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Is Prophecy a Lost Art?

Prophecy is all the rage. Witness all of the Charismatic Evangelical Christians who cite to Revelations for the end of days. The devotees of that particular Book of the Bible think they can read current events and tomorrow's news into the ancient biblical text. Nostradamus is more popular than Kim Kardashian. It is said that Nostradamus predicted everything from World War II to Hurricane Irene. Still others claim that numeric patterns exist in words of the Bible called "gematria" that discuss the rise and fall of the Third Reich, world conflicts and Madonna's fall from musical grace.

Presidential candidates make their living, quite literally, by predicting the future, complaining about the present, and promising immunizations from every economic and social disease that may ever occur. Given that everyone else tries their hand at prophecy, it is now my turn. I have dusted off the crystal ball, and I gazed into the future based upon what is evident from the present.

In the next presidential election, anyone will win who is not President Obama. The next president will be a Rick Perry, less likely Mitt Romney, or who knows who, but it will be somebody who makes promises to help the middle class while enriching the very rich. The philosophy will take hold that making the wealthy wealthier is a good thing because it will create jobs.

We have elevated ourselves from 1% of the people owning 9% of the wealth to 1% of the population owning 25% of the wealth. Under the new anti-Obama administration we will have 1% of the population owning 40% of the wealth. That is just the way it is going.

In order to balance the budget and cut taxes, social programs will be cut. Taxes will be lowered so that the richest Americans can pay less. Jobs will increase, but they will be low paying jobs. Deregulation creating an enhanced financial bazaar will occur. This will create more dramatic gyrations in our economic life, much to the way we are seeing more violent weather these days.

Eventually we will find ourselves not only beholden to the Chinese, but also the hot bed of social dislocation. Just as Vietnam ushered in a generation of rebellion, the widening chasm between rich and middle class will eventually irritate enough people to lead to protests in the streets. It is not a phenomenon unknown in America. We have already had our fair share of tense cities, disgruntled veterans and race riots based upon the propensity of the ruling elite to forget about those who vote for them.

Economic disparity will usher in rebellion against megacorporations, corporate ownership of politicians, and impossible impediments to upward mobility. The exclusivity of the American dream to fewer and fewer people will eventually cause a backlash.

Unleashing the capitalist tiger, as the next president will do, without restricting it to the circus ring, will immediately create lots of low paying jobs. The long-term implications of cutting deficits, eliminating social programs and whitewashing the current inequalities in the tax system will do no good for America.

Those with the most to lose will vote for politicians funded by those with the most to gain. Corporate donors know how to advertise a product. They understand marketing. The candidate marketed to replace Barack Obama will make the right promises to get elected. That office holder will be sure to protect the interests that made the election possible. George Bush II did it, and Barack Obama would have done it had he been able to maintain his majority. Unfortunately, Barack Obama had neither the experience nor the political vision to develop a vision that he could sell to the American people. The Democrats, just like the Republicans must satisfy

their donors whether those people are the same as the citizens who voted for them or not.

Campaign finance reform, the one sure cure for the American democracy, will become further unattainable than it has been before. The corporate and major economics in this country will make sure that campaign finance reform somehow becomes equated with communism and other undesirable social diseases.

Perhaps when the pendulum has swung far enough to disenfranchise enough of the middle class, there will be some genuine political reform that may make a difference in the American future.

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