

## Obama's Three Levels of Oratory

We human beings are moved more by passion than by reason. Reason can only enlighten, it cannot touch our springs of action. No matter the elaboration of communications-technology, we cannot outgrow our need for oratory.

Among the surviving presidential candidates, Obama is the only orator. He will be our next president.

1.....Orators are trilingual. (1) They speak “mother-speech,” everybody’s first language, which has the shortest and richest words (e.g., mother/father/home/God). (2) Orators speak “communal,” the particular speech of their particular communities. (3) Orators speak “general,” the language enabling communication between communities (as the English language functions in multi-lingual India). For short, we may call this three-layer cake of language “homey,” “sacred,” and “secular.”

2.....In his recently-published 800-page *A SECULAR AGE*, Charles Taylor details the increasing use of “secular” speech in the public forum as the sacred language of the vertical-transcendent has bowed toward the flatland of horizontal-immanent. In “Pilgrim’s Progress,” John Bunyan dealt with this tendency in the muckraker, who never looked up.

In 1972, Emory University addressed the phenomena of “The Transcendent” (the yearned for, the more than, the beyond, the better, the above) by having a seminar involving all doctoral students, each Wednesday with a scholar in a different academic field. When my turn came, I was delighted with the students’ eagerness, even excitement. Through all generations, this reach of the human spirit is as real as the flow of human flesh.

3.....Obama makes judicious oratorical use of all three language-levels. He is a master of constitutional law, which is top-level “secular,” as is the Constitution (which is unique, among America’s founding documents in having no “sacred,” religious language [except its reference to Jesus in its closing date, “in the year of our Lord”]). As a member of a Chicago church that I know well, he speaks “sacred,” specifically Christian. And he’s most moving when he speaks “homey.”

4.....Of course orators are *dangerous*. When in 1933 Hitler came to power, by short-wave radio I listened to his orations. His ranting denunciations and “blood and soil” aggressiveness were spine-chilling. Through their orators, we can see into their souls. Nobody’s perfect; but the soul I see in Obama’s orations is good, and intending the good of all, including God’s good earth.

5.....Also in 1933, the Humanist Manifesto began a successful drive to exclude religion from America’s public schools and to teach secular humanism instead (collapsing transcendence into immanence). One result is the “What good is it?” attitude of many Americans toward religion - the “good” meaning human flourishing in the material world. Of course all religions intend human good, but each within the sphere of its particular way of seeing and living in the world; and the good intended is *total*good, not merely material good.

6.....How one sees the world/reality is “reflected in policy positions and campaign tactics.” Faith informs principles, principles inform policies/strategy/tactics. Since a religion is a way of seeing and living in the world, every candidate’s religion – in providing both a point of view and a depth of view – influences thinking/deciding/acting in every sphere of life, including politics. Obama is a Christian. The Constitution makes clear that there should be no “religious test” for the office. But (to some extent) all of America’s presidents have been Christians.

7.....Those tempted to believe that oratory is dead in the U.S. got a surprise this time around. The orator’s functions are to inspire/unite/lead the people. They inspire as they move easily between immanence (the flatland of human problems) and transcendence (aspiration and hope: “without vision, the people perish”). They unite by reminding the people of the principles in their founding as a people, and by reinvigorating the common faith (America’s “civil religion”) which continues to feed those principles. And they lead as they embody that faith’s living principles. Among the candidates, only Obama has what it takes.



## Comments

Please report offensive comments below.

GERRY,  
I answered you, but my ire was aimed elsewhere.

Once again we agree. Faith and morals do not necessarily coorelate.

However, it is naive to believe that anger or even rage have no place in morality or religion. There is such a thing as righteous indignation.

"In malice, be ye as little children, but in understanding, quit ye like men."

God destroyed seven nations for Israel. Jesus spoke bluntly and became so angry on one occasion that he took the time to make a whip before flogging offenders.

POSTED BY: JOHNNY B. GOODE | MARCH 1, 2008 8:26 PM  
[REPORT OFFENSIVE COMMENT](#)

CCNL - we all have our own version of reality and as near as anyone can tell here, yours has much to do with an obsessive fixation on the shortcomings of Islam and the ultimate righteousness of the USA. On the other hand, your view of Christianity and other world religions seems to be based on authors that essentially agree with your own point of view. Not so unusual, but then your world looks pretty black and white from way over here in my world.

Reality is probably far more subtle than you make it out to be. If you're not convinced of the transgressions perpetrated by the Bush administration, perhaps you need a reality check yourself.

In fact, I'd go so far as to say that Obama's rapid rise to the top of the popularity polls has everything to do with the profound deficiencies noted in our present administration.

Anything or anyone that presents a sufficient enough contrast to that dark 'reality' is going to benefit. Whether or not Obama can live up to these inflated expectations is another question, but I think the voting public is ready to settle for possibilities rather than guarantees.

Surely McCain presents nothing in the way of change away from our present 'reality'. He's trying to sell Iraq in order to get elected, and that ploy is going to be a very dismal failure - and will be viewed as a continuation of the massive governmental failure represented by the invasion of Iraq from the start.

In fact, polls show that the economy is a far more salient issue compared to Iraq - it's negative economic impact is clear & Iraq is finally viewed as being too costly to maintain. End of story.....

But that's just the view from my world.

POSTED BY: NOT SO PERPLEXED | FEBRUARY 27, 2008 8:45 AM  
[REPORT OFFENSIVE COMMENT](#)

Daniel,

please, I only referred to the historical well-proved fact that rhetorical brilliance (and only that was the topic) is a tool which can be used for better or worse, and that it has its effect on people within a historical context. For instance, in today's historical context an orator like Hitler would only appear ridiculous. Can't we agree on this?

And I repeat: Nobody (as far as I know) otherwise compares Obama to Hitler, when making such an operational, strictly logical statement. To falsify this statement, you would have to prove that rhetorical brilliance never can be used for criminal intent.

If I could, I would probably vote for Obama.

POSTED BY: GERRY | FEBRUARY 27, 2008 2:10 AM  
[REPORT OFFENSIVE COMMENT](#)

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Johnny B. Goode,

I don't quite understand your furious and, well, a little over the top reaction. I don't think I am a monkey throwing feces around. And I speak seven languages also, including Latin and ancient Greek.

Still, I only quoted you (Feb. 26, 5.56), saying  
"Faith in God has nothing to do with formal education." Which any religionist I know would subscribe to: "Unless you don't become like children..." etc.

I only have different experiences from yours. In your so wonderfully educated eyes, this already makes me a monkey. (I like monkeys, btw).

I think I stick to my atheist world view rather than imitating yours, if such ranting and such a condescending "moral" hateful look at your fellow humans is the result of your belief.

Another convincing proof for me that "morals" and faith do not correlate.

POSTED BY: GERRY | FEBRUARY 27, 2008 1:45 AM  
[REPORT OFFENSIVE COMMENT](#)

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GERRY:

Knee-jerk response to the brain-dead who seem to always intimate that those who believe in God have a limited education. They're always suggesting that the believer read this or that literary rebuttal, assuming that we haven't already. You'll notice that as soon as one testifies to personal experiences with God, one is then accused of hallucinating. May as well try to educate mules, or teach pigs to sing.

Susan Jacoby covered this subject very well in her interview recently on TV with Bill Moyers. Our society is surfeited with uneducated, unwashed, unbalanced persons who think that opinion is the same thing as knowledge. They can't find Fiji or France on a map, speak only basic English, never studied the history of Europe, or the history of Africa, or the history of Asia, or the history of North and South America, or, evidently, any history at all. Cretins and critics, one and all. Nitwits and twits.

After engaging in fierce debates in graduate school with students at the top of their game, this blog is a terrible disappointment. After engaging persons from around the world in conversations in their languages which reflect and respect their viewpoints, this blog is a terrible disappointment. I had expected to learn and grow in the company of the educated and erudite. This is a carnival of monkeys throwing feces about while impressed with their own cleverness. It's a blog of boors.

POSTED BY: JOHNNY B. GOODE | FEBRUARY 26, 2008 11:38 PM  
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Perplexed,

It didn't unless you are blinded by reality.

Wow! The good guys in the USA eliminated all the bad guys, pretty much everywhere. And then the bad guys end up in charge of the good old USA.

Now how in the hell did that happen???

Let's elect a good guy again and indict all those bad old guys for high crimes and misdemeanors....

Look's like Obama in '08.

Hmmm, time again to see where our tax dollars have been going over the past 68 years:

First - A Partial Body Count

1a) Assassination of Benazir Bhutto

1b) 9/11, 3000 mostly US citizens, 1000's injured

2) The 24/7 Sunni-Shiite centuries-old blood feud currently being carried out in Iraq, 4000 US troops and 80,625 – 88,048 Iraqi civilians <http://www.iraqbodycount.org/>

3) Kenya- In Nairobi, about 212 people were killed and an estimated 4000 injured; in Dar es Salaam, the attack killed at least 11 and wounded 85.[2]

4) Bali-in 2002-killing 202 people, 164 of whom were foreign nationals, and 38 Indonesian citizens. A further 209 people were injured.

5) Bali in 2005- Twenty people were killed, and 129 people were injured by three bombers who killed themselves in the attacks.

6) Spain in 2004- killing 191 people and wounding 2,050.

7) UK in 2005- The bombings killed 52 commuters and the four radical Islamic suicide bombers, injured 700.

8) Then of course the big one: 40+million dead in WWII

Other elements of our Wars on Terror and Aggression:

1. Saddam, his sons and major henchmen have been deleted. Saddam's bravado about WMD was one of his major mistakes.

2. Iran is being contained. (beside containing the Sunni-Shiite civil war in Baghdad, that is the main reason we are in Iraq. And yes, essential oil continues to flow from the region.)

3. Libya has become almost civil. Apparently this new reality from an Islamic country has upset OBL and his "crazies" as they recently threatened Libya. OBL sure is a disgrace to the world especially the Moslem world!!!

4. North Korea is still uncivil but is contained. With the opening up of rail traffic between North and South Korea after 50 years and with the assistance of the US Navy in retrieving NK ships and personnel, a fresh sense of civility is afoot. This week the NY Philharmonic is playing concerts in North Korea and CNN was shown the now dismantled nuclear facilities.

5. Northern Ireland is finally at peace.

6. The Jews and Palestinians are being separated by walls. Hopefully the walls will follow the 1948 UN accords and the Annapolis Peace Conference is at least somewhat successful.

7. Bin Laden has been cornered under a rock in Western Pakistan since 9/11.

8. Fanatical Islam has basically been contained to the Middle East but a wall between India and Pakistan would be a plus for world peace. Ditto for a wall between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

9. Timothy McVeigh was executed. Terry Nichols will follow soon.

10. Eric Rudolph is spending three life terms in prison with no parole.

11. Jim Jones, David Koresh, Kaczynski, the "nuns" from Rwanda, and the KKK were all dealt with and either eliminated themselves or are being punished.

12. Islamic Sudan, Darfur and Somalia are still terror hot spots.

13. The terror and torture of Muslims in Bosnia, Kosovo and Kuwait were ended by the proper application of the military forces of the USA and her freedom-loving friends.

14. And of course the bloody terror brought about by the Japanese, Nazis and Communists was with great difficulty eliminated by the good guys.

POSTED BY: CONCERNED THE CHRISTIAN NOW LIBERATED | FEBRUARY 26, 2008 6:28 PM  
[REPORT OFFENSIVE COMMENT](#)

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TJ another factoid for you the military Budget is 21% of the total federal budget. To blame the current war's 1 trillion dollar debt over four years for a deficit that by its self it can't possibly explain is ludicrous.

POSTED BY: GARYD | FEBRUARY 26, 2008 6:16 PM  
[REPORT OFFENSIVE COMMENT](#)

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Gerry

Marelene Deitrich must be smarter than Martin Heidegger, because she didn't fall for Adolph Hitler's ranting.

But this is beside the point. Obama does not rant, and he has written books, but in these books, he has not mapped out his future hopes and wishes to conquer the world, and exterminate inferior peoples such as Hitler did.

So, why compare him to Hitler? Do you love your mother? Well maybe she is just trying to trick you with all her motherly ways, and maybe she, like Hitler, is seeking to cultivate your love and admiration, so she can conquer the world.

Why compare a well-loved and admired public figure to Adolph Hitler? Since WWII, there have been many well-loved and admired people, but this is the first time that I have ever heard people imply that this kind of admiration is like the maniacal German masses falling for the crazed and insane Adolph Hitler.

POSTED BY: DANIEL IN THE LION'S DEN | FEBRUARY 26, 2008 4:59 PM  
[REPORT OFFENSIVE COMMENT](#)

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Johnny Goode, you said it:

"Faith in God has nothing to do with formal education."

So why brag about your huge secular and theological education? Others have different experiences in life. If you say these experiences are worthless, you demean your own Christian "faith".

Daniel,

I wholeheartedly wish you were right, but alas, you are wrong: Even Martin Heidegger ("psychopath? Base and ignorant?"), one of the great philosophers of the 20th century, in the beginning fell for Hitler. Words also receive their meaning through the constellation, the historic and political surroundings in which they are uttered. Of course today, after the fact, knowing everything better, we can easily judge people in a situation completely unknown to us today. Historic understanding would come from empathy in the situation then, not now.

Nobody in his right mind compares Obama to Hitler. The comparison refers to the power of words, irrespective of the contents and meaning of the words, or of the plans behind the words. They can be good or bad. The brilliance of the words are not indicative of their value.

The illiterate and ignorant Bush was elected twice by the American people. Nobody in his right mind understands this. He obviously touched a nerve of many (half of) US citizens at that historic moment. Goering in Nuremberg said, that all you have to do is appeal to patriotism and calling everybody who doesn't comply a traitor. Does this strike a bell?

"Who is promoting these comparisons of Obama to Hitler?"

'Gaydolf Titler': Jon Stewart Analyzes 'Barack Hussein Obama' Name Dilemma

"You have to give Obama credit, he's over come a great deal. His middle name is the last name of Iraq's former tyrant and his last name rhymes with Osama."

<http://www.breitbart.tv/?p=52684>

Who is promoting these comparisons of Obama to Hitler? People like Bush, and his crowd, who, for one thing, do not know much about history, and two, are incapable of uttering a sincere thought, without some ulterior Machiavellian scheme.

Hitler was not even a good speaker; he was a screaming, ranting psychopath, who appealed only to base and ignorant people, or to other psychopaths. I would not compare him to Obama at all.

Hitler had more in common with the fire-and-brimstone Protestant preachers or Muslim clerics, than with Obama, who is intelligent, refined, educated, sophisticated, and worldly, all of the things that Hitler was not.

Johnny "bible thumping" Goode,

And the names of these rare non-biblical texts are???

And you don't know how to swim? And you don't wear a life preserver when sailing? And just how did Jesus save you from that raging sea?

And your hallucinations about "pretty wingie thingies" are brought on by what??

And quoting from Proverbs is actually quoting from some Hittite, Babylonian or Greek scribe. You should give the proper references.

POSTED BY: CONCERNED THE CHRISTIAN NOW LIBERATED | FEBRUARY 26, 2008 10:56 AM  
[REPORT OFFENSIVE COMMENT](#)

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Now I'm confused all over again - was Jesus a true pacifist under all circumstances (like say, the Buddha) or was he a sometime rabble rouser that willingly advocated kicking some serious butt when necessary?? Or did he just order the angels at his command to do the butt kicking???

And just when I was starting to believe.....

And more to the contemporary point, what would Obama or Hillary do? We already know that McCain is a butt kicker - ready, willing, and able to call on his 'better' angels to do all the butt kicking anyone could want - whether anyone needs it or not.

All you Ron Paul fans (I hear he's back in Texas and voting for Obama) should be glad he's gone for good - he was always much too ambivilant about who should pay for the butt kicking.....

I think Obama has the right idea.

POSTED BY: STILL DOUBTFUL | FEBRUARY 26, 2008 10:21 AM  
[REPORT OFFENSIVE COMMENT](#)

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Thus the word "believer" ascribed to those who know who Jesus is.

Unbelievers will never get it. All they can do is attempt to act as spoilers.

After more than thirty years studying the Bible, along with many, many historical texts (some rare antiques out of print), as well as personal experiences that authenticate my knowledge of, and faith in, God, how could I possibly be impressed by someone called professor? I've been to graduate school, and I have two college degrees. I've lived in four foreign countries, studied five languages, including Hebrew, and traveled the world. My journey on this path began when my sailboat sank and Jesus rescued me from the sea. Since then, I've had experiences with the Divine that you cannot even imagine. I have been in the company of other believers with equally miraculous experiences. It's not the title that counts, it's the wisdom. Professors are only wise in the way of the world.

Theological cemeteries are full of professors who don't have a clue, most theologians don't believe in God, and libraries are stuffed with books authored by persons who know nothing worth knowing. "Ever learning and never able to come to a knowledge of the truth." Ignorance doesn't stop some persons from writing books. It feeds their vanities.

Faith in God has nothing to do with formal education. Either you have seen miracles and had God dealing with you on a personal basis or you haven't. If you haven't, you have no idea what you're talking about on the subject of faith in God. All you know is empty theory and supposition.

Without the baptism of the Holy Spirit, the Bible is just another book, the mysteries of which remain completely hidden. "And darkness was upon the face of the deep." It's deliberately written that way. (God set angels with a flaming sword to guard the way into the garden of Eden.) It's all symbols and parables and prophecies that elude the carnal mind. Mysteries secreted in conundrums wrapped in enigmas.

If one cannot see, it is because one is blind. God does not suffer fools well and reveals himself to none of them. "The fool has said in his heart, 'there is no God.'"

I do not mean to boast, but I follow scripture from Proverbs.

"Do not answer a fool according to his folly, Lest you also be like him.



Answer a fool according to his folly, Lest he be wise in his own eyes."

If you see a contradiction, you cannot perceive the meaning.

POSTED BY: JOHNNY B. GOODE | FEBRUARY 26, 2008 5:56 AM  
[REPORT OFFENSIVE COMMENT](#)

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GaryD,

Two Swords Enough: (1) Luke 22:35-38

Hmmm, a single attestation - Strange that this passage only appears once in the NT!!!! It therefore ranks by most contemporary NT scholars as one of those embellishments used to raise a simple preacher man to deity status.

Johnny "bible thumping" Goode,

Nice try with all the statistics but as per most contemporary NT exegetes, Matt 26: 53 fails the tests of attestations and stratums. And a "fictional pretty wingie thingie" could not kill a fly let alone thousands of hominids. That alone should have given you a clue.

The whole crucifixion account by the way is summarized quite well by Professor JD Crossan, an On Faith panelist:

From Crossan and Watts' book, Who is Jesus.

"My best historical reconstruction would be something like this. Jesus was arrested during the Passover festival, most likely in response to his action in the Temple. Those who were closest to him ran away for their own safety.

I do not presume that there were any high-level confrontations between Caiaphas and Pilate and Herod Antipas either about Jesus or with Jesus. No doubt they would have agreed before the festival that fast action was to be taken against any disturbance and that a few examples by crucifixion might be especially useful at the outset.

And I doubt very much if Jewish police or Roman soldiers needed to go too far up the chain of command in handling a Galilean peasant like Jesus. It is hard for us to imagine the casual brutality with which Jesus was probably taken and executed. All those "last week" details in our gospels, as distinct from the brute facts just mentioned, are prophecy turned into history, rather than history remembered."

POSTED BY: CONCERNED THE CHRISTIAN NOW LIBERATED | FEBRUARY 26, 2008 2:58 AM  
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Jesus spoke to his disciples in the book of Luke before they had received the Holy Spirit and spiritual understanding. They were often baffled by what he said, as when he told them to beware the leaven of the Pharisees and they thought he said that because they had neglected to bring bread.

A sword is a symbol, used again and again in scriptures from Genesis, when angels guarded the way into the garden of Eden with a flaming sword, until Revelation, when a sword proceeded from the mouth of the Angel of God.

Peter brought along a physical sword and quickly learned that it was of little use. Jesus mildly rebuked Peter, saying:

Matthew 26:53

Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels?



A Roman legion was a cohort of 3,000 to 6,000 cavalry and infantry. For sake of argument, use the lesser number. Twelve legions of 3,000 angels is 36,000 angels. In the book of Isaiah, one angel killed 185,000 men in one night.

Leaving aside the fact that there are different kinds of angels (archangels, seraphim, cherubim, etc.), any angel can do what any other angel can do by virtue of the fact that God commands and empowers the angel to perform his will.

36,000 angels each killing 185,000 men results in the death of 6,660,000,000 men (6.66 billion). There are only 6 billion persons on the earth today, and there were far fewer in the time of Jesus. And, if you use the greater figure for a legion, Jesus could call 72,000 angels who could annihilate 13,320,000,000 men (13.32 billion).

This is a rather a simplistic way of demonstrating the power Jesus had, even as he hung on the cross. He was not killed; he submitted himself unto death. He did not die of crucifixion; he died of a broken heart (Read John's account of his death) for all those he could not save because they would not be saved.

I reiterate: Jesus never killed anyone, neither did he advocate killing anyone, nor did he sanction killing anyone. He laid down his life rather than kill and commanded his disciples to follow his example. A Christian by definition follows the example of Christ.

It is insufficient to simply believe that Jesus was the Son of God. The demons knew that, and demons cannot be saved.

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POSTED BY: JOHNNY B. GOODE | FEBRUARY 26, 2008 2:11 AM  
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Concerned, The phrase of mine you quoted was what one would expect Jesus to say were he the out and out pacifist Johnny and others would have you believe. he did not say them rather he said the phrase following that. The Passage in Question is Luke 22:38

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POSTED BY: GARY | FEBRUARY 26, 2008 12:30 AM  
[REPORT OFFENSIVE COMMENT](#)

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GaryD,

And what lines from Luke are we referencing when we say ""Get rid of those instruments of the devil?"

And have we ventured outside the "bible box" yet?????

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POSTED BY: CONCERNED THE CHRISTIAN NOW LIBERATED | FEBRUARY 25, 2008 11:37 PM  
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And you of course missed Mine. Why then did Jesus not tell the Disciples, in Luke when they responded in the affirmative to his question:

Have you any swords among you?

"Get rid of those instruments of the devil?"

His actual response was along the lines of two should be enough. Given that a sword was the moral equivalent of a .45 in pre gunpowder days. This would mean that he not only expected that the disciples might have an occasional use for such weapons but that he expected them to have to be used and in so doing occasionally take a human life.

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POSTED BY: GARYD | FEBRUARY 25, 2008 8:52 PM  
[REPORT OFFENSIVE COMMENT](#)

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Dr. Elliott,

How tall are you? I am becoming concerned that you are not a TALL man, although you appear to have girth. My main worry is your hat. It's not the hat of a TALL man, it's more like the hat of a rotund man. That's not necessarily bad, but since you are posting on this website I feel you have an obligation to post your height, especially if you're not TALL.

POSTED BY: ENLIGHTENMENT THINKER | FEBRUARY 25, 2008 4:17 PM  
[REPORT OFFENSIVE COMMENT](#)

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Jihadist,

It's good to hear from you!

You're blessed to live in a country that has a national general election campaign that lasts less than two weeks.

You know all about our never-ending election battles.

Vermont has the second-smallest state population in the country. Yet, since the Democratic race is so tight, we'll have our small but brilliant moment in the political sun on Tuesday, March 4th when we have our presidential primary. Barack should win Vermont handily.

Howard Dean, Chairman of the Democratic Party, for whom my wife Kathy was Chief of Staff while he was Governor of Vermont, has appointed K to the Credentials Committee of the Democratic National Convention, to be held in Denver in August.

I don't know if you've followed it, but there's a huge dispute over whether to seat any of the purported delegates that Florida and Michigan may attempt to send to the Convention. The outcome of that dispute may well determine who the Democratic nominee is.

The Credentials Committee will have to adjudicate the dispute, at least initially, and until overruled by the Convention as a whole. So Kathy will be in the thick of things, unless the candidates come to an agreement before the Convention.

I get to go to the Convention too. Though if it's clear that Hillary will be the nominee, I'll stay home and try to arrange that my elder son can go in my place.

With all the evils of the world nearby around us, the last thing I'd choose to do is to travel across the continent to join a super evildacious coronation of Hillary.

All best wishes.

POSTED BY: NORRIE HOYT | FEBRUARY 25, 2008 3:58 PM  
[REPORT OFFENSIVE COMMENT](#)

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Hitler was a small man. Obama is a TALL man. There's no comparison. Hitler snarled and spat like a rabid dog. Dogs are short, and Hitler looked even shorter than he really was when he was snarling and spitting. Obama, on the other hand, always has a physical demeanor of reaching higher when he gives speeches, adding height to his already TALL frame. So in addition to the greatness Obama has by virtue of being TALL, he has additional greatness as a result of reaching higher, for additional height. That is the mark of a truly great man.

POSTED BY: ENLIGHTENMENT THINKER | FEBRUARY 25, 2008 12:16 PM  
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To the "Reality Challenged" and Obfuscating Jihadist,

You apparently lost your Five Step Method for Deprograming Islam so once again:

Using "The 77 Branches of Islamic "faith" a collection compiled by Imam Bayhaqi as a starting point. In it, he explains the essential virtues that reflect true "faith" (iman) through related Qur'anic verses and Prophetic sayings." i.e. a nice summary of the Koran and Islamic beliefs.

"1. Belief in Allah"

"aka as God, Yahweh, Zeus, Jehovah, Mother Nature, etc." should be added to your cleansing neurons.

"2. To believe that everything other than Allah was non-existent. Thereafter, Allah Most High created these things and subsequently they came into existence."

Evolution and the Big Bang or the "Gib Gnab" (when the universe starts to recycle) are more plausible and the "akas" for Allah should be included if you continue to be a "creationist".

"3. To believe in the existence of angels."

A major item for neuron cleansing. Angels/devils are the mythical creations of ancient civilizations, e.g. Hittites, to explain/define natural events, contacts with their gods, big birds, sudden winds, protectors during the dark nights, etc. No "pretty/ugly wingy thingies" ever visited or talked to Mohammed, Jesus, Mary or Joseph or Joe Smith. Today we would classify angels as fairies and "tinker bells". Modern devils are classified as the demons of the demented.

"4. To believe that all the heavenly books that were sent to the different prophets are true. However, apart from the Quran, all other books are not valid anymore."

Another major item to delete. There are no books written in the spirit state of Heaven (if there is one) just as there are no angels/"pwtfft"s to write/publish/distribute them. The Koran, OT, NT etc. are simply books written by humans for humans.

Prophets were invented by ancient scribes typically to keep the uneducated masses in line. Today we call them fortune tellers.

Prophecies are also invalidated by the natural/God/Allah gifts of Free Will and Future.

"5. To believe that all the prophets are true. However, we are commanded to follow the Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) alone."

Mohammed spent thirty days fasting in a hot cave before his first contact with Allah aka God etc. via a "pretty wingy thingy". Common sense demands a neuron deletion of #5.

#5 is also the major source of Islamic violence i.e. turning Mohammed's "fast, hunger-driven" hallucinations into horrible reality for unbelievers.

Accept these five "cleansers" and we guarantee a complete recovery from your Islamic ways!!!!

POSTED BY: CONCERNED THE CHRISTIAN NOW LIBERATED | FEBRUARY 25, 2008 11:28 AM  
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Thomas,

Thanks for the youtube references.

Yes, Hillary likes to mock. Mockery is the shallowest form public comment because it ignores what the other person has actually said and doesn't treat the debate seriously.

In honor of Hillary's mockery, here's my rewrite of William Blake's "Mock On, Mock On, Voltaire, Rousseau":

Mock on, mock on, Hillary and Bill;  
Mock on, mock on; 'tis all in vain!  
You throw the sand against the wind,  
And the wind blows it back again.

And every sand becomes a gem  
Reflected in the beams divine;  
Blown back they blind the mocking eye,  
But still in Barak's path they shine.

Billo's's acting like a famished wh-re,  
And Hillo's scorn of Obama's Light  
Are only tar-sands on the political shore,  
Where Barak's words do shine so bright

BTW, those who mock always come to a bad end.

Regards,

POSTED BY: NORRIE HOYT | FEBRUARY 25, 2008 11:03 AM  
[REPORT OFFENSIVE COMMENT](#)

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One more for Willis.

Obama: There Will Be Bamboozling

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YuB\\_W8o\\_UsU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YuB_W8o_UsU)

POSTED BY: THOMAS | FEBRUARY 25, 2008 8:47 AM  
[REPORT OFFENSIVE COMMENT](#)

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Hillary Clinton has a word for Willis and Norrie and all Obamaniacs-

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9pPV1yd7sQg>

POSTED BY: THOMAS | FEBRUARY 25, 2008 8:17 AM  
[REPORT OFFENSIVE COMMENT](#)

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Yeah PaganPlace, but from their POV, the Jedi are evil.

I thought the Hitler bit had less to do with Obama than it did with that evil bugaboo human secularism.

POSTED BY: TJ | FEBRUARY 24, 2008 11:45 PM  
[REPORT OFFENSIVE COMMENT](#)

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I mean, seriously... how many times do you have to vote for people who want to apply supply-side economics to your granny's medicine, in the name of 'family values' ...for you to \*get it?\*

You wanna weep for the rich, who you ain't, and ain't \*gonna\* be if we let the economic stratification continue, ...you wanna call it 'Christian morals' to do so, as long as they promise to help you blame me being a long-term partnership with another woman for whatever the Hel is wrong in your \*own\* romantic life... Well, you can do that.

But pardon if it's out of 'left field' here, but... Ever once consider that all the things that so seem to vex you aren't \*actually\* a result of corporations and churches not having \*enough\* power?

Has it ever once occurred to you that all this consumerism, materialism, insecurity, and even family stress \*isn't\* as a result of someone out there not being religiously-and-corporately-capitalisticly-correct enough?

Ever consider it's just \*you?\*

And what you keep \*asking\* for of people who are content to stoke your religious indignation and laugh all the way to the bank?

Ever consider \*that?\*

America does not dig communism, no.

But consider what \*our\* revolution was against.

Feudalism.

And that's what you get when you let money and religion and military power ally.

The difference is \*not\* between Christian and non-Christian, 'Left' and right.

The difference is between Republic and Empire.

Like, Rome. Or Star Wars.

OK?

Especially Rome. Contrary to popular belief, it wasn't actually about decadence: it was about people getting \*sold\* on the idea that the Senate was corrupt and autocracy was needed.

(And, actually, 'Pagan Rome' had more than a few issues about the fact that the government ended up appointing the heads of temples and the like: actually the Temple of the Great Mother, where the Vatican now stands, had a few issues with that. Don't like what the clergy are saying? It's kind of like appointing a Creationist global-warming-denier to be the head of NASA: cut out the inconvenient. If you really want to combine religion and government, consider the Founding Fathers were better-read than you. )

We can do better.

And we better. I get \*real\* sick of the deja-vu when I say, 'Only one life to give for my country... Wait a minute... Did that sound weird to you? ' :)

Left. J. Edgar Hoover wouldn't turn left, and he ended up all manner of paranoid right wing, tutu and all.

\*tsk.\*

Cavete. :)

POSTED BY: PAGANPLACE | FEBRUARY 24, 2008 10:56 PM  
[REPORT OFFENSIVE COMMENT](#)

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I mean, I don't really consider myself a \*leftist\* but \*anything\* is to the left of weeping for big pharma profits while demanding Granny choose between food and arthritis meds, (the damn Commie) while \*handing\* the same ruthlessly-capitalist companies profits when they don't make \*enough more billions this year compared to last year, so someone can call it 'God-ordained capitalism' ...while of course taking Granny's tax money for their own states' road systems and calling her a 'socialist' for it.

Anything's to the 'left' of \*that.\*

Poor ultra-rich plutocrats.

I weep for them. Really, I do.

As for the Reverend's assumptions about people-not him go, TJ, well, let's look at this one:

""One result is the "What good is it?" attitude of many Americans toward religion - the "good" meaning human flourishing in the material world."

He keeps claiming others are about that, in support of corporate candidates, and anything-but-religious-pluralism... well, cause he says that.

As a Pagan, I'm on one hand blamed for all these corporate and divinely-sanctified policies, somehow... but of course, called a 'Commie' when I suggest we could do otherwise.

Hrm.

He needs to \*believe\* everyone else is a 'sinful materialist,' yet...

Is it 'spiritually good' to keep calling Americans of different beliefs 'Unamerican' and 'traitorous' ...for not supporting the people who piously insist that it's Christian virtue to demand a consumerist dog-eat-dog economy, as long as you give non-Christians and queers and immigrants a really hard time about it?

Not to be a 'party-pooper' 'breaking the unity' like that Jewish guy who got beaten on the subway platform or nothing...

Wouldn't want to obliquely try to connect Obama with Hitler for \*actually representing people\* while denying you're making the connection, would you?

"Soak the rich?" Good God, late of Brugh na Boinne, man. ...you're worried about the \*rich\* getting 'soaked?'

Guess as long as they don't call it a 'tax' when you lose your house and are still in debt with no particular right to redress of grievances, you can go pity the \*rich\* who ...somehow always seem to manage to land on their feet, even when they royally screw up multibillion dollar businesses, while trying to tell you "Be Christian, the sick are on their own, or else it's 'class war.' "

It's one thing that's kind of perverse about America. Somehow we end up sympathizing with people when they start making twenty-percent-less -millions-per-year off the public infrastructure they let go to crap for a wider profit margin.

It's not 'class war,' it's \*shortsighted CEOs thinking the public gravy train is endless.\*

They ain't hurting. They whine, for some reason, but they probably never washed their own behinds in their lives. And probably never will, no matter how many people they hurt, or how much they \*lose\* by the very rules they want to screw the poor with.

Exactly how many times do ideological conservatives have to screw the economy while walking away with billions for that to get through your heads, folks?

You know, J:

"No one is taking promises made by candidates/political parties seriously. The choices boils down to this:

\* the lesser of the two evils - between great satan and little satan/between satan's helpers and satan himself etc  
"

Not this time, J.

Could be we've forgotten what it felt like for it to \*not\* seem to be like that, but, no.

That's not what this is.

'Evils' aren't even in question.

People trying to say that, these days, are just trying to suppress voters.

POSTED BY: PAGANPLACE | FEBRUARY 24, 2008 9:59 PM  
[REPORT OFFENSIVE COMMENT](#)

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GaryD writes: "As for Obama what's new? Another Soak the rich scheme? Sorry that's leftist usual, and it darn well isn't new."

Counting on your kids and their kids and their kids to pay for our current war of foolishness eh? In harmony with Johnny B Goode's comment, is this a Christian value? Sour grapes that parents eat should set their children's teeth on edge. Is this right?

POSTED BY: TJ | FEBRUARY 24, 2008 8:09 PM  
[REPORT OFFENSIVE COMMENT](#)

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I find your article to be reasonable Dr, but a little too lengthy. Consider this bit from item five.

"One result is the "What good is it?" attitude of many Americans toward religion - the "good" meaning human flourishing in the material world. Of course all religions intend human good, but each within the sphere of its particular way of seeing and living in the world; and the good intended is totalgood, not merely material good."

People probably do ask the question and use 'good' in the material sense that you suggest. Many people also ask that same question and use 'good' in the totalgood sense that you describe. What of them? Only worried about the low-hanging fruit?

Your article would benefit from the removal of item five. And then item four wouldn't really serve a purpose anymore would it?

POSTED BY: TJ | FEBRUARY 24, 2008 7:51 PM  
[REPORT OFFENSIVE COMMENT](#)

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Thomas - your time has come and gone. You're going on the trash heap of history along with Bush and McCain. The country is really waking up.

Common sense will prevail again, after a long hiatus. The neocon nightmare will soon be over.

POSTED BY: ANONYMOUS | FEBRUARY 24, 2008 5:57 PM  
[REPORT OFFENSIVE COMMENT](#)

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Norrie Hoyt,

Hello. You have hopes for Obama. I remember you giving me a long post about him to me weeks ago. I suppose being a former state legislator, you know a positive political figure when you see one.

Third world/developing country politics does imbue in us a scepticism, a cynicism, a doubt on all candidates, political parties, the political process and governance.

Campaigning started on 24 February 2008 for general elections to be held on 8 March 2008 in Malaysia.



Only candidates and political parties will be foaming at the mouth and hyperventilating that only they can save the people and country.

As always during elections, we expect to see and hear many unseemly and uncivil behaviors, actions and reactions in the public square between the candidates, parties, people and "relevant authorities".

Most people have already made up their minds whom they want to vote for. Or not to bother to vote at all.

All we got to do is to sit out and wait for the candidates/political parties to entertain us with their political gaffes, campaigning excessiveness, slanders, accusations and counter-accusations.

No one is taking promises made by candidates/political parties seriously. The choices boils down to this:

\* the lesser of the two evils - between great satan and little satan/between satan's helpers and satan himself etc

\* the worse or the worst - between a rock and a hard place/between the devil and the deep blue sea/between real coke and new coke/between coke and pepsi/between a Quarterpounder and a Whopper/between John Lennon and Paul McCartney etc

Ralph Nader for Malaysian Prime Minister! :)

Thanks and regards

"J"

POSTED BY: JIHADIST | FEBRUARY 24, 2008 4:55 PM  
[REPORT OFFENSIVE COMMENT](#)

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Hello "Reality Challenged" and Obfuscating Jihadist,

Hmmm, now you are expert in public speaking and speakers but yet you still have not come to grips with the basic flaws in Islam. Again for your perusal, the first four:

1. Belief in "pretty/ugly wingie thingies".
2. Belief that an hallucinating, illiterate Arab did actually talk to the "pretty Gabriel" in the hot "Gabe" cave and therein received the warmongering and anti-female words and resultant laws now listed in the koran.
3. That Sunnis are superior to Shiites in all aspects of life. And Shiites think the same way about Sunnis.
4. That Islam is perfect and the koran inherently condones no sin even though the 24/7, 800 year-old blood feud between Sunnis and Shiites gives significant credence that greed, hate, suicides, assassinations, maiming, and murder are condoned by the koran. Having multiple wives also gives significant credence to the sins of rape, adultery, lust and polygamy. The condoned treatment of these wives gives credence that the koran allows the sins of hatred, anger and greed.

We have been waiting for your response for months and still silence from the Islamic front.

POSTED BY: CONCERNED THE CHRISTIAN NOW LIBERATED | FEBRUARY 24, 2008 3:55 PM  
[REPORT OFFENSIVE COMMENT](#)

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Hitler "served" the mental state of Germans in 1933 100%: Re-establishment of unity, fervent patriotism, revenge after the Treaty of Versailles (Saar, Rhineland, Alsace-Lorraine ripped off, huge reparations unpayable for the next generation, the doctrine to reduce Germany to a fourth world agricultural state) and above all, hope, at the time of complete hopelessness for Germans (highest unemployment in history), much less hope than for the average "hopeless" American today. And of course, he also touched the religious nerve by constantly

referring to himself as sent by "Providence". There also was the close pact with the Pope, and the creation of a Nazi-religious protestant movement, "Deutsche Christen".

That, plus the fervor of his orations, was an invincible mixture, chilling, yes. The high approval rates were genuine, both in Germany and Austria (in 1938). He was democratically elected, only to immediately abolish democracy. Much later the deceived Germans found out, that oration is a SECONDARY virtue. They realized too late that they confused it with content and goal.

This is by no means a comparison of Obama to Hitler, on the contrary: The goals and contents cannot be compared. But, Mr. Ellis, even Hitler touched your three levels very well!

So, your whole paragraph No. 7 could easily be applied to Hitler: Inspire, unite, lead. Watch out: You are contradicting yourself.

POSTED BY: GERRY | FEBRUARY 24, 2008 11:40 AM  
[REPORT OFFENSIVE COMMENT](#)

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Malcom X's Daughter is on the Rise for Islama BAMA:  
Some-What-B\*R\*E\*A\*K\*i\*N\*G ----- N\*E\*W\*S!

Please see Linko On:

"In an interview on SIRIUS radio's "Make It Plain" with host Mark Thompson, one of Malcolm X's daughters, Malaak Shabazz, declared her support for Barack Obama -- calling him and his wife Michelle the "present-day" version of her father and her mother Betty Shabazz.

The interview was held at the Malcolm X and Dr. Betty Shabazz Memorial and Education Center located in the Audubon Ballroom in Harlem, where Malcolm X was fatally shot in 1965 after his falling out with Nation of Islam leader Elijah Mohammed.

POSTED BY: ANONYMOUS | FEBRUARY 24, 2008 9:44 AM  
[REPORT OFFENSIVE COMMENT](#)

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Gee Norrie Hoyt

You get a star on your forehead for pointing out my "name"-

You people are such kindergarteners. Go put a wet rag on your head to cool that fever.

And I hope Willis is sitting down. I don't want him to faint.

See you in November..

POSTED BY: THOMAS | FEBRUARY 24, 2008 12:08 AM  
[REPORT OFFENSIVE COMMENT](#)

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The first post in this thread is as follows:

\*\*\*\*\*

Thomas:

"He will be our next president."

Oh good. Now we get to see if Willis is a false prophet!

Here. My turn -

Obama will NOT be our next president.

Sorry Willis. I'm just playing the odds.

February 23, 2008 9:56 AM

\*\*\*\*\*

AH, THOMAS, I SEE YOU DOUBT ONCE AGAIN.

I SUPPOSE THAT'S NOT SURPRISING.

WAIT UNTIL NOVEMBER 4TH. ON THAT DAY, TOUCH AND COUNT THE BALLOTS CAST, EVEN AS YOU EXAMINED AND TOUCHED JESUS'S WOUNDS, AND YOUR DOUBTS WILL BE RESOLVED.

OBAMA WILL BE PRESIDENT.

POSTED BY: NORRIE HOYT | FEBRUARY 23, 2008 10:20 PM  
[REPORT OFFENSIVE COMMENT](#)

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Greetings Dr Elliot. I presume you have missed me.

One of your best columns here, I agree. Quite lucid and sensible for the most part.

Candidates who are successful, whatever their REAL level of private belief in Jesus's resurrection, do indeed employ a rhetoric that is directly descended from the King James Bible (though not just the new testament). It is part of the common parlance, the community level as you call it, that even the Jews and Us Buddhists understand.

I of course disagree with you on the predominantly beneficial results of Religious Institutional actions, from the 400 year Inquisition to today's Campaign for Ignorance waged by Evangelicals in such areas as Evolution, scientific research on Global Warming, and the REAL effects of America's backward Sexual education and comparatively very high abortion and STD rates in the context of the developed world.

But again, an enlightening and reasonable column.

POSTED BY: HENRY JAMES | FEBRUARY 23, 2008 7:36 PM  
[REPORT OFFENSIVE COMMENT](#)

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"Of course orators are dangerous. When in 1933 Hitler came to power, by short-wave radio I listened to his orations. His ranting denunciations and "blood and soil" aggressiveness were spine-chilling."

He was also running on a "Christian-values" platform, you know, who the 'real Germans' were and all. You bet that's chilling.

I'll take the secular language any day, in regards to things like this. Senator Obama is clearly a man with a sincere Christian faith, and he respects that of others: what I see there is a truly \*unifying\* message, one that embraces our differences and aims to honor and use them constructively, not demand we be 'united' in support of one 'side' of some of the profoundest \*divisions\* our society's ever seen: divisions generated by turning the mere \*idea\* of unity into , not one of cooperation and civility, but a mere demand for conformity to one party's religious and corporate agenda.

A Hitler doesn't even enter \*into\* it.

The fact is that as much as the corporate media tries to divide the Democratic primaries up by the old divisions, a whole lot of \*people\* are embracing Obama as speaking \*for\* us, and \*among\* us, not setting us against each other and going, "We wouldn't be so divided if you just converted to evangelical Christianity and did what we say."

This is different. And I find that as heartening as do many... This isn't even simply \*about\* the man. It's about \*us.\* All of us.

Remember us? :)

POSTED BY: PAGANPLACE | FEBRUARY 23, 2008 6:46 PM  
[REPORT OFFENSIVE COMMENT](#)

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Dr. Willis Elliot,

Thank you for your essay on three basic types and flavours of political "oratory". I can see that used by politicians everywhere.

We have quite a number of orators here for better and for worse. The late President Sukarno of Indonesia was a fiery orator of uber-nationalism that moved Indonesians after the country's independence to give hope and pride as Indonesians.

The former deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia is a magnetic and persuasive orator of neo-Islamism or neo-Muslim thought who moved Malaysian Muslims and Muslims around the world in bringing out the best hopes as Muslims and Muslim activism in the contemporary world.

I do agree with you that we humans seem to be moved more by passion than by reason, but passion is an emotion that gets us up and going after we reasoned what is wrong with us and our nation, what we want done to do right, that is best for us and others. Passion is activism of type A people.

I prefer to use the word "aspiration" instead of "hope", and "activism" instead of "passion". Our aspirations/hopes, move us once we reasoned what we wanted, and what is the right course and choice, be it policies or leaders to lead and deliver to us our aspirations/hopes.

One can know what is wrong, but still capable of doing nothing about it. If those who are indifferent to any faiths and beliefs are called apatheists, let us call all those who are indifferent to politics as apathyeists then.

Obama is not the only orator among US presidential hopefuls. He is the best in expressing what people fears and hopes. He is brilliant in not stating what they fear, but only what they hope for and want to change.

Fear is a negative emotion and hope is a s.Hope a positive one. Hearing someone express hope makes people feel better about possibilities for change.

Barack Obama, like Anwar Ibrahim, in their speeches or oratory, are all things to all men. Like Barack Obama, the followers of Anwar Ibrahim are equally passionate or have a fervour about him for change to realise their hopes.

"Political messianism" and "messianic politicians" a.k.a. personality cults in the secular sphere) should be studied further as "secular prophets" offering hopes and asking to have faith in them and in ourself.

It is good if the Oratorial One make good his intent or promise to lead us and to continue to inspire us towards collective action for a just and compassionate society, to unity and greatness. If we all can agree to put aside the ideological/political differences and be unselfish enough to recognise the needs and rights of others.

If not, what Barack Obama said in his oratory on hope and change will remain as wistful and hopeful and with similar impact on real politik and public policy as John Lennon's "Imagine".

Oratory cost nothing. Actions matters more. I believe that was what Hillary Clinton is fretting and griping about on Barack Obama among other issues she have with Obama regarding his popular and across the board appeal.

Thank you and best regards

"J"

GARYD:

You missed the point entirely. I do not question whether or not the government of the United States had reason or justification for the invasion of Iraq. I reject the idea that a Christian would have done so.

I refer you to your Bible where, at the time of his arrest, when Peter made a clumsy attempt at using a sword effectively, Jesus made it clear to him that he (Jesus) had the power to annihilate mankind. Nonetheless, he submitted himself to the will of God and laid down his life rather than kill. "The Son of Man is not sent to destroy men's lives, but to save them."

And as he told Pontius Pilate, "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, then would my disciples fight that I be not delivered to the Jews." Obviously, they did not fight, with or without swords.

Jesus commanded his disciples to follow his example. Those countless thousands of early Christians who were killed in the amphitheater of Rome and elsewhere did precisely that, because "...they loved not their lives unto death."

POSTED BY: JOHNNY B. GOODE | FEBRUARY 23, 2008 3:57 PM  
[REPORT OFFENSIVE COMMENT](#)

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Dr. Elliott makes a connection between oration and the likelihood of Obama's being our next president. He explains his reasoning and analyzes the way in which Senator Obama provides information and inspiration. It may be that an Obama presidency is even simpler: He may be the only person most of us could stomach listening to for the next four to eight years.

POSTED BY: PAUL H | FEBRUARY 23, 2008 3:25 PM  
[REPORT OFFENSIVE COMMENT](#)

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Thank you for disconnecting Obama from Hitler, (4.). It's easy to see the similarities between the two. But the same thing could be said of both Kennedy and Regan.

One must be a good orator to get elected as well as incite to riot. Let's settle for Obama seeking the office of president like many before him and understand that he in no other significant way resembles Hitler.

Have you seen <http://www.hoax-buster.org/sellyoursoul> Moses must have been a fairly good orator to convince the Israelites to follow him. Jesus gave a few good speeches to, "sermon on the mount" for example.

Judging from content and format of his speeches Obama resembles Kennedy and Regan while Moses and Jesus have a lot in common with Hitler. For example, aren't the Israelites the first "master race" of record? Of course the ones in power are always righteous are they not?

I for one can't get past the hoax buster logic of "the big money goes to those who lead the multitudes to hell." With that thought in mind maybe we should give all candidates the, Hitler, Moses, Jesus test as well as the Kennedy, Regan test.

When a candidate like say McCain says, "God bless you" how do you know which of the possible supernatural beings he means? I like others here noticed the absence of "God bless you" in Obama's Tuesday evening address. Did Hitler say things like that? My German is very limited.

POSTED BY: TEARS FOR AMERICA | FEBRUARY 23, 2008 2:11 PM  
[REPORT OFFENSIVE COMMENT](#)

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Johnny read your Bible and ask yourself why Jesus didn't tell those disciples to get rid of those swords.

We were already at war with the government of Saddam Hussein when Bush took office and had been for most of a decade. Unless of course you think the Brits and the US were dropping bouquets instead of bombs in the no fly zone in Iraq.

As for Obama what's new? Another Soak the rich scheme? Sorry that's leftist usual, and it darn well isn't new.

POSTED BY: GARYD | FEBRUARY 23, 2008 12:21 PM  
[REPORT OFFENSIVE COMMENT](#)

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"But (to some extent) all of America's presidents have been Christians."

This is the first lucid commentary I have read by Mr. Elliott. I only quibble on the above statement, because the truth of it is contingent on the meaning and definition of Christian.

George W. Bush claims to be a Christian, for instance, yet he launched a preemptive strike in Iraq resulting in an illegal, immoral invasion and war against Arabs and Muslims. He is thus personally responsible for the unnecessary slaughter of tens of thousands of persons and the displacement of millions. He has caused untold suffering.

Jesus never killed anyone, neither did he advocate killing anyone, nor did he sanction killing anyone. He laid down his life rather than kill and commanded his disciples to follow his example.

Isn't the first requisite of a Christian to win souls to Christ? How many has George W. Bush won in the Middle East?

With "Christians" like King George, small wonder so many outside the faith despise Christianity.

POSTED BY: JOHNNY B. GOODE | FEBRUARY 23, 2008 11:18 AM  
[REPORT OFFENSIVE COMMENT](#)

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Willis,

You have neglected the most important dimension of Barak Obama's presidential aspirations - Mr. Obama is a TALL MAN. This bodes well for him, since it means he will likely be president (especially in a competition between the short Clinton and the short McCain), but also for us, since it gives us faith in his greatness. As you know, TALLNESS is the clearest measure of greatness in a man, and if there is a god, he is telling us, by providing us with a TALL candidate, that his blessings will come through the greatness of the tall man.

POSTED BY: ENLIGHTENMENT THINKER | FEBRUARY 23, 2008 10:12 AM  
[REPORT OFFENSIVE COMMENT](#)

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"He will be our next president."

Oh good. Now we get to see if Willis is a false prophet!

Here. My turn -

Obama will NOT be our next president.

Sorry Willis. I'm just playing the odds.

POSTED BY: THOMAS | FEBRUARY 23, 2008 9:56 AM  
[REPORT OFFENSIVE COMMENT](#)

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