

## ***THE MAKING OF A PRESIDENT***

***“WE KNOW WHAT BARACK OBAMA IS. HE IS A PATH-BREAKING POLITICAL FIGURE, A HUMAN WATERSHED, AN ORATOR OF SURPASSING SKILL, A POLITICIAN OF GENIUS. WE DO NOT KNOW WHO HE IS, AND WILL FIND OUT WHEN HE BECOMES PRESIDENT”, SO SAID JOHN PODHORETZ RECENTLY IN AN ARTICLE IN COMMENTARY. OBAMA’S MESSAGE WAS CHANGE: POLITICAL AND SPIRITUAL. ARGUING THAT IT WAS A CHANGE FROM SOMETHING, FROM BUSH, HIS INCOMPETENCE, NEVER-ENDING WAR IN IRAQ, AND POLITICAL DIVISION AS WELL AS INTERNATIONAL HATE. SPIRITUALLY, OBAMA SOUGHT A NEW AMERICAN ESSENCE AND UNDERSTANDING OF ITSELF: REALIGNMENT!***

***LAST TUESDAY WE LISTENED IN WONDER TO HIS INAUGURAL SPEECH AND FOUND IT ELOQUENT, DAUNTING AND PERSUASIVE THAT PERHAPS HE WILL BE THE ‘MAN ON HORSEBACK’ IN THIS CRUCIAL TIME. DRAWING IMPETUS-FROM LINCOLN: THE TRIP FROM PHILADELPHIA TO WASHINGTON, A VISIT TO THE MEMORIAL, AND HIS HAND ON THE BIBLE SIGNIFIED UNITY AND A BRINGING TOGETHER OF ALL AMERICANS; WORDS THAT REMINDED THEM THEY ARE GREATER THAN BIRTH AND WEALTH; A TIME TO REAFFIRM OUR SPIRIT; REMINDING OF THE RULE OF LAW, RIGHTS OF MAN AND THE BLOOD THAT WAS LET; HOPE AND VIRTUE WHEN ALL SEEMED LOST AND WASHINGTON’S TRIP ON THE DELAWARE; THE OPEN HAND VERSUS THE CLOSED FIST (OF TERROR) AND THAT IN THIS WAR WE WILL PREVAIL...ONE WHO WAS DENIED A SEAT AT THE RESTAURANT TO THE OATH OF OFFICE FOR PRESIDENT. A REALIGNMENT BUT WITH RESPECT, SYNTHESIS WITH THE OUTGOING PRESIDENT AND HIS RIVAL, MCCAIN. YOUTH, PROMISE AS WITH JOHN KENNEDY.***

***“RIGHTS OF MAN COME NOT FROM THE STATE BUT FROM THE HAND OF GOD; THAT THE TORCH HAS BEEN PASSED TO A NEW GENERATION OF AMERICANS; LET EVERY NATION KNOW, WHETHER IT WISHES US WELL OR ILL, WE SHALL PAY ANY PRICE, BEAR ANY BURDEN...TO ASSURE***

*THE SUCCESS OF LIBERTY; IN YOUR HANDS, MORE THAN*

*MINE WILL REST THE SUCCESS OR FAILURE OF OUR COURSE...SO ASK NOT WHAT YOUR COUNTRY CAN DO FOR YOU, ASK WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR YOUR COUNTRY.”*

*FOR KENNEDY IT WAS THE TIME OF THE EARLY SIXTIES AND THE ‘COLD WAR’ BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION. THE YOUTHFUL KENNEDY, HE WAS 44 HAVING INHERITED THE CONFLICT, AMONG OTHER PROBLEMS FROM PRESIDENT EISENHOWER. GARY POWERS FLYING THE SUPERSONIC SPY-PLANE(U2)HAD RECENTLY BEEN SHOT DOWN BY THE SOVIETS OVER RUSSIA AND CAPTURED, ANGERING KHRUSCHEV, THE SOVIET LEADER WHO RAISED THE THREAT THRESHOLD. HE IGNORED EISENHOWER AND AWAITED THE NEW PRESIDENT. NEW ADVENTURES IN CUBA-WHERE CASTRO WAS BEHOLDEN TO THE SOVIETS VIA ECONOMIC AND MILITARY AID-WOULD SURFACE AND VIETNAM WOULD BECOME A STRATEGIC CANCER ON THE PERIPHERY. SPACE ENTERED THE STRATEGIC PUZZLE WHEN YURI GAGARIN, A RUSSIAN FIGHTER PILOT RODE A SOVIET ROCKET SATELLITE, VOSTOK, IN AN EARTH ORBIT. THEN, JOHN GLENN MADE HIS 3-ORBIT FLIGHT IN FRIENDSHIP 7, SPACE CAPSULE. IT WAS 1962.*

*OBAMA, FACED WITH A DAMAGED AND SLOW-REACTING ECONOMY AND BESET WITH LOCAL PROBLEMS LIKE HEALTH CARE, IMMIGRATION REFORM AND A MANDATE TO BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER-NOW BLESSED WITH IRONY AS HIS ADMINISTRATION TEAM SEEMS TILTED TOWARDS THE CENTER POLITICAL STRATA , MUCH TO THE CHAGRIN OF THE FAR-LEFT WHO BELIEVED THEY PUT HIM IN OFFICE. CHANGE SEEMS TRANSITIONAL RATHER THAN REVOLUTIONARY –MARK OF A WISE POLITICIAN?*

*EVEN THOUGH THE RESTRUCTURING AND RESURRECTION OF THE ECONOMY AND FINANCIAL MARKETS TRUMPS MOST, AN ASTUTE LEADER MUST RECOGNIZE THERE IS SOMETHING CALLED A ‘WAR’ OUT THERE WITH GLOBAL JIHAD, AND MILITANT ISLAM THE FOCI OF THIS THREAT.*

***ISRAEL IN THE MIDST OF THE MUSICAL, YET MILITANT  
MOVEMENT OF ISLAMIC CHAIRS, HAMAS, HEZBOLLAH,  
AND THEIR SPONSER, IRAN MUST BE ADDRESSED WITH  
STRATEGIC COMPETENCE AND MISSION THAT LEAVES  
NO DOUBT AS TO CONSEQUENCES OF THEIR ACTS.***

***THE MIRACLE OF UNITED AIRWAYS FLIGHT 1549 AT  
THIS TIME OF CHANGING PRESIDENTS SEEMS LIKE A  
GOOD OMEN WHEN OTHER MIRACLES MAY BE NEEDED  
IN THE IMPERFECT WORLD ARENA.***