

DREAMS AND REALITY

“DREAMS OF MY FATHER” PURPORTS TO DESCRIBE SOME OF THE INFLUENCE OBAMA’S FATHER HAD ON HIS SON. TO BE FAIR, I HAVE NOT READ THIS BOOK BUT WOULD ASSUME THERE WAS SOME EXCHANGE OF IDEAS BETWEEN FATHER AND SON DESPITE THE FACT, SENIOR OBAMA RETURNED TO KENYA EARLY ON...THUS CONJECTURE? ONE COULD ASSUME INITIALLY LOVE, SUPPORT AND INFLUENCE CAME FROM WHITE MOTHER AND GRANDMOTHER. OBAMA PROMISED POLITICAL AND SPIRITUAL CHANGE FROM THE DEVASTATING POLICIES OF GEORGE BUSH: ARGUING INCOMPETENCE, NEVER-ENDING WAR IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN, POLITICAL DIVISION AT HOME AND ABROAD...A REALIGNMENT WAS NEEDED.

A MORE SIGNIFICANT CAUSAL EFFECT WAS THE DEBACLE OF THE FINANCIAL MARKETS AND THE ECONOMY STEEPED IN RECESSION WITH A HINT OF DEPRESSION, AND, OF COURSE, THE FAULT OF THE PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION. IN TRUTH THERE IS BLAME TO GO AROUND FOR BOTH PARTIES AS WELL AS THE FEDERAL RESERVE.

TO PRESUMABLY JUMP START THE SLUGGISH ECONOMY THE FIRST OF MANY CRASH PROGRAMS WAS THE STIMULUS PLAN, AN OVERNIGHT MONEY AND PORK, UNREAD BY MOST, OSTENSIBLY TO OPEN UP JOBS AND HALT UNEMPLOYMENT RISE, THEN BELOW 9%, NOW AT 10%. NEW PLANS(DEFICIT SPENDING)AIMED AT BAILING OUT INVESTMENT FIRMS, BANKS AND THE AUTO INDUSTRY WITH UNCLEAR RESULTS. OVERWHELMING DEBT WAS PERCEIVED AND THE MARKETS SEEMED MORIBUND. HOUSING FORECLOSURES PERSISTED AND CREDIT DRIED UP. ON TOP OF THIS CAME UNIVERSAL HEALTH AND SOMETHING CALLED CAP AND TRADE AN AMBITIOUS COST PROGRAM TO FIX THE ENERGY CRISIS. THE LATTER STUTTERED AND THE FORMER STAGGERS IN CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE.

TO MANY IT IS SEEMS LIKE SOCIALISM REVISITED IN THE ROOSEVELT SCENARIO WITH MUCH COST, AND ENDLESS DEBT, UNCLEAR POTENTIAL AND THE END OF CAPITALISM.

WITH SOOTHING TONES OF THE PIED PIPER, SUBTLETIES OF AN ELMER GANTRY, THE MASTER COMMUNICATOR – BEST SINCE THE DAYS OF RONALD REAGAN ATTEMPTED TO EXPLAIN AND PERSUADE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AT A PRESS CONFERENCE THE EXIGENCIES OF HIS PLAN LEAVING MANY CONFUSED AS TO THE COMPLEXITY, THRUST AND RATIONALE OF THIS PROGRAM, WHO WILL PAY FOR IT AND WILL IT IMPAIR MEDICAL DECISIONS, INSURANCE COVERAGE AND LEAD US TO RATIONED HEALTH CARE IN THE FACSIMILE OF CANADA AND GREAT BRITAIN.

DREAMS CAN BE ALMOST FANTASY-LIKE AND AS WE ALL KNOW, A NIGHTMARE CAN SLIP IN AND REMIND REALITY IS ALWAYS PRESENT. HEALTH CARE FOR ALL MAY BE JUST THAT. THE IRONY IS OBAMA IS THE MASTER OF HIS OWN FATE, AND THE CAPTAIN OF HIS SOUL. THIS UNIVERSAL MAN WITH DREAMS OF DÉTENTE WITH IRRATIONAL ISLAMIC NATIONS, A SUCCESSFUL END OF THE ‘WAR’ IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN, RATIONAL DISCUSSIONS WITH ROGUE NUCLEAR NATIONS AND PEACE BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE PALESTINIANS ARE ALL PART OF THE PANNORAMIC MOSAIC HE PORTENDS. ONCE AGAIN WE SEE THE ON-GOING MORAL EQUIVALENCE BETWEEN US AND THEM, THE RATIONALIZATION OF IDEAS, EVENTS OFTEN IN RELATIVE TERMS AND PERHAPS A LITTLE OF QUIXOTICISM.

IN MY TEMERITY I THINK OF THE CHILDISH RHYME: “STICKS AND STONES MAY BREAK MY BONES, BUT NAMES WILL NEVER HURT ME”...REMEMBERING OUR LEADER IN A MOMENT OF POOR ‘CALIBRATION’ OF THE LANGUAGE. “I BELIEVE THE CAMBRIDGE POLICE ACTED STUPIDLY”. WITHOUT FACTS, HE JUMPED IN BUT DESPITE HIS ACT TO PACIFY BOTH SIDES OF ‘ALLEGED RACIAL PROFILING’ HE NEVER APOLOGIZED TO THE POLICE.

IS IT A FORM OF LIBERATION THEOLOGY THAT MAY TUG AT THE OBAMA PSYCHE –STILL A TIME TO GO TO BE FREE, UNDISCRIMINATED AGAINST IN ALL MATTERS- CLOUDED BY BEING CHRISTIAN AND MUSLIM, BOTH, OR NEITHER?

