

Skating On Thin Ice – Surviving The Political Lake of Ice

By Matthias Chang – Future Fast-Forward

I do not give two hoots to anyone who has not survived when skating on thin ice. But, I pay special and intense attention to those who survived and lived to tell their exceptional experience.

Politics is about skating on thin ice!

Those with the right motivation will survive, while those with the wrong motivations generally would not survive but there are few exceptions, so that future generations can learn from them as “Teachers of Negativities and Betrayals”.

All Presidents and Prime Ministers skate on thin ice. The issue is whether they will survive to leave a glorious legacy or abandon a sordid mess in the country and leave it to the patriots to clean up the filth!

Meditate on this Truism!

The just concluded US Presidential election exemplifies this truism in sharp contrast. One was motivated by the dedicated **NOBLE SERVICE TO THE COUNTRY** and made **HUGE SACRIFICES** (almost died when two assassination attempts were made and was a courageous victim of ‘Law-Fare Persecution’), whilst the other candidate **LUSTED FOR POWER** and has a history of being a **SEXUAL PREDATOR** – screwing ‘Male Influencers’ to climb up the political ladder. Her mentors were Nancy Pelosi and Hillary Clinton and lesser sexual predators. Jill Biden was also a mentor, but she was jettisoned for obvious reasons.

A blatant coup was unleashed, the first in US history when a sitting President was removed from contending as the duly elected nominee of his party, so that an insidious agenda could be implemented by the leading sexual predators of the Democratic Party.

KARMA works in mysterious ways!

As a Malaysian, it matters not whether our preference will have an impact on the outcome of the election, but if you aspire to be a politician, then you must learn from the lessons on how to skate on thin ice and survive!

The majority of Malaysian politicians will not learn because their motivation is to have **RAW POWER** for selfish personal agendas and they have no guts to skate on thin ice. There may be exceptions, but none of the rank and file so far has stepped onto the plate. Sad!

Why Donald Trump is an exceptional individual to learn from. If we ignore the fake news and false narratives and research without bias or prejudice, a startling image emerges.

- He is a great father and has an incredible family that he has nurtured over the years;
- He survived the brutal and harsh competitive environment in New York and became a successful entrepreneur;
- He declared that he would serve his country if and when other political leaders have failed and ran the country to ruins;
- He is very confident, but his useless enemies labelled that quality as arrogance and or being egoistic, yet his enemies dare not skate on thin ice;
- He gave his trust to 'experienced' politicians and were betrayed by them in his first term as president;
- He walks the talk but compromises out of political necessities;
- He is an incredible listener with a very sharp mind;
- He is very disciplined and loyal to his friends;
- He is very caring, an outstanding characteristic;
- He leads from the front and fights in the trenches with the common soldier; and
- He is a \$ Billionaire but a common man to the core and understands and appreciates hard work.

Need I say more?

The Hard Lessons

- It is not about power, but the prudent exercise of the awesome authority and the burden of responsibilities;
- It is not about self-interests, but giving dedicated service to the country and the Constitution;
- It is not about arrogance, but humility (always under the radar, not seeking fame);
- It is not about rewards and indulging in corrupt practices, but honest and just conduct; and
- It is not about arrogating one's misconceived brilliance but giving thanks for all the blessings received and never losing Faith in God (and the "Goodness of God").

A Compelling Digression

No one is without flaws unless you are God. And we are not God!

When a person skates on thin ice more than once, and willing to take the risks for the betterment of his people and country, we must be circumspect in our criticisms and not be hasty in our judgments. There is a common cliché in Malaysia, "You cannot pluck and eat a durian until it is ripe".

Let me tell you a story from my experience as a Political Secretary to a Prime Minister.

There was a huge division and in-fighting within a component party of the ruling coalition. And the prime minister announced that he would be retiring within a year of his public announcement.

We were all skating on thin ice..... Holy Smoke!!!

In quietness of his office, I proffered an advice. "Sir, you cannot and must not leave a divided component party to your successor. It is not beyond repair."

The Prime Minister replied, "Leave the leadership to me to handle. You ensure the other team helps in the unity effort – no winner takes all, neither, does the loser losses all."

I was skating on uncharted thin ice and there were so many cracks appearing! I would be an enemy to one and all – "do I die, don't I will also die." How would I drink from a poisoned chalice, unless I have an antidote?

The solution I offered had to be verified with unbiased evidence.

It may seem unbelievable and or impossible, but **I DID NOT** serve any poisoned chalice to anyone, even as I was considered an enemy by one and all.

Tun Mahathir Mohamad with deft political skills, made an offer to the warring parties, the amicable transition which they cannot refuse **AFTER** seeking the views of grass root leaders and the Chinese Clans Association leaders led by the then leader of the Hokkien Clan Association. The presidency / leadership of the component party **would be transitioned** to the nominee chosen by the President / Leader of the component party (the nominee was his Political Secretary) and the Deputy would be selected by the other warring side (and he was the then Deputy Finance Minister).

The dagger was in the sheath, clean and un-bloodied, never drawn at all, not even once. I betrayed no one and skated wobbly to the other side of the lake of ice, avoiding all the opening cracks and barely survived.

The "Peace Agreement" was signed by the warring sides **WITHOUT ANY AMENDMENTS** whatsoever. No amendments were allowed. There must be peace!

The Prime Minister retired from office with the Ruling Coalition absolutely intact, a win - win solution and as they say the rest is history. I counted my blessings as no blood was spilled and I retired at the same time as the Prime Minister, on the 31st October 2003, with his legacy intact. The Prime Minister deserves all the kudos for his foresight and his remarkable sense of history.

My remaining prayer – Let there be Unity for World Peace!