

Dear X,

“Nature is never spent” (G.M. Hopkins): I keep repeating this as a mantra as I witness America unraveling. Nina & I stayed up till 2 am digging deeply into the evidence (so far) that the General Election was corrupted. At 1 am I was reading the day’s court filings—motions to stop the voting certification process—in PA and GA. Nina was on the couch in my study, making copious notes as she listened to 3 hours of streamed testimony before a PA Assembly committee on the evidence for election fraud, Nov 3<sup>rd</sup>.

If the sanctity of the vote—any vote, not just the one past—is lost, America is undone. Oh yes, we will continue to function as a nation state, though no longer as **We, The People**.

I have no choice, as a professional historian, about discovering whether we have stopped being **We, The People**. (Discovering for myself does not consist of reading the NY Times, listening to CNN or Fox News, or watching press conferences by partisans or attorneys. “Most people are other people,” observed Oscar Wilde. “Their thoughts are someone else’s opinions, their lives a mimicry, their passions a quotation.” Discovering for myself requires primary research: studying court filings and listening to the testimony and evidence of people who personally witnessed something. Do I believe their lying eyes and ears? I’m still weighing this question.)

So far in my research, the evidence is disturbing.

I don’t need another diatribe from anyone about Mr. Trump nor, for that matter, Mr. Biden. At this point I don’t give a damn about what people think re. either man or his political club. (Legally, these are nothing more than clubs.) My question is, have **We, The People** ceased functioning via the vote—any vote re. any level of government. Moreover, the question is for me personally, not for you or anyone else. And, no, I won’t be bullied or silenced by public opinion or so-called media—“media” means nothing more than “in the middle of something”—or what friends and family think about either party or presidential candidate.

I’m focused on a third entity that has no party affiliation, that existed before either political club (party) was invented, indeed, has existed since time immemorial. I refer to the principle that **We, The People** bestow our collective authority on individuals (whether hunting band leaders, kings, queens, mayors, governors, senators, presidents, etc.) only, solely, exclusively through an honest vote among ourselves. Emphasis on the word “honest.” Inherent in the word is “universally agreed upon evidence of transparency.” Transparency means the vote can be verified from whatever angle (up, down, sideways) using whatever “common sense means” one wishes. The evidence of voting integrity must, absolutely must, be as palpable, clear, irrefutable, and bullet-proof as that of dropping a stone on my foot and knowing that it actually, beyond any doubt, landed on my right foot according to immutable principles of gravity. Yes, the voting process must be “one person, one vote” with half a dozen forms of obvious, simple, straightforward mechanisms of verification built into the transaction.

Hunter-gatherer societies operated according to **We, The People** in their own way. The principle was lost when monarchy was invented (i.e., when strongmen decided their authority came from sky gods with names like Jehovah, Baal, Marduk, Ra, Quetzalcoatl, Huitzilopochtli, and others) in a complex process we call the Neolithic. This precious principle was restored only through horrific bloodshed and paroxysms of terror over the past half dozen centuries. America became a standard bearer for it.

If it’s now lost to electronic voting devices and their programming, or through various illegal means of suppressing or manufacturing votes—I, as a historian, need to know this. This is my personal mandate.

I spent much of the day, yesterday, re-reading Nietzsche’s “Beyond Good and Evil.” I confess I had not read it since graduate school. It was a sobering experience. I read it during the turmoil of the Vietnam War and nascent environmental movement and counter-culture thing in the early 1970s. I was a student at the University of

California at Santa Barbara. There were riots on campus. Tear gas. A bank was burned down. Shots fired. Classes taken over by campus radicals. I re-read this, yesterday, wondering if America is coming apart as it did in the late Sixties, early Seventies.

Nietzsche's thesis is something he calls the Will to Power. He says this "will" is programmed into us and, moreover, there always will be a Super Man (not so much an individual but a type of individual: philosophers like him, for instance) who seizes the whip and ruthlessly drives **We, The People** into the Promised Land of efficiency, control of the earth, and control over any form of sniveling, whining, effete humanity, to reinstate the ancient Nordic gods of simple, male, raw power. (Women don't fare well at Nietzsche's hands, perhaps because one of them gave him syphilis. Though she in turn got it from—oh never mind, Nietzsche didn't care.) While he waited eagerly for this so-called revived type or specimen of person to materialize in the West, he lost his mind in a bizarre encounter with a horse in the marketplace, one day, in Turin, Italy. He spent the rest of his days deranged, in the care of his mother and sister.

Unfortunately, Nietzsche was on to something. Nazism owes much to his Nordic, Wagnerian, master race ideology. (He was a powerful writer, unlike other philosophers then and since then.) Hitler's Final Solution. Stalin's purges. Chairman Mao's re-education. Pol Pot. The Shah of Iran. Qaddafi. Idi Amin. The list is long. Nietzsche didn't create these people; they have been around as long as the Neolithic. These are the people who invoke cosmic mandates—God or the gods, a nebulous mandate of History or Destiny or Providence, or Good v. Evil, or lately the necessity of Climate Control, and most recently Public Health Control—as their authority.

I repeat, I don't need some tin-horn, barroom rant on Trump, Biden, Hitler, Mussolini, Stalin, Louis 14, Napoleon, or whatever individual one wishes to crucify. I'm interested in the process Nietzsche outlines and supports. Which is why the "vote" interests me. If **We, The People** are ever cowed, bullied, swindled, or brain-washed into surrendering what vestiges of humaneness and respect for Mother Earth ("and all that dwell therein") we individually have left, and **We, The People** hand this over to the **Will to Power** of any club, party, organization, association, corporation, agency, army, theory, doctrine, dogma, belief system, religion, or individual—I want to know about it.

In a sentence, I want to know if **We, The People** got sucked down the rabbit hole of the **Will to Power** on November 3, 2020.

Calvin

"A most inappropriate man living in a most inauspicious time" (Wallace Stevens)