

PRESIDENT DONALD

Yes, miracles do happen. The wisest political experts in the land predicted it would take a miracle for Trump to ever be elected. Although he did not turn water into wine, this miracle is also likely to have wide spread consequences not only for this country but for the world. The pundits are now busy looking for excuses to justify their almost universal ignorance of what was happening to the electorate. This raises the question of how did he do it? Since I contend that I can't do much worse than those experts, I will attempt to answer that question.

We will probably never know if Mr. Trump was initially serious about a run for president or if this was simply another instance of his attention seeking behavior. It all began when he payed a group of people from off the street to come in to Trump tower and applaud as he announced he was running for president. If he was really serious he should go down in history as a political genius, but if it was simply a publicity stunt then he has become the first accidental president in history. His off the wall comments soon made him the lead story on the six o'clock news, then with the debates(I use that term loosely) he hit his stride and became the bully in chief of the Republican party.

His total lack of respect for the prescribed decorum of these meat markets, the name calling, and other outrageous behaviors were predicted to lead to an early demise to his campaign. He began to attract large crowds to his rallies which was explained as only curiosity on the part of the electorate. He thrived on the few dissenters who showed up at these rantings as it gave him an opportunity to show how tough he was by suggesting they be roughed up and "should be carried out on a stretcher". He promised if elected he would not hesitate to use torture on insurgents and even their families. He would get tough with our allies and our opponents, and use his negotiating skills to "make America great again" whatever that meant. He was tough enough to deal with ISIS by "bombing the shit out of them".

Yes, he had established his bona fides as a full fledged bully, but to our surprise the crowds he attracted seemed to like it. It was as if they realized he was a bully,

but he was their bully. There was a large segment of society in which people had legitimate concerns about the economy and their future. They felt abandoned, were angry and anxious. Psychoanalyst Eric Fromm in his book *Escape from Freedom* attempted to explain the rise of Nazism prior to world war II by postulating that when a people feel disenfranchised and anxious they look for a savior to which they are willing to cede power. Trump appeared to fit that role perfectly. He had convinced them he was the toughest guy on the playground, and he assured them he would vanquish those responsible for their angst in short order. He didn't need to say how he would do all that good stuff, nor did he need to for they were eager to give him full reign.

Psychiatrists use the term projection to describe the process in which people ascribe their own objectionable behaviors or thoughts to others. In that vein while Mr. Trump was talking about lying Ted, the fact checkers were working overtime to keep up with what his handlers would call "misstatements". There was also the moniker of crooked Hillary, but such a term surely must not apply to someone of Trump's stature. Of course the deliberate and conscious use of projection is a very useful tool to avoid responsibility for one's own actions since it keeps one's adversaries on the defensive.

Perhaps his greatest accomplishment was to convince his followers that he was a champion of the working man. This billionaire (or not) who was born into a life of privilege, and who has been shown to owe some of his success to stiffing the little guy seems an unlikely candidate for such a title. He also said he thought wages were too high and proposed to lower taxes on rich guys like himself. Of course no one could accuse him of having a self-serving motive since it appears that he doesn't pay taxes anyway. In spite of all that his supporters would not be swayed, cheered loudly and threw the hecklers out. Bernie Madoff's con job seems trivial when compared to such a remarkable achievement.

Many trump voters who were interviewed thought his skill as a successful business man would make him well qualified to deal with the country's financial problems. Warren Buffet points to his multiple bankruptcies as one evidence that he is a bit lacking in that department. Mr. Buffet goes on to say that his success

has involved his licensing ventures. In other words he allows his name to be used in other's ventures, and thus turns a profit on that self-promotion in which he has indulged all these years. Of course bankruptcy can also be lucrative if one can remember to pay oneself a large enough salary before the company goes under. The investors lose out but some might say that is the mark of a good business man.

All of this is as Grandma would say is "water under the bridge", and that 'It's all over but the shouting'. Indeed there does seem to be a lot of shouting going on across the country apparently due to buyer's remorse. It would be interesting to know how many of those protesters did not vote since the democratic vote was noticeably lacking. Thankfully the demonstrations have been peaceful so far, and the gun toters have stayed away. The thought that two large groups of people harboring such intense feelings could square off frightens me. We certainly don't need another civil war.

There is little doubt that our President elect's rhetoric accentuated this nation's divisiveness; although our congress must shoulder most of the blame. We must hope that the rancor and lack of respect exhibited by our leaders can be toned down and that we might witness some bona fide statesmanship in the near future.

There is also some indications that the blaming of certain ethnic and religious groups could have lasting effects on our society. As a matter of fact there are already some signs that more bigotry is being seen, or perhaps it may be that bigots now feel they have license to express it. There are also reports that large segments of the population are now much more fearful of discrimination and persecution. Although he disavows them and rejects their support, extremist right wing groups continue to be attracted to Mr. Trump. The Klu klux klan has even announced they will have a victory parade for him later today.

At this point you may be thinking how he got here may be interesting but the most important question has to do with what kind of president he will be. Even those all-knowing and wise pundits who predicted his failure don't seem to have a clue, nor do I. Some say he will back off on some of his more extreme and

controversial plans and policies, while others feel he is very serious. Does he possess a faulty temperament or are all those strange behaviors an act? Does he lack a moral compass? Is he the misogynist that the infamous video seems to show him to be? Will narcissism prevent him from accepting advice or criticism? Those are issues that none of us can predict.

There are some issues that I do find particularly troubling such as the type individuals he seems to admire such as Vladimir Putin whom he sees as a great leader. Even more concerning is the comment he made several years ago in a playboy interview in which he seemed to condone the Tiananmen Square massacre. The question remains: are these comments attempts to suck up to people in order to further his international business projects or are they what he actually believes.

It is encouraging that he did "make nice" when asked about Hillary's concession phone call and his chat with Obama. He even made flattering comments about both; however that same evening he relapsed and described the anti-Trump demonstrations which occurred that same evening as a group of paid demonstrators encouraged by the news media, and said it was "very unfair". This seems reminiscent of the it's rigged rants of his stump speeches, and causes one to wonder if there is an element of paranoia in his thinking. By morning he had done an about face and his tweet was all sweetness and light, with praises for the same groups which he had vilified only a few hours earlier. Perhaps someone reminded him that the election was over and he no longer needed to talk down to adversaries.

Let us hope that this transition does go smoothly and that my suspicions are totally unfounded, and that this man goes down in history as a competent, deliberate and fair minded person.

