

HOMELESS IN PARADISE

December 28, 2018 - January 3, 2019

CEDAR STREET SUMMIT - Part 22



HAS LADY LIBERTY STRAYED FROM THE PATH OF THE PROPHET?

By Wanda Sue Parrott

TIMING the end of this Cedar Street Summit series to coincide with the New Year entails questioning the two remaining Articles of the United Nations' "Universal Declaration of Human Rights" that was enacted in 1948.

If the Christmas-day announcement of the death of a second Guatemalan immigrant child in U.S. custody in New Mexico is reason for re-examination of the Statue of Liberty's meaning in light of the unfulfilled ideals set forth in all 30 articles, what can be done?

Article 28:

"Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realized."

Does not incarcerating toddlers in wire cages with groups of children amount to torture of these confused, terrified and often ill little people?

Article 30:

"Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as implying for any State, group or person any right to engage in any activity or to perform any act aimed at the destruction of any of the rights and freedoms set forth herein."

Does not separating children from parents and/or allowing children to get so sick they actually die constitute blatant disregard for this article? In other words, is detention a crime against humanity?

Statistics released during this week reveal that in 2018 there were 16,400 migrant children who entered The United States. Who and where are they now? What can you do?

I suggest your own Inner Prophet can help you know how best to proceed at this crucial mid-term crossroad.

Avoid False Prophecy

Your own Inner Prophet will provide far better guidance than political pundits, financial advisers, religious proselytizers, or word workers like me, all outside influencers that create a wall more powerful than the one the president wants to build to keep people out.

Distractions prevent you from accessing the amazing wisdom within the Silence of Self.

That means turning off your cell phone, TV, radio and other mobile or electronic device and taking a break from brain distraction.

Then, listen to your thoughts. And pay heed to your dreams.

Keep a notebook handy so you can write random ideas of inspirational or problem-solving value when they come to mind.

Shakespeare put it best by saying, "To thine own Self be true, and it shall follow as the night follows day, thou canst not be false to any man."

Your own Inner Prophet knows best what's right for you!

Everyone has such an Inner Prophet, regardless of what you might call yours: Still Small Voice Within; Conscience; Guardian Angel; God; Higher Self; Great Spirit; Buddha; Imagination.

Since I became a poet after I first met my own Inner Prophet back in December 1960, I call my wise guide the Muse.

My muse is secular, meaning non-exclusionary, like the Statue of Liberty used to be.

When I get off the Path, Muse guides me back onto it.

Here is some of the guidance my Muse has given me and which I have attempted to follow in sharing these columns with you.

May these words inspire you to start turning to your own inner strength for wisdom in knowing how to react to the troubling times in which we live, and to know how you can best react for your own peace.

When Muse Speaks, Poet Listens

Muse speaks about wisdom:

"And dare to stand naked in the Sun before the generations of Clad Men who stand in Darkness;"

"And learn the Voice of Wisdom, which is only as a throbbing Pulsebeat that makes no Sound except within your own Experience;"

Muse speaks about right action:

"And act upon Wisdom, trusting that it will be right, even if judgment of Wisdom's Ways appears wrong;"

Muse speaks about fear:

"Fear, but fall not long in fearing;"

Muse speaks of overcoming helplessness:

“And dare to hurl back through the Elements the Fury of the Sun as it is hurled at you, which is the Sword of Demos;”

Muse speaks of strength.

“And be, above all else, Bold; be Bold enough to cry the Tears of Humanity without drowning in the Vast Salt Seas they create;”

When Muse speaks, I listen and then act in what I feel is the right path (aisle) to take.

Regardless of which side of the political aisle you consider yourself, when your Inner Prophet guides, it will always be beneficent to your nature.

Anything less is false prophecy, and you will recognize it as such because it will lure you off the path of peace. If that happens, just say NO!

Together, by being true to our own Inner Selves, we can steer Lady Liberty onto the Path of the Prophet where she belongs.

Happy, prosperous New Year, and May your Muse be with you.

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Photo—caption with text and poem:

When French sculptor Auguste Bartholdi’s “Statue of Liberty” was inaugurated in New York Harbor in honor of America’s centennial on July 4, 1886, it represented Franco-American friendship. After an engraved plaque honoring New York poet Emma Lazarus dated November 2, 1883 was added, this stanza from her Petrarchan sonnet turned Lady Liberty into the secular Prophet aka “Mother of Exiles.” Has she veered from her perceived American path of justice?

THE NEW COLOSSUS

By Emma Lazarus

*Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand
Glows world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.
"Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she
With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"*

Photo courtesy of Clip Art

This column appears in Pacific Grove, California’s weekly hometown NEWSpaper. Cedar Street Times.

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