

Falling in line or falling in love

The American voter is a complex and somewhat fickle creature. It is often said that Democrats fall in love (with their candidates) and Republicans fall in line (with whomever the party chooses). While that may be true in some respects there is a bit of mutuality of love and in-line emotions at play. This is most obvious with some of our Presidents who have appealed to our passions. Presidents of the 20th century like FDR, JFK, Reagan and Clinton were able to deflect much criticism because of their unique personalities and strong following whereas Nixon, LBJ, Ford and Carter didn't measure up as political superstars. The new millenium ushered in the Bush era, but 'W' was no heartthrob while his successor, Barack Obama more than met the test as political idol of a new generation of younger voters that were 'looking for love' and found it among the *Si se puede* and *hope and change* mantras of the time.

Those eight years of the 'cool Black dude' served to reinforce the Democrats' love affair for a leader that could inspire them with soaring rhetoric and repeat the talking points of the Liberal ideology. A new day had dawned and Obama the man became Obama the embodiment of the 'new age' Progressive in the FDR mold with a dash of John F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King, Jr. and Bill Clinton thrown in for good measure to complete the recipe. Democrats had at last found their man, and their decades of yearning for Progressive policy had arrived. Too bad that Mr. O couldn't ascend the golden throne and remain in power for a decade or more. THAT would have pleased the Liberals and put them at ease, knowing that they would not have to give up their power or their momentum to those "deplorables" on the Right.

But politics is more like ping pong than horseshoes and even the most torrid of love affairs tend to fade in the unrelenting exposure to sunlight and day-to-day life. Our leaders ultimately reveal that they, too, are human and that that revelation of their flawed characters and questionable decisions are not conducive to preserving our idealized notions of them. Infatuation invariably turns to disappointment; the luster wears off and pretty soon we cast about looking for new 'leading men' to star in our passion play of partisan politics. Such was the case with the emergence of Donald Trump in 2016.

America was sick of empty promises...from both parties. Hillary's words rang shrill and hollow while Trump's were a breath of new, untraditional, fresh air. Our leaders had never talked to us in just that way. We were wooed and shrewdly so. Trump's popularity was based on his disdain for politics not his embrace of it. It was if he had told us, "Alright, I'll do this for you, but just this once. And I'm going to do it my way and I don't care what my critics say. If they don't like it they can all go pound sand!" Trump was the equivalent of the anti-Christ to the corrupt Washington swamp and all of its slimy creatures. And those of us who hated the political machine and the men that kept it oiled and running cheered him on. A star was born in the political firmament...but as we all know, every star has a limited lifespan. I have a feeling that Trump knew this (that the powerful entrenched forces that rule Washington would never let him see two full terms.) in his heart, but he couldn't admit it to us.

Every President falls in love with himself.

There is something about being at the top of any pyramid that is both exhilarating and intoxicating and it affects a leader's ability to realistically assess his own shortcomings or the power of the opposition. This can be attributed to the thin atmosphere that surrounds men at the top or it can just be a bad case of 'human nature' rearing its ugly head. In any event, Donald Trump became the focus of enormous rage by the Democrats who felt their own feathered nests under attack and could not bear another four years under a powerful person who called a 'spade a spade' and was unafraid and unbowed when encountering them on their own turf. Neither were they used to someone commandeering 'their' airtime on the mainstream media!

Like a competing suitor for the hand of the fair maiden, the Democrats were bound and determined to break up this 'love affair' with half of America. They would regroup and fall in line behind a 40-year political hack that yearned for power his entire career but could never quite grab its brass ring.

Joe Biden was not the Democrats' lover nor was he their Sir Lancelot. He was simply not Donald Trump and was their ticket back to their true love...power. They flattered him, praised him, plucked him out of the smoldering ashes of his unremarkable career and told him "It was good for us. Was it good for you?" to which he responded like any eager lover, "Yes." In faux love and in lockstep the Left was back. All that remained was to insure that Joe could go the distance, but that required an insurance policy which was the assurance that Donald Trump would never find his way back to the Oval Office. The plan was simple: use all levers of power in - and outside of - government to crush him and make him their distraction so that the American public would ignore the Administration's gross incompetence and rapid march towards Progressivism.

Focus on the actor not the act.

Consummating the 'marriage' of power and single-party rule has always been the Democrats' modus operandi and they have come close to accomplishing their goal several times in the past. As a body, they have learned much from both successful and failed attempts to woo support from voters for their policies. This time around, before the 2022 mid-terms, the Dems are pulling out all stops with a multi-front assault on Americans' freedoms. It's taking the form of racial guilt-mongering, revisionist history, identity (divide and conquer) politics and an all-out attack on the infrastructure of our economy. The Left has chosen a direct head-on assault on the unvaccinated, mandate naysayers, CRT objectors and capitalists, both big and small, in the hopes of shaking them loose from...you guessed it...Donald Trump.

The Trump fear factor is real and so is the Democrats' fixation on this one outspoken and larger-than-life man. And while they fear him they cannot stop bringing up his name and are only too happy to give him the air time and oxygen that enables him to remain front and center in American politics. Their anger has blinded them to the reality that there is a limit to the extent a jilted lover should go to exact revenge.

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