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Realists By Default—Are Depressed

Crossing the border into Oregon in 1974, I asked an old-timer how long it would be before I was regarded as an Oregonian. Bemused, he responded—‘never’. A lighthearted answer, offered with a smile, he spoke to a sad truth about human nature that’s recognized later in life, and only by those with a healthy skepticism and abiding questions.

Most human beings are provincial—almost cultist. Indoctrinated in youth by institutional elders, they seldom venture outside the limits of a belief structure. Challenging beliefs that underpin one's existence requires prodigious effort to break-free from belief into the region that is *free thinking*.

As a result, the insight gained from a long life of introspection is best described as *depressive reality*—reality that rocks the structure of what we assumed in our youth to be human nature. Gone is the hopeful optimism and that pervades the young soul, replaced by doubt about one’s fellows. Leaving behind any anticipated solutions to existential problems.

Mostly, I have to agree with friends that the internet (AI), is making it worse for any who, lacking core questions, are unable to work through the confusion of online miasma to reduce things to common denominators. For most, unfathomable amounts of information dumped on psyches, is impossible to sort out, leaving many, maybe most—bewildered.

What is the inheritance that controls most of us from a young age? Belief structures we don't come to on our own but we accept out of necessity to get along in a culture. If your mom and dad are democrats—it's likely you are a democrat. And when the democrat party morphs from being social liberal and fiscally conservative (blue collar), into every bit the war monger associated with republicans, the change get made—without notice.

As do pundits change, most of whom are but scribes of power. Case in point, after the Hamas attack on Israel on October 7th, many pundits (influencers), lined up with Zionism—without question. Without mentioning names, some were those I identified with and they lost me, because I can't continue on with any who lack abiding questions.

There's a gift in the life of a questioner. One after the next, your fellows expose themselves as trapped within a belief structure where questioning is disallowed. It's worse for Europeans, where criticizing Israeli genocide is socially condemned—soon to be a crime.

The cult of belief is everywhere—having pervaded the culture. Here in my blue state, there is no possibility for frank discussion about the fraud that was mRNA—widely sold as the way to keep grandma safe, but without transmission testing, and without the required 5 years of double-blind testing. About these facts there is no discussion. Nor is there open debate about the reality of Ukraine or the horror the US is bringing on Iran.

Along the road of life, best friends drop off, and it becomes evident they won't return as it comes clear that why they wrote you off was not based in fact. For them, facts never become facts—without a question, they simply disregard facts (dismiss them), and move forward.

Being closer to reality involves depression. It's an inability to let everything go and join in the neighborhood fun—at least not completely. Given that

truth, what can someone who recognizes reality as being at cross-purposes do to maintain one's equilibrium and sanity?

You don't want to be that guy who understands more than most but is incapable of turning off the stream of what you see. That's the opposite pole of the *Uncle Leo syndrome*, who we dread sitting next to at Thanksgiving dinner—as he regurgitates FOX news. Once a singular insight of depressive reality has been attained to, it requires we keep it light—we banter.

Depressive reality is becoming worse in the land of AI. I ask lots of questions of AI to attain answers that used to take an entire reading of the Encyclopedia Britannica. But that's all AI is—it has no function for solving existential dilemmas. It's future lies in taking away jobs that rely on information gathering/sifting, while decimating the electrical and water resources, along with the general quality of life, of areas that house an AI complex.

The business of AI (as it manifests), is to make its entities seem to be real human beings. This is called anthropomorphism. And for those, already besieged/bi-wildered by the inability to process ever-greater online data, counterfeit influencers just add to that unease.

The average viewer, who, at best, has a tacit hold on reality, gets taken in by fake influencers, and when they venture away from facts into speculation—it gets taken as fact.

As a consequence, the vast majority of us, already susceptible to unreality, become dangerous for the United States—through a willingness to trade our beloved republic with its checks and balances, 1st, into a 1 person/1 vote democracy—and now into a mobocracy.

What defines a mobocracy is when the 1 person/1 vote is no longer grounded in ethical values—when the electorate become advocates for *ruthless passions*—in opposition to the republic, a system designed to

temper ruthless passions through reasoned debate.

Frighteningly, the direction we are headed conjures up the French Revolution, during which journalist Jacques Mallet du Pan observed that ‘like Saturn, the Revolution devours its children.’ No longer just the danger of fellow revolutionaries deciding if you are the next reactionary to be guillotined. It is a process of untethering each of us from existential questions so as to go along—to get along. This brings with it the end of enlightenment.

In just the last few weeks, liberal pundits and politicians have been calling for radical and even violent action. The American left has moved along from shoplifting, as a protest and not a crime, to advocating eliminating conservatives through murder as a possible solution. Gerrymandering is no longer enough—it’s time to employ some drastic Zionist solutions.

Constitutional checks and balances created a Supreme Court to slow down/negate purely political legislative/administrative actions. Now the left is back to ‘packing the court’—this time for real—to assure that conservatives never again participate in decision making. The left refers to this as *illiberal democracy*, referring to democratic systems used to curtail rights/weaken checks and balances. Leftists support illiberal eradication of the republic as essential to save liberal democracy. Elizabeth Warren sees the Supreme Court needing packed to bring rulings in line with *widely-held public opinion*.

For now, the age of ethics/justice is over and done. In its place, national political expediency comes. Through it all, the just man speaks truth with tempered speech, remembering to ride low in the saddle—and not skyline.

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