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*Smartest Guy In The Room?*

It's usually a putdown when I get accused of being the smartest guy in the room. I'm not the guy who wrote: 'Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?' That was Shakespeare. Nor did I begin a novel with: 'I am living at the Villa Borghese....We are all alone here and we are dead.' That was Henry Miller—his opening for *Tropic of Cancer*.

What I am is a dogged researcher, convinced there's an *underlying reality* to events that can be accessed with persistent questioning—questioning that makes it clear that elites, vulnerable from the right/left, have identified 1 side as spear throwers and the other, the bow and arrow guys. Pitting the right/left against each other, elites render each group as the problem—enemy to the other—to be subdued at all costs.

At times, I attempt to expose, with limited success (to 1 side or the other), that they are being played. A couple years back I accepted an invite from an old friend who said that although we no longer agreed on much, he had no fear—he knew the old Erik—the heartfelt Erik. Our visit would only make us closer. Imagine how that turned out?

I hadn't heard from another old 'left' friend since Trump was reelected. I texted playfully that I was about to remove him from my *favorites*. He responded, not so playfully: 'After your condescending comment about me being family but not a peer, when I asked you a sincere question. Not the first time that you presented yourself as above me. That and the number of times you have come to visit me. Zero. Once in a while we would talk. Mostly you regaling with your exploits. I finally realized that this is a one way relationship. Your way. It must be lonely being the smartest guy in the room.'

I was shocked. There was no slack—he didn't admit he's a hugely political/opinionated guy—and less than curious about connecting political dots. As for not being a political peer: sorry, but those on the left (educated by NPR), or right (extreme MAGA), I likely do more research each day, on some topic we're discussing than they do in a lifetime. Do I see myself above him? No, but he's not my peer at connecting political dots.

I refuse to debate because, I don't debate. That gets us to yesterday when I woke up in the back of a Honda CRV on the Oregon Coast, then drove the 30 miles to Port Orford to drop-off a food gift from my wife to her friend. She made us coffee/breakfast.

Then a friend of hers, a practicing devotee of Yogananda, down for a talk by the heir-apparent to Joseph Campbell, stopped by. Not to be a problem. Back in the day I watched some of Campbell's talks (I can't remember, but something brought out about

him—turned me away?). And I read Yogananada's book, *Autobiography of a Yogi*. I rather liked it. And I'd done years of graduate work in Eastern Studies. Perfect—right?

Once again my background couldn't save me. If a person leans *left*, and brings up politics—it's over. This one had to do with the car ride—Trump saying Putin advised him to do away with mail-in voting. I made the mistake of agreeing with Putin—centralizing provides fraud opportunity. Give me polling stations, old volunteers and pencils.

He dug in with an NPR meme: *There's no evidence of fraud with mail-in*. I didn't take the bait—just reiterated my preference for non-centralization. He told me he felt sorry for me for having that view. I asked if being a devotee necessitated that he shame me?

I knew where this would go—the stolen 2020 election. I'd ask him if he watched the documentary, *2000 Mules*—ballot stuffing/voter fraud in the 2020 election. Of course he hadn't. He would instead brand me a conspiracy nut job, so I opted to bid farewell, then questioned along the road if I should visit my old friend or make excuse to beg-off.

It seems obvious to me that anything, mail-in/voting machines, adding to centralization, makes for possibility of fraud. Same goes with depreciating gold/silver as money, whether it be with dollars (backed by nothing), smart-coins—in a process to have us *chipped*, so as too participate in elite-credit systems. I also doubt Bitcoin (an incredible blockchain), as possibly a perpetrated fraud against real money—gold and silver.

I had coffee with my old friend this morning. It went well, maybe because I remembered to not react. Maybe his feelings were hurt from what I said, and once past that we talked. He sees America as war a between the left/right. I offered the possibility of vested interests purposely pitting right/left—against each other. He went to conspiracy theory, while I talked about corporate/money//nationalists/globalists. His brow furrowed.

The worst thing we can possibly do is sign-on to contextualism, where everything is just a matter of opinion—you got your sources and I've got mine. That's what elites are attempting with AI—dumb us down into manipulated factions. However, reality abides.

Take an assumption: If you don't understand politics, you don't understand economics. It's true—so is the opposite. Without both—we are doomed to happenstance.

Sifting through facts for reality, Trump is the enigma of the day. My take on him changes daily because, being mercurial, he changes daily. Or, maybe he doesn't? Is he for peace? Not in Yemen; not in Iran; not with China. Heaven forbid Palestine. But, does he have inclination towards peace? He does, and he may fall short of killing the millions Biden was responsible for. With Trump, we have to carefully watch overall drift.

He comes out for security guarantees for Ukraine—and his EU puppets rejoice. But he then puts them in the Oval Office hall while he (supposedly) has a 40 minute talk with Putin. Trump's a Vegas, pit-boss. He sees who at the table is less than worthless.

But like fraudulent tariff gains, what would Trump do with a peace gained in Ukraine? Pivot to China so we can get our arses kicked? Like our tax dollars going to expand a Pentagon budget that needs serious reduction, will Trump waste whatever gains from delusional sanctioning ideology with a consequence of harming Americans even more?

If you think that Trump, by necessity, will get us peace, you best take a closer look—or at least hold off until we see where he goes. Trump is the most complicated out there. Martin Armstrong says Trump is not like other politicians—that he has compassion for human life. Maybe some compassion, but Trump is a consummate politician.

To get my articles by email, comment, make a request: [erik@neverhadaboss.com](mailto:erik@neverhadaboss.com). I'm on the road. Oregon Coast./Northwest then East. Anybody want to have a coffee?