

## **THE EMPATHETIC PRESIDENT**

**EMPATHY IS THE PROJECTION OF ONE'S OWN PERSONALITY INTO THE PERSONALITY OF ANOTHER IN ORDER TO UNDERSTAND HIM BETTER.... ONE OF THE CRITERIA FOR PRESIDENT OBAMA'S SELECTION OF JUDGE SOTOMAJOR TO BE A SUPREME COURT JUSTICE. CRITICS LIKE SOME ON THE JUDICIAL COMMITTEE FIND THIS FEATURE APPEARS TO CREEP IN DELIBERATELY OR INADVERTENTLY IN THE JUDGE'S SPEECHES AND SOME OF HER RULINGS. RULE OF LAW AND CONSTITUTIONAL WRITINGS AND PRECEDENT SHOULD PERHAPS TRUMP TOO MUCH EMPATHY.**

**AS MENTIONED IN EARLIER ARTICLES, OUR PRESIDENT SEEMS THE PRODUCT OF THE CLASSROOM, OR ON THE DEBATING PLATFORM INSTEAD OF THE HELMSMAN ON THE SHIP OF STATE. OFTEN HE SEEMS ALMOST TRANQUILIZED BY VERBIAGE, CAUGHT IN THE AMBIGUITY OF MORAL EQUIVALENCE WHEN DISCUSSING MATTERS OF NATIONAL INTEREST, IE THE RATIONALIZATION OVER THE IRANIAN ELECTION DEBACLE, THE RUSSIAN INVASION OF THE GEORGIA NATION, AND THE ISRAEL-PALESTINE MATTER. TOO, HE SEEMS INFLUENCED BY THE PROFESSORIAL USE OF RELATIVITY VERSUS ABSOLUTES, AND PRONE TO APOLOGIZE FOR PERCEIVED UNITED STATES WRONGS OFTEN IN A VACUUM, OR END IN ITSELF.**

**IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT THOMAS JEFFERSON, KNOWN MORE FOR HIS WRITING THAN SPEAKING, A LEARNED THOUGHTFUL MAN FOUND ONLY HIS EQUAL WHILE ALONE IN COMTEMPLATION. HE WANTED POSTERITY TO SEE HIM AS HE SAW HIMSELF, AS SPOKESMAN OF A REVOLUTION OF IDEAS THAT WOULD MAKE THE WORLD OVER AGAIN. SOME MAY SEE OBAMA AS ONE LIKE THIS. IDEAS LIKE MONEY SEEM TO BE LIKE A TIDAL WAVE, RUSHING AT US WITHOUT PROPER DEBATE AND RECOURSE. IT MAY ALL WORK AND YET IT MAY NOT, AND HIS LEADERSHIP OR LACK OF IT WILL BE(OR SHOULD BE)CLOSELY ANALYZED.**

**LEADERSHIP, THE ART OF PERSUASION, FOLLOW-UP**

**AND SUPERVISION. TAKING RESPONSIBILITY FOR ONE'S ACTIONS ARE PART OF THE PARAMETER. HAVING INHERITED A CITY RAVAGED BY CRIME, AND CRIPPLED IN ITS ABILITY TO SERVE ITS CITIZENS, MAYOR RUDOLPH GIULIANI SHOWED TEMERITY, STRONG BELIEFS, RISK TAKING, AND GRABBED HOLD OF THE REINS OF LEADERSHIP BEFORE AND AFTER 9/11. GENERAL EISENHOWER TRANSCRIBED HIS RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE DECISION TO INVADE CAPTIVE FRANCE, AND IF UNSUCCESSFUL, RECORDED HIS ACCEPTANCE OF FAILURE AS HIS ALONE. THESE WERE LEADERS IN TIME OF CRISIS. THERE CAN BE NO RATIONALISM, EQUIVOCATION OR BLAME SEEKING. ONE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT HIS ADMINISTRATION(OR ARMY) DOES OR DOES NOT DO. CHARISMA AND EMPATHY ARE NICE EMBODIMENTS OF THE LEADER BUT NOT A PANACEA.**

**“MR. PRESIDENT, WE ARE IN AN ‘UNDECLARED WAR’, OUR BORDERS ARE POROUS, LOYALTY OF OUR MUSLIM AND MANY ILLEGAL ‘CITIZENS’ ARE SUSPECT, THE FIGHT AGAINST TALIBAN AND AL-QAEDA INSURGENTS HAS PICKED-UP, APPEARS ENDLESS, THE ROADMAP TO PEACE BETWEEN THE JEW AND PALESTINIAN SEEMS TO HAVE DETOURED, THE THREAT OF ROGUE-ACTING POWERS SEEKING NUCLEAR WEAPONS IS REAL, OUR MILITARY IS STRETCHED THIN AND UNABLE TO CONFRONT ANY NEW THREAT, AND YOU ARE IN THE MIDST OF WHAT MANY BELIEVE IS QUASI-SOCIALISM IN THE ROOSEVELT MODE WITH HOPE OF SUCCESS, BUT ETERNAL DEBT AND INFLATION A CERTAINTY, AND UNEMPLOYMENT GROWING AND RAMPANT.”**

**YOU SEEM CAUGHT IN A ‘CATCH 22’-A PARADOX IN A LAW, REGULATION, OR PRACTICE, MAKING ONE A VICTIM NO MATTER THE CONSEQUENCES. YOU ARE BURDENED IN DEBATE WITH MORAL EQUIVALENCE AS TO THE ISLAMIC WORLD, WHETHER BENIGN OR MILITANT, AND SOME THINK YOU ARE THE ‘CHESS PLAYER’ OBSERVING THE IRAN ELECTION TRAGEDY AS A WAITING GAME WHILE OTHERS TEND TO BELIEVE YOUR MONEY EXTRAVAGANCE HAS NO END OR RECOMPENSE.**

