

Election Day 2020

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Dear reader: People like us — you, me, and hundreds of millions of other Americans — live at the very end of the information queue — the industrial information food chain. By the time most information “food” reaches us, it’s been adulterated, modified, and slanted by every middleman it passed through, whether it’s one guy like me who writes these weekly commentary posts, or a thousand media workers who collect, refine, process, and package the information that then gets served up to us.

This is a problem similar to that of buying “organic” or “natural” food. Unless you grew it yourself, in a garden you know to be toxin-free, you just can’t be sure if that broccoli floret you’re looking at in the grocery store, the market, or the local grower’s vegetable stand was produced in a healthy way or not. Even sincere farmers and well-intentioned companies exist within an agricultural system fraught with illusion, and — too often — with deception as well. OK, so the label says “Certified Organic” or “Natural” or “Non-GMO” or “Pesticide-Free” or “Free-Range,” does that mean it’s true? Sometimes, but other times not.

I don’t care how attentive you and I are, nor how much effort we put into being “well-informed.” CNN/MSNBC/FOX mainstream media nonsense aside, we can search the internet all day long and watch YouTube videos until the cows come home. Doesn’t matter whether we’re on the right, the left, or in the middle. The end result is that what reaches us is essentially propaganda. Narrative. Fiction. Maybe it includes nuggets of truth, perhaps even many, but maybe not. The overall effect, however, almost always remains fictional and manipulative.

Someone somewhere wants us to believe something, and they’ve cooked up what they hope will be a tasty enough dish of “information stew” that we’ll swallow it. The entire goddamned professional political class knows this. So-called “journalists” know it as well. And you can bet your ass that all the other purveyors of mass media know it, from corporate media heads and their legions of obedient minions (including the entire pecking order of extremely-well-paid talking heads to the working stiffs running the technology), right on down to unaffiliated, lone individuals posting on social media from their bedrooms.

The upshot is that you and I cannot dependably trust anything we see, read, or hear that’s presented to us by others. It might be true or it might not be, but assessing the trustworthiness of information has become damn near impossible.

Basically, you and I don't get to know squat about what's really happening out in the world, in the halls and offices of institutions, or behind the scenes in the corridors of power and policy. We may wonder about it, ponder it, or make guesses about what's happening. but all that is nothing more than sheer speculation on our parts. Sometimes we might even be right about believing a given piece of information, or we might just be pissing into the wind, but we don't have any way of knowing for sure.

This is the reality of Election Day 2020. Some people know certain things with certainty, but nobody knows the truth about everything, and you and I get to know damned little.

So, figure out what you stand for, and stand for it. Act on the deepest truth you can find inside yourself. Don't obsess about the latest news. Don't worry about what others think. Honor yourself, and ignore everyone else. At the very least, minimize the importance in your mind of what people say.

As for the Election, wait to see what shakes out. Stand back and stand by, but be ready to take to the streets. Or, as one of the unexpected positive side effects of the pandemic, maybe we should get ready to call a general strike among relatively sane Americans that shuts down the country until Trump is gone. I mean not just coming up on the short end of the popular vote or not reaching the magic number of 270 in the electoral college, but really GONE. And by the way, getting rid of Trump is only the initial battle in the first campaign of what will be a long struggle. I will probably have shuffled off this mortal coil before that struggle ends. Hell, maybe the struggle will never end. Maybe we'll make the world better, or maybe we won't, but the struggle to achieve mindfulness, maturity, and Consciousness will go on.

Anyway, no matter what apparent outcome of the election is splashed across the headlines on November 4th (or however long after that it takes), I think we're in for a serious fight, and not rising up is not an option. It's a fight both within and between ourselves, and the future of our species now rides on the outcome.

In short, and despite what we've heard, the Election itself isn't the most important event of our lives. Not by a long shot. What comes *after* the Election will be. And not just for months, but for years, and maybe for decades. The way things were is over. Normalcy has left the building, and it ain't coming back. Damn near everything will change, and much of it will be forced on us.

OK, I've said my piece. I fully understand that other points of view exist, and I know all too well that I might be wrong about some or even much of this. Thing is, we don't get to know exactly how much, at least not today. So, don't believe what I've written, just think about it. Your thoughtfulness is way more important than whether I'm right or wrong.