

November 6, 2008

Judgment

The plan is, now that the elections are over, I can update this blog more frequently. My travel this past year or so, has been as much a factor as anything else. I am not as technologically adept as I'd like to be, and sometimes, I am in a place that advertises 'free wifi' but I can't get it to work for me. I am lucky if I can get my email!

The People Have Spoken

One of the most historic events of our time, took place Tuesday, when we elected a person of color to the highest office in the land. He is, arguably, one of the most qualified, intelligent, and savvy Presidents we have ever had the opportunity to vote for.

He ran his election cleaner than any I have ever seen. There was plenty of low-hanging fruit, as they say, in the vernacular of scandals and gaffes, that he just walked by, even while garbage was being thrown at him, most of it lies, all in an attempt to make him seem "Dangerous".

"Dangerous" is how we view the racial divide, the religious divide, the economic divide and all the other divides that keep us from doing the one thing we have to do, to save ourselves: Unite.

He bypassed the easy, and what would be effective true stories that would make his opponent seem even 'scarier' and instead, he kept on his path and did not detour chasing down those same rabbit trails that so many before him, had fallen for, and lost their way in the process.

He stayed focused, steady, and intent on the finish line in a way not seen before in this nation. He was not tricked by anger into acting against his own best interests. He was not tricked by rants and diversions, and he stayed true to his path.

That was how he ran his campaign. He won without owing political favors to the Corporations, The Banks, or even to his own Party Leaders. He did it by bringing us all together, for our own good, and the good of this nation.

It can be done. He competed against those who were born into wealth and power. Nothing more ridiculous than his opponents trying to stick the label of "elitist" on him, because he was well-educated and smarter than they were, because he worked his whole life to become what he is now. He came from a background of love, struggle, food stamps, welfare, and being bi-racial in a time and place where he was considered not enough of either to 'fit in'.

Had he succumbed to 'Self Pity', and stayed there, he would have found every excuse necessary, to fail. Yet he overcame his own worst enemy, 'Self Pity' and focused his energy on making his life what he wanted it to be, serving a purpose greater than himself.

As weak and dumb as the McCain/Palin ticket was, and as thinly coded racist the slurs were, and as outright threatening as the rally crowds were, he stayed respectful, and did not attempt to demean the other guy.

It only added to his air of being unflappable, strong and intelligent. The opposition was selling fear, racism, empty promises and lies, and he was reminding us of who we really were, inside, before we had been stomped down, by rampant corruption, abuse of power and deceptions.

When we started to wobble, he reminded us again. This is who we are. This is what we can do. And no one can stop us from getting up, if we all come together and help one another.

He brought enough of us together, that this time in history, as we stand on the river's edge of rising economic disasters, collapsing markets, expanding wars and weary soldiers, and the world ready to write us off as having any power, much less being a super power and we held our breath, waiting for the banks to crumble and wash us away, knowing there would be no one able or willing to save us if we could not save ourselves.

And we came together. Enough of us came together. The wreckage that has to be cleaned up spans not just the last 8 years, but centuries.

Now that we are uniting, we must continue to unite and to find ways to come together, and to help one another to make this a better world for the children and their children yet to come.

Barack Hussein Obama, with every excuse to fail in this world, chose instead to reach for all that was not yet in sight, much less within his reach, and now, he holds the world in his hands. A testament to believing in yourself, and working to fulfill that belief.

Everything in his early history, even his name, made his struggle greater. The struggle made him stronger. And now, we are all stronger, as a nation, uniting. We are believing again.

And that is what terrifies the opposition. We are remembering and relearning how to do the one thing that will save us all: We are coming together, and that is powerful awesome to behold.

Obama is the symbol of what we can overcome and what we can be, as a nation, and individually.

Knowing who we are, and what we can do, is the beginning of our finding our path to freedom. And we cannot do it alone. We must all come together.

Ghost In The Machine

The 'Ghost in the machine' theory of all things is this: "Once something has been accomplished, achieved, produced, the event is more apt to be replicated more easily and more frequently thereafter."

Manufacturing the first artificial diamond, and 'baking rubies', are two such 'events'. Up until that point, the point where it actually produced a diamond, and rubies came out of the oven (BIG oven.. do not try this at home), it was thought that the processes were too overwhelmingly complex and required too much power to make it happen.

It took years to create the first gems. That it had become 'accomplished' was, at first, viewed with sneering skepticism. It was dismissed without even being examined, as a 'hoax'. Those who were considered the 'experts' in the field, laughed it off, even spoke against it being possible.

The next diamond was bigger, and took less time. It became easier, faster cleaner, less expensive to do. Rubies are made by the pound, daily, with the process that makes them, and they are more perfect than rubies found in the wild.

Those diamonds have made huge strides in industry and manufacturing, possible. Those rubies have accelerated our ability to use lasers, build satellites, and send information. And they are beautiful to behold!

Now, we take it for granted that not only diamonds and rubies can be man-made, but other gems as well.

What we once thought was impossible, has become commonplace. Not only accepted, but one can hardly remember, even though it has been relatively recent that we have them, a time when they were not available.

Another example of Ghost in the Machine, is Star Trek. Remember the "Communicators" Those nifty, flip open thing-a-ma-bobs? And then they advanced to 'com badges' that they had only to touch to talk?

Ghost in the Machine dictates that once you think something is possible, it becomes more possible. The mind begins to find a way. Behold! Not only cell

phones, but wireless devices that fit inside the human ear, that we need only touch to talk.

Gems, communicators, and now, a Black Man, with a name we had never heard before, and which we would not think was one of ours, is our President. And he knows that all things are possible.

What Dreams Will Come

And we have seen that all this is possible. We have seen it with our own eyes and we know it is possible. Now, we know that even more is possible.

I watched and I was so humbled by the heroic act of 'standing in line for hours, up to 12 hours' by people who knew that was the one thing they could do, had to do, regardless of their own discomfort, health or loss of wages, they had to stay on that path, stay in that line, and not be discouraged, not feel sorry for themselves and not buy the fear that was being shouted at them from the sidelines and the airwaves. They held steady, and THEY made this all possible.

They were in every state where voting had been made difficult to impossible for the poor, the non-white, and the disabled--democratic regions. They could have quit. They could have given up. There were plenty of excuses to allow that. There were plenty of hardships to make it easier to give up, but they did not give up.

They did not get angry, they did not complain, and they did not quarrel. They kept standing, taking one step at a time, until they reached their ballots. They did it for themselves, and they did it for all of us.

He could not do it alone. He could not do it without us, and we cannot do this without each other. He is not there to do this for us, but rather, with us. He knew it could be done, and we proved to him, it would be done.

The effort was heroic. Quietly heroic. No one in line was given an award, a medal, fame or fortune. They may never be known individually for what they did, but what they did, all over, in the most difficult of places, won the day for all of us. Some of our greatest heroes are never named. So it is with this.

What they did, changed the world.

You may never know their names, but they were united in one goal-- to vote. And that vote changed this nation forever. Our Nation shapes the world, and we now shape this nation, and we can't be stopped if we don't give up.

And, to this, other heroes. A legion of lawyers, thousands of lawyers stood by, were on call and responded to, within minutes, areas of trouble where voters were being denied their right to cast a ballot. Those ballots were cast, and the tactics of deterrent were defeated.

Some were deterred, some were defeated, but enough held on to make it to the end, for all of us. And we can be so proud that we showed the world what we are made of and what we can do, and that we are now, more than ever before, united.

Lawyers did this for free, at their own expense for travel and staff. Lawyers, poor people, coming together for the common cause of saving our Democracy.

And the armies of volunteers. Knocking on doors, making phone calls, talking to strangers, walking, driving, answering phones, running errands and keeping the communication with their leaders, instantaneous, they made this happen, in a time, in a place, in a land, where it had never happened before, and many thought it was impossible, too complex, required too much power-- they made it happen.

And now that we have proved it can be done, it can happen; It did happen: What dreams will come?

Everything we have in this world, everything we know, was first dreamed into being by someone who then built that dream, good or bad, and that is how this world is made or destroyed.

We watched the destruction beginning, progressing, and we could have given up. Instead, something in us, rose up, stood up to the tyranny of fear, racism, lies and deceptions, and we have now begun, all of us, to cross the threshold into a world we can repair, rebuild if we continue to remember how it was done this time: Unity.

There is power in unity. It has been used against us in the past, when we allowed those who had it to divide us and weaken us.

Now they run in fear, throwing lies in their wake, trying to distract us from our pursuit of Justice.

I say it is a good sign. It is the symbol of our awakening, and the beginning of our healing.

Much work to be done. But we know it can be done.

We are all Indians, and Indian ways are powerful, healing, constructive and Just. When Indians can unite with other Indians, and non-Indians, we will find

ourselves in a better day, able to heal, repair and rebuild, together, for our children and their children yet to come.

A Black Man, Barack Hussein Obama, is our president. It can be done.

We must, continue this wave or realization, across all communities, all people-- regardless of how they are different in gender, gender preferences, the color of their skin, the way in which they worship, conduct their spiritual walk, their level of education or ability.

We are just beginning to get a sense of our true power and the magnitude of what can be accomplished.

It resides in all of us, in those places where we recognize one another, not as strangers, or alien; not as someone to be afraid of, or jealous of; but as our brothers and sisters, in whom our true power, or real strength, resides. Allies, united.

The opposition is more apparent now that it has failed, for what it is. Almost comical as they try to herd us, stampede us, with tricks of fear that no longer have the same effect on us.

We will not be tricked by our anger, misled by our greed, nor our fears, into ever turning back again.

We are ready now. Look around you. You see others who are awake, aware as never before. More are waking up.

The 'machine' is the 'mind'. The 'Ghost' is the knowledge, true knowledge, of what can be.

The Ghost In The Machine is dancing. Judgment is coming.

You know where to find me.

~Cat