

**THE GOOD, AS WITH THE BAD, BECOMES A ROUTINE;
THE TEMPORARY TENDS TO ENDURE;
THE EXTERNAL PERMEATES TO THE INSIDE; AND,
THE MASK, GIVEN TIME,
COMES TO BE THE FACE, ITSELF**

In 1758, Dr Samuel Johnson, renowned as an English poet, essayist, moralist, and lexicographer, was said to have been the first person to have written that which is contained in the following, very erudite sentence:

‘Among the calamities of war may be jointly numbered the diminution of the love of truth, by the falsehoods which interest dictates and credulity encourages.’

Politicians, especially the late Senator Hiram Warren Johnson, a member of The Republican Party, during the time that he was serving as the 23rd Governor of the State of California, have shortened the above statement of Dr Samuel Johnson to the following seven words:

‘The First Casualty of War is Truth.’

Governor Hiram Warren Johnson – no relationship to Dr Samuel Johnson, by the way – is quoted as having stated the above sentence in 1916.

Nothing is new under the sun, of course, but one is reminded of the sage words of Publius Aelius Hadrianus (76 AD to 136 AD), an Emperor of Rome, who stated, more than 1,881 years ago:

‘Each of us dedicates himself to his own gods.’

Today, one is told by the most-powerful leader of the free world, to wit, President Donald John Trump, that he is not just the President of The United States of America, but, in his inimitable language, he is a modern-day President.

He went on record, stating the following in the social media of the day:

‘My use of social media is not Presidential – it’s MODERN DAY PRESIDENTIAL. Make America Great Again!’

Whether or not President Donald John Trump will be remembered for coining the above statement is questionable.

It would, however, be much more advantageous that, in the place of those 16 words, recorded – if they must – with regard to the testament of this loquacious and bombastic leader of the free world, for the Presidents who follow him, when his body is encased in a casket and left with sod, being his eternal blanket, that he is able to leave, as a lasting legacy, something more inspirational.

It is said that man, throughout the ages, has had a mania for clinging onto hypotheses while ignoring facts; and, for mistaking dreams for more than that which they are: Mere dreams.

To regurgitate the many crass and or incongruous statements, uttered in the past six months by President

Donald John Trump, would be to no avail.

Those six months marked and coincided with his avowed intent to make the White House his place of permanent residence in Washington, D.C. for at least the four years, ending January 19, 2021: Mr Donald John Trump was sworn in as the 45th President of The United States of America on January 20, 2017.

One might like to question whether or not, the recent utterances of President Donald John Trump in respect of a model of a modern-day President of The United States of America are beneath the dignity of his office and

‘Are his many inane statements of the past six months the best that he can conjure?’

For a former graduate of The Wharton School of The University of Pennsylvania, one would have thought that the President of The United States of America would have had a much-better grasp of the English language than that which has been declared by this man of 70 years since the middle of January, this year.

The more that this important leader of the free world utters, or pastes on the social media, the more that right-minded people may well, in the fullness of time, come to the realisation that, perhaps, their choice of a President was not, exactly, that which they had expected.

This is not to suggest that President Donald John Trump’s thinking is completely at fault with regard to a number of very important, international matters that require definitive determinations, but his protocol does seem to leave much to be desired if he is expected to be able, amicably, to rub shoulders with other world leaders – and to be admired for so doing by the leaders, themselves, as well as the American public.

If politics is to be defined as being the art of finding acceptable compromises to intermediate states between conflicting alternatives wherein mutual concessions have to be achieved, then one might like to ponder, also, whether or not President Donald John Trump is up to such a task.

It is obvious that he does not suffer fools gladly – and one may well appreciate this side of his character – but that he is easily irritable, if not irascible in the extreme, is a side of his character that he should keep under control if he expects to be considered worthy of his high office.

That he has waged ‘war’ on certain popular media outlets and/or certain members of these media outlets, and that he makes no bones in this regard, has been recorded in the annals of the many meetings that have been held with members of the Fourth Estate and the President’s Press representatives in the White House.

To what earthly purpose does such a declaration of war serve on the media?

His tenacious war-mongering, if anything, is but a sideshow that may titillate some people, but, at the end of the day, it is but a fleeting divergence from his sworn duty to the American public that the President has promised to serve.

The free world, today, is gravely concerned about the jingoistic attitude of the Government of The Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (North Korea), a reclusive dictatorship, its Supreme leader, being Kim Jong Un.

The North Korean Government is determined to see the country become the next nuclear power and, to that end, it has been, for some years, conducting experiments with nuclear fission and the technology of rocketry.

In Iran, it is well documented that this theocratic government has been fanning the flames of discontent in the Middle East for many a year.

This country is well known to have been financially supporting certain terrorist groups in various parts of the world.

In particular, Iran has been among the largest supporters of Hamas, a Palestinian, Sunni-Islamic, fundamentalist organisation, its military wing, being The Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades.

Hamas's charter calls for the complete and utter destruction of The State of Israel; and, this charter coincides with Iran's stated goals with regard to this Jewish state: Iran is desirous of expunging Israel from the map of the world.

Are not the present, long-lasting and worrying problems in respect of North Korea and the not-so-covert activities of the Government of Iran of more importance than the beating of the drums of war with regard to President Donald John Trump's attack on certain members of the media?

It has long been held that the fruits of wars are food for new wars.

The slow dulling of wear must not lead to the indifference that habit, so often, leads to ingloriousness: Sole woe, the shadowless days.

Few men fulfil themselves before death; more's the pity!

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