten companies internationally all came up with this brand new type of inoculation within record-breaking time without any prior testing on humans and that it is somehow subversive not to go along with the narrative that they represent our collective path back to normalcy even as we are also being given hints that what will soon emerge will be a ‘New Normal,’ which is a seductive way of implying that the ‘Old Normal’ – and with it our previous lives and culture - is now and forever dead and buried. And if that isn’t bad enough, turns out that in most places where the vaccine has been administered, subsequent infection and death rates have risen again, especially amongst demographics which previously were almost untouched by the disease – not to mention many reports of female menstrual, and thus possibly fertility, complications – and far in excess of any prior vaccine in human history.

Clearly, this new-fangled gene-manipulating stuff containing pathogenic spike proteins spreading throughout the body far from the point of injection should be taken off the market immediately, but no less clearly governments are discussing how to mandate their use and even develop passports to further control and police people into having them and future booster shots for the ‘variants’ which apparently they are responsible for creating in the first place. And the over-arching context for this, which is

of far greater interest to me than the disease per se about which it is so hard to form any sort of informed opinion based on fact, is the increasingly totalitarian bent of modern society all over the world, but especially in those zones for which I have feeling, namely North America and Europe. It seems to me that this 'invisible enemy' (which is more likely some sort of secretive techno-feudalist cabal rather than an innocent microscopic pathogen) has brought western civilization to its knees, so it is not only the American Republic which is falling but an entire civilization of which it is the latest, prominent expression.

Basically, I have a similar reaction to the pandemic as I do regarding Trump in that just as Trump himself does not interest me all that much – though he is admittedly more colourful and outspoken than your typical politician nearly all of whom are guilty of two unpardonable crimes, namely being not only liars but boring liars to boot – so also the pandemic doesn't interest me all that much. This is because I regard it as being about only 25% a medical and about 75% an internationally-orchestrated geopolitical event of potentially monstrous civilizational import, though it is too soon to come to any conclusion with any confidence or with much detail.

If we step back from the global to a more national US context, we can see that leading into and since the November election, the Old Normal is rapidly becoming increasingly hard to remember whilst the New Normal is gradually looming forth from our cognitively dissonant mists, something uncannily resembling Brave New World, 1984 or V for Vendetta scenarios. And this I find disturbing, not only for myself or as a matter of

principle, but mainly for what it foreshadows for the future of my son and his boys, my two grandsons. And it is doubly disturbing that mentioning this in social media platforms such as Twitter or Facebook – neither of which I participate in – can get you banned, or in some places of employment, fired. This is part of the New Normal, of course, or at least its vanguard.

So the preceding was the preamble, so to speak, and now comes the meat of the thought behind this article, the first in many a long pain-pill-laced month. At this point we can refer back to the title, namely ‘Of This and That and the Cheering on of Hobbits!’ In the past few weeks, the thought has been growing in my mind of how Tolkien's fictional world of Middle Earth is perhaps the most accurate depiction of societal reality that we have. To start with, let's compare it with some others. More extensive, not to mention erudite, lists might be offered, but just to make the point:

- Histories of European Civilization, America, the World or Asia etc.
- Political models from Aristotle, Machiavelli, Marx, Shakespeare's Kingdoms and Duchies, the Vikings, Macaulay's Rome, the Bible, tribal peoples.
- Academically and activist promulgated zeitgeist notions like The Enlightenment (out of which came the French Revolution and the American Republic), evolutionary theory (survival of the fittest), communism, feminism, transgenderism, sexism, anti-patriarchy-ism, religious fundamentalism, Critical Race Theory and no end of other divisive isms of all sorts, all keeping native populations in a state of mutual dislike and confusion.

So what does Tolkien offer that I put him on so high a pedestal in the current post-Trumpian global Plandemic context?

Simply put, Tolkien's world posits many and varied civilizations and peoples with distinct cultures. Some feature Elves who are immortal in their own domain far away in the West across a vast ocean but who can briefly leave their bodies when injured in Middle Earth before returning into new ones back in their Elven homelands. From those ancient times in the First and Second Ages still lurk powerful demons – like the Balrog in Moria – or Shelob the magically created super-spider. Then you have spirit-based beings (Maia) such as Sauron who started off good but then, like Lucifer, turned into a power-hungry fanatic bent on world domination, creating the One Ring but also involved (?) in creating orcs, which are a perversion of men and elves; or like Gandalf who dies after defeating the Balrog but then returns in a new, albeit similar, body, now clothed in white. Then we have various classes of men: the ancient Numenoreans from the Second Age (?) with some Elvish blood and who, like Aragorn, one of their latter-day descendants, lived far longer than ordinary humans like you and I, plus old tribal peoples like Pukel-man Gan-bury-Khan plus people more like us today in Gondor and Rohan and so forth; and finally we have the hobbits, who are essentially like small-town people everywhere in the world today and since the beginning of human times. They are a diminutive and charming version of ‘the Deplorables’ who, if not always despised, are always overlooked by the Wise and Great.

And of course we have such Wise and Great today. They are prominent individuals on the world stage like ex software engineer Bill Gates, who has morphed into an international expert on infectious disease and filed patents on how to cure them using nano-computer implants connected to the internet; not to mention no end of other experts or leaders in all sort of fields and nations such as the weirdo Twitter Executive (no doubt in Intelligence of course) who shut down the tweets of an elected President during his campaign and after – and still to this day. Or the WHO Director with the super-slim epidemiological resume giving advice to nations on the flimsiest pretexts with little or no scientific data. We have media pundits and television anchor blowhards no doubt all spewing forth whatever mind-controlling drivel their Intelligence masters conduit through them, this all-seeing all-powerful Intelligence permeating All and Everything, crafting and disseminating narratives and fear – left, right and center.*

These elements represent the Saurons and Sarumans of our world today, the ‘minds of metal and machines.’ We don’t have to define them exactly or identify them all. We simply need to compare whatever or whomever is being presented to basic, ordinary, down to earth hobbit folk. Yes, hobbits can be petty, parochial, selfish and even mean; but they mind their own (or only also their immediate neighbour’s and relatives’) business. They do not meddle in High Politics, in Nation-Building, in Bio lab technologies, in mass murder, genocide, Big Ideas and suchlike. No, they just want to get on with their lives leaving a better future for their children. Can they be fooled and manipulated and led down the garden path? Yes. But are their collective instincts usually on the right side of things? Also yes. And by

‘right’ I mean both ‘right versus wrong’ and ‘right versus left.’ The modern left is a tool of the Sarumans and Saurons which aren’t so much individuals as tendencies, networks, movements, trajectories – what some have dubbed ‘techno-feudalism.’ The modern left is a tool used to manipulate the masses with trickery and deceit, promoting ignorance, fear, confusion, perversion and, ultimately, compliance, or what Orwell dubbed ‘groupthink’ which is alive and well and now thriving in your community no matter where you live in the world!

So in terms of Trump, what I find valuable is not so much the man but his ‘forgotten men and women’ followers who in so many ways resemble hobbits, as indeed do most people in most countries throughout human history. In terms of the pandemic, what concerns me is not so much the disease and those who have succumbed – be it from the pathogens or virally spread immuno-suppressive fear-mongering in the media– but the underlying societies comprising their hobytlan peoples – aka we the people, aka ‘us,’ our lives, our cultures, our world. Somehow, just as the entire history of the Third Age of Middle Earth depended on the raw courage and basic decency of Frodo and Sam, it all keeps coming back to hobbits in the sense that even though it seems Dark Forces are somehow arrayed against us, nevertheless if we hold true to our fundamentally good natures and continue to share that with each other, perhaps the bad guys aren’t going to win out and control everything after all.

So, after all, it seems I have come to some sort of conclusion about all this, even though I have hesitated to express it. Again, this hesitation is no doubt partly due to fear of inviting needless trouble or disapproval, but

mainly because I really don't know what's going on and so am not sure of anything. Who can be? The experts keep changing their messages from month to month so the best all the rest of us can do is follow along as best we can. Most of us, like true hobbits, don't even try to keep up with what the Big Folk are doing, except to do what we think best for ourselves and others. For some this might be wearing masks everywhere and encouraging children to get the shot; for others it might be pointing out the many narrative inconsistencies and resisting following along with totalitarian-like impositions – such types might find themselves showing up at School Board meetings trying to get these mindless Authorities to relent about forcing not-at-risk children to wear bacteria-collecting rags over their faces all day long every day. Or maybe it's trying to maintain a sense of sanity and normalcy in the face of endemic mass cognitive dissonance, maintaining a sense of humour if nothing else.

But the point of this piece is: although quiet, small and overlooked, we all know the underlying virtues of the hobbit-peoples, for we all possess them ourselves, just as we all have hearts. And we would do well, I think, to become more aware of such tendencies and virtues by looking for them both within ourselves and as well as within the spirits of any we encounter in our day to day lives.

For whatever 'New Normal' is imposed, our underlying hobbit natures will fundamentally remain. At some point in the near or distant future, we will get back to the important businesses of gardening, making babies, going to work, brewing fine ale - and trying to elbow our way into the next fine house that comes on the market when some Mad Baggins or other

decides to charge off into the Wide Blue Yonder in Washington DC, London or Zurich!

Meanwhile, the best we can do now is to remember that we are all Frodo and Sam, navigating through the dark territories of Mordor mayhap, but if we persevere by remaining true to our essential hobbit natures, it will all come out right in the end!

*(For more on this, see this somewhat extraordinary article about the surprising number of British government departments involved in managing national narratives – and deliberately sowing fear – in their country: <https://basedunderground.com/2021/06/18/fear-the-contagious-control-mechanism-of-covid-19-and-the-great-reset/>)