

The Arduous Calling of Religious Conservatives

I think that trying to restrain an entire contemporary age is like a passenger in a carriage holding on to the seat in front of him in order to stop the carriage. He determines himself in continuity with the age, and yet he wishes to hold it in check. No, the only thing to do is to get out of the carriage, and so hold oneself in check.

Soren Kierkegaard (Concluding Unscientific Postscript)

In a Western world seemingly bent on its own destruction the duty of religious conservatives is multi-layered and painfully difficult.

Before exploring the nature of this task it would be helpful to spend a moment clarifying our terms. The words liberalism and conservatism simply do not do justice to the apocalyptic nature of the struggle to which G-d has summoned all good men in our era. They are soft words that seem to speak of issues about which there are debates, elections, campaigns and over which good men may disagree.

Let us lay this pleasing myth to rest quickly and speak the truth for my time with you is short this morning.

Liberalism is not a political creed. It is a vile combination of sickness and evil. Its hatred of faith, decency and all the beautiful norms and traditions of Western Man has come to dominate the world we live in. It has polluted everything in life that we once cherished our

schools, sports and entertainment; our courts, government and military. It rules supreme even in our mainstream religious denominations. The Democratic Party is its standard bearer and has been for 62 years. The Republican Party meekly acquiesces to whatever perversity it spews forth.

Talk of the Republicans brings us to the second term requiring definition; Conservatism. If by Conservatism we mean a clear and firm commitment to the faiths of our civilization, to the unique fusing of Sinai, Bethlehem, Greece, Rome and the Northland which is Europe and in America heavily flavored by the standards of Anglo-Saxondom, then Conservatism is just another word for normalcy and the good, in short for decency.

There used to be a unified political movement in America that spoke in clear terms for this sense of the good. It has periodically threatened the establishment via the enthusiasms which surrounded MacArthur, McCarthy, Goldwater, Wallace and Reagan. The last mentioned achieved electoral success, but was effectively de-fanged, having little if any effect on our national and civilizational decline.

Today in the place of this movement we find a wide assortment of remnants, who have managed to survive the tidal wave of decadence that has washed over this once magnificent civilization.

Let us briefly identify them; There are those Catholics who have managed to retain their faith despite the forces unleashed by Vatican II. These Catholics find their voice in journals and newspapers ranging from *The Wanderer*, *Crisis*, *Fidelity*, *New Oxford Review* and *First Things*, who believe that their own hierarchy is still essentially on their side, to those who seriously question that proposition such as *Latin Mass* and *The Remnant*, to those such as *The Angelus* and *The Roman Catholic* who are convinced that their problems begin at the top.

There are pockets of the Reformed Church, Lutherans and Anglicans, who still man the barricades of their centuries old faiths.

And last, but certainly not least among believing Christians there are the amazing evangelical and fundamentalist movements, who long ago buried by the media, have outlived both Darrow and Mencken to now emerge as the largest force for good on the American scene.

There are the paleo-cons of the Old Right who yet defend their vision of a pre-1932 America. And who, truly committed to the truths of the Judeo-Christian tradition, could deny that America then was a far better place to live than it is today?

There are the neo-cons who discovered rather late in the game that their policies and those of their immediate intellectual predecessors had brought the nation to the brink of the abyss. They yearn for a return to the New York City of the 40's and 50's and its colleges which provided their youthful radicalism with a setting of civility, decency and stability. And it must be noted that of late their "winding passages" have led them to contemplate a "return of the sacred" and issue a recent call, however vague, for Jews to reconsider their faith. Who knows, perhaps their contact with the Christian Right will lead them towards further reflections on their own faith? (Incidentally, it was the conservative movement of the late fifties and early sixties which introduced me to Lewis, Chesterton, Belloc etc. all of whom helped lead me in the direction of Jewish Orthodoxy.)

Finally there are those who following in the footsteps of a Hume or a Santayana, or more recently Burnham or Zoll, who base their Rightism on the empirical givens of the human condition. And who cannot conclude after the past six decades of liberalism triumphant that it is a creed dedicated to maniacal schemes pursued against all rational evidence and indifferent to

human suffering ... be it the suffering of those under Communism for seventy years or of Zulu and Afrikaner in South Africa, or of the real life victims of bussing, affirmative action and the wave of crime they've unleashed upon the nation.

Having identified the assorted remnants that have resisted this wickedness, it is worth digressing for a moment to discuss the relationship of Jews and Judaism to all of them. There is little doubt that Judaism as revealed at Sinai and amplified in the Oral Law is, in its affirmation of traditional morality, hierarchical society, sacred ritual and Ultimate Truth, at war with every form of liberal decadence. Why then have Jews not been publicly identified with those who assent to value in contemporary America?

There are several answers to this question: 1) By and large Establishment Jewry in America doesn't accept their own faith as true. They are not believers. Hence, their adoption of liberalism, the creed of those who despise faith.

2) Among traditional Jews the matter is a bit more complex. For many their reluctance is often born of a desire to support any individual who evidences sufficient support of Israel, regardless of the damage his policies may unleash upon America. (Hence, for example the Modern Orthodox supported Clinton over Bush.) For the more traditional Orthodox, their view is that they must be concerned, first and foremost, with the physical survival of their own communities which an expansive welfare state will best facilitate.

Both these views are linked by their inability to see Jews as responsible participants in general society. This sentiment is clearly rooted in centuries when Jews were persecuted and excluded from society.

Fortunately there are increasing signs - and certainly this conference prominent among them - that more and more traditional Jews are beginning to see that they have a practical stake in society as a whole. It is also to be hoped that they will recognize the immorality of indifference to a general community which grants us normative status.

3) For some traditional Jews who live emotionally in modernity, their lives become ideologically compartmentalized. In *shul* they read of Biblical values, but their real psyches are shaped by the mind controlling totalitarians of the decadent media.

4) And this relates to almost all Jews, there is the ever present fear of anti-Semitism. In brief the belief is that Gentiles who take their religions, cultures, nations or races too seriously may decide that Jews are not a part of them. This has led traditionally to Jewish support for civil, contractual and economic decipherings of the realm, in other words, liberalism.

To digress further for a moment on a topic that deserves much deeper elaboration, I offer my own personal observation having journeyed extensively among the Right over the years and having spoken at length to assorted types, ranging from the Conservative Party and the H.N.P. in South Africa, to various English nationalists, to Catholic traditionalists, to staunch American Old Rightists; I have found almost no anti-Semitism, if we define the term as referring to one who instinctively dislikes or fears all Jews for no reason. I did find people who disliked *some* Jews for very good reasons. However, in all my travels I have invariably found non-Jews of the "hard right" more than happy to embrace Jews who stand together with them in defense of their and our civilization.

To return to the matter at hand; What are these remnants to do in the face of a society where all the means of communication, education and government have been wrested from them?

Well, first they must make absolutely sure that their own minds and souls are pure, that they, unlike the Republicans and far too many mainstream conservatives, do not view as somehow normal what this nation has become.

They must realize that everything spewed forth by the post-1963 American elite (to select a somewhat arbitrary, but telling date) has been vile, that its thoughts are, to use the Hebrew phrase, *treif*.

They must learn to abjure the realm. Its government is not theirs, nor its educational system nor its entertainment. Even its dress, manners and very gestures are perverse.

Emotionally their home should be in the centuries and even recent decades of sanity. A good rule of thumb is to look at any aspect of modernity and see as it would have been viewed by Americans in 1950, or better still 1890.

Indeed, it is best for religious conservatives, especially if they have families, to try and live among the remnants of sanity, physically close to sound churches and synagogues and their attendant schools.

The public school system is the evil regime's brainwashing arm. Decent people should shun it.

The news media should be viewed as we looked upon *Pravda* in the old days; full of lies and bent upon the destruction of all we value.

What are the duties of religious conservatives in contemporary America towards our fellow citizens?

First we must be ever mindful that most Americans today are, indeed, *victims*. The young know no other world other than that of television, movies, music, shopping malls, talk shows and the vile public schools. They live totally under the dark wing of the world created by liberals. Older Americans are confused. Certainly the world seemed better *then*, but television tells them it wasn't, so they just don't know what to think. This is the world inhabited by the George Bushes of our time. They feel something is out of line, but not possessing a clear sense of religion, or of their own civilizational identity, they are at a loss to offer firm opposition to the decadence or propose any alternative vision.

To both the above groups our response should not be hatred or disdain, but a pity born of love. They had their way of life stolen from them and no one they look to can tell them where to find it.

It is only by having first established ourselves firmly within the confines of sanity that we may then sally forth among the natives in order to return them to elementary decency. This is not an easy task. It requires the skills of a deprogrammer in order to free a soul from the iron grip of the childish cult of modernism.

Yet, it is to this task that we are summoned by the G-d that calls upon us to care for our fellow man and the society that we inhabit.

We have thus far spoken about personal/communal survival and the rescue of individuals from the horrors of our time. What about the nation as a whole? Is it realistic to think that the

trend of Western history towards secularism and decadence can be reversed? Can the Washington-Hollywood control be broken?

Sadly it would seem that those who control the education and entertainment structures control the next generation and the nation's future.

This is an especially troubling thought when one realizes that America will in the next century no longer be a White nation. It is precisely non-White Americans who have been the most victimized by liberalism. They came of age, so to speak, in a Leftist dominated nation. They are the ultimate children of liberalism. They are also our future majority.

What is needed is a powerful flushing out of the national arteries by a political movement unafraid to call good and evil by their real names and to act accordingly.

Toward Tradition and Rabbi Lapin have performed what is known in Hebrew as a *Kiddush Hashem* (sanctification of G-d's name) by bringing together Jews and Evangelicals to bear witness to G-d's truths for all men. This coalition must be enlarged to include all manner of Protestants and Traditional Catholics. It can also serve as a forum to unite the paleo and neo cons, who as our civilization nears collapse, can certainly find better enemies than each other.

In truth the only Americans happy with the liberal lunacy are the underclass who live off it and the power elite who maniacally enforce it. The general populace is ill at ease and might well respond to a fearless and revolutionary Right.

The result of our struggle lies in G-d's hands. We are merely called upon to act. Our actions will, at the very least, show many Americans that they and their families can emotionally secede from the decadence and live a life of faith.

People often ask me how I became a conservative. In response I've pointed to an early love for Greek and Roman mythology and the Bible stories my mother read to me. I've noted the heavy influence of the westerns of my youth. I certainly wouldn't be here today without the deep impressions left on me by the Lone Ranger, Davy Crockett, the Rifleman and others. In sum G-d allowed me to live in the fifties, the last period of sanity in our history. If it was, in the words of Kuenehlt-Leddihn, already living from the "whiff of the empty bottle", it was still a hearty aroma.

You see that's one thing the liberals can't lie to me about. I know what the homes, families, schools and sports of the fifties were. I know what Brooklyn was then. I was there.

And in that Brooklyn as a boy I'd read the Chip Hilton sports books of Clair Bee. Some of you may remember them. They featured Chip, the All-American boy whose devotion to G-d, his widowed mother and sportsmanship was consistent with the values of that era. And his coach the "Rock", old Henry Rockwell who taught the boys to play their best, but always fair and square.

I'd like to read to you the ending of a typical Chip Hilton book, *Strike Three* where our hero has saved some "bad boys" from the "other side of town, the South Side " and helped them to stay on the Valley Falls team and, win the state baseball championship , of course.

Remember these books were read by all and not regarded as "naive" or "simplistic".

"Chip tightened his grip on the shoulders of the two South-siders. All the worries and troubles had been worth while after all! He was glad he had persisted in his efforts to win the friendship of these two. They were really on the team now..."

"The eyes of the three boys met and they exchanged winks. Then, arm in arm, they turned toward the dugout where Rockwell stood with a happy smile and an outstretched hand."

Ladies and gentlemen this is the America that liberalism killed. With G-d's help we can restore it.

Thank you.

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