



RICO LENS

10 STICKY & NICELY BLASPHEMOUS THINGS TRUE PATRIOTS CAN DO RIGHT NOW TO KEEP AMERICA FREE

BY MARK MORFORD

It is a time of great need. It is a time of national teeth-gritting and resigned fortitude and wine-infused bouts of very heavy collective sighing.

It is a time when a single false war against an already decimated ragtag terrorist opponent is not nearly enough to satiate the delirious military-industrial complex and arouse Dick Cheney's defibrillator and hence we launched another one.

That's right, two full ostensible wars, Osama and Iraq, simultaneously, but thanks to sinister White House PR everyone seems to think they're basically the same war, even though they're almost completely unrelated, but hey, why split hairs.

Many ask what they can do. How can they contribute, how can they best aid the faux-war effort and support our troops in a whole new way, never mind our massive multibillion dollar budget-crushing macho superiority.

And given how it's all for oil and power anyway, and it has almost nothing to do with Saddam being all evil and brutal, even though he was, which is as convenient an excuse as any.

I have compiled this short list. Things you can do, right now, this minute, to feel more connected and support the nation sans money or blood or prefabricated force-fed rage, and more fully lick the fingertips of your fervent unrequited patriotism in this time of need. Call it a checklist. Call it a spiritual perspective frappé. SUV antenna flags not included:

1. Choose not to believe much of the disinformation spinning forth from the White House at this time. Look at Donald Rumsfeld's shockingly beady and pitch-black eyes and realize this man, these people, they are deeply convoluted and power blinded and do not have your best interests at heart.

2. Choose, furthermore, not to believe the world is really full of these vile power-mad slugs and lizards and prevaricators and fools and Rumsfelds. Stop thinking this is all there is, war and suffering and apparently very pale egomaniacal and spiritless men running the world into the ground.

Realize that for every ongoing war and religious outrage and environmental devastation and bogus Iraqi self-government plan, there are a thousand counterbalancing acts of staggering generosity and humanity and art and beauty happening all over the world, right now, on a breathtaking scale, from flower box to cathedral.

3. Resist the great surges toward nihilism about the media, in seeing them all as either a bunch of depressing, snickering pansy-assed gol-dang liberal scum or corporate-controlled sensationalistic J-school lackeys all parroting the same old pro-Shrub war stories and beating the same thudding pro-violence drum.

Seek out nuance and counterargument and subtle irony and contrarianism and balance and perspective. Realize it is never as one-sided as they want you to believe. Read more out-side your normal box of viewpoints and interests. Find out for yourself.

4. Remember the world does not consist of simple-minded and reductive good/evil polarities, but, rather, is a living organism, interconnected and breathing and dying and renewing in constant flux, religions interflowing, beliefs inbreeding, crammed full of ecstatically bejeweled people who are just as contradictory and confused and gorgeous and kaleidoscopic and baffled and sleepy and horny and lost and desperately craving of juicy unfiltered spiritual nourishment as you are, in this very moment, as you read these words.

5. Resist the temptation to drown in fatalism, to shake your head and sigh and just throw in the karmic towel and head for the mountains with a case of Grey Goose and a box of

Scharffenberger chocolates and the entire DeLillo collection and "Baraka" on DVD. Not that's necessarily a bad thing.

And instead you can more fully engage and openly celebrate and share the items you happen to love — vodka, chocolate or otherwise — as tools of knowledge and power and luscious imbibing of life, throw them right smack in the face of all the Ashcroftian scowling and limpness, upping the vibration instead of merely enduring it, thus countering the urgent federal mandate to please live in a constant state of shuddering obedient paranoia and fear.

6. Realize the divine is not quite what you think it might be, that old methods of imploring, say, a cantankerous bearded patriarchal figure to please please let you win the lottery and help you have better orgasms and oh yes smite your enemies might be a bit antiquated and prohibitive and just slightly lacking in vital ancient sordid chthonic feminine power.

Realize, further, that it is just these very outmoded and fervid mind-sets that are fueling a great many current hatreds and arming a great many warheads, and that maybe, just maybe, blind devouring adherence to any narrow doctrine — Christian, Muslim, Jew — is potentially fatal to the soul, bad for the skin and also just no fun at all.

7. Change the way you pray. Choose to believe in true orgiastic, energetic, self-realized divinity inside the self and emanating out, as opposed to an angry vengeful righteous God out there, one who demands that everyone must pay and suffer and kill and die, in His name, same as it ever was.

After all, it is your intention that sends the energy into play, that directly affects the world, every single person and every single soul, and your hate and fear and self-righteous belief does nothing to up the patriotism not just for country but for the entire planet. You have so much power. More than you know.

8. Realize that this is the perfect moment to change the energy of the world, to step right up and crank your personal volume, right when it all seems dark and bitter and offensive and acrimonious and conflicted and bilious, right when the snakes and pit vipers and squinting finger-pointing cowboy wanna-bes are all distracted — there's your opening.

9. Remember magic.

10. And, finally, believe you are a part of a groundswell, a resistance, a seemingly small but actually very, very large impending karmic overhaul, a great shift, the beginning of something important and potent and unstoppable. You can breathe like this is the most lucid thing there is to believe. You can walk down the street like you are full of divine free wet secrets.

The nation needs your help. This is a time of warmongering and bitterness and semi-literate Texas cowboy wanna-bes who want nothing more than to careen us down the path of perpetual violence and isolationism and dread.

You can do something. You are being implored. Now is your chance. Please help keep America free. Please show your love for your country. This is just the beginning. Thank you and Shivaspeed.

Mark Morford is an SF Gate columnist. His e-mail column 'Notes & Errata' appears twice weekly. He also writes 'Morning Fix', "a deeply skewed" thrice-weekly e-mail column and news-letter.

ADD ME TO YOUR LISTS

BY ALAN MORSE

Add me to your lists Mr. Bush. Send my name to Mr. Ashcroft. Forward it to the FBI, the local police, the INS and the IRS. Make sure your Secret Service takes note. Copy my name to every blacklist, enemies list, security list, and watch list your scribes scribble. While you detain activists at airports, I am ashamed to travel unchallenged. While you abduct untold, unnamed foreign-born Americans, I am ashamed to sleep in my own bed. While you steal food, not just rights, from millions of families, I am ashamed to eat. I am ashamed to wear new clothes; ashamed to drive; ashamed to share ill-gotten wealth with your kind; even ashamed I can provide better for my little daughter than almost any father on earth.

I am not a threat to you, but I stand with billions. God is not on my side — or yours — but the best traditions of freedom, right, and non-violent resistance are with me. I stand alongside the Senator your intern calls senile. I stand with the Congresswoman your operatives unseated in the primaries. I stand with the loud but lonely voices of those in print and broadcast media who are not afraid to challenge you. I stand with the growing number of principled government clerks who quietly undermine you. I stand with countless noble people across the world who are no longer cowed by bully-America.

I am but one speck you can blow aside, but even your family and friends can't ignore legions of us. In your ignorance, you have awakened forces that will bring you down.

You remind me of forgotten traditions: ancestors who fought non-violently for peace in 18th century Virginia; antecedents who broke 19th century laws to help slaves to freedom; my parents' siblings who aided conscientious objectors during World War 2; my own non-violent resistance to Vietnam, and more recently, to Reagan's adventures in Nicaragua.

Your adept predecessors persuaded with honey and intelligence, but your ignorance now shakes us. For that, and for that alone, I thank you. Now we will resist and topple your kind.

You have guns, bombs, but we have the power of non-violent resistance. Those who read know that firepower is laughable in the face of such force. Be afraid, Mr. Bush, and all who serve yourselves in backing this fragile regime, for you have germinated the seeds of your downfall.

We do not threaten your person or your pathetic toys, but we will cast you on the trash-heap of history. You can lead only by our consent — that, you have squandered.

Add me to your lists, Mr. Bush. I may be insignificant, but wait, I have time, history, and numbers on my side, and I am not the tiniest bit afraid of you.

Alan Morse lives in Phillips, Maine. This article is reprinted from *Common Dreams*.



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