

## Biden's great adventure

Well, it happened just as everyone predicted...Joseph Robinette Biden threw his old fedora into the Presidential ring. I keep asking myself, why would a 76 year old man who ran for the coveted prize and lost twice before want to do it again? Why would he, full-well knowing that the Presidency ages a man five years for every year in office want to place himself in such peril? And why would he want to put the rest of us through it with him?

Why, after forty years of government service would he take this journey? Surely his wife wouldn't want him to go out on that fragile limb and place his health in danger. Does he really think that he's got it in him? Can he go the distance of a grueling campaign against Donald Trump and think that his reputation wouldn't take more than just a hit for his 'touchy/feely' political style? Does he not think that all his many gaffes during his political lifetime will not be displayed in full view, as well?

The only reasons I can come up with are: 1. the Party wants him as a moderating force in the debates (to prove that the Dems aren't a bunch of liberal nut cases) and 2. that he feels he has a duty to pound a few more nails into Donald Trump's coffin. If those are, indeed, the real reasons, I get it, but his candidacy will be regarded as one of sacrificial lamb rather than Sir Galahad. If anything, Biden's great (last) adventure will serve to paint him as Don Quixote on a tired steed.

Biden doesn't deserve that. His career was basically one of doing no harm. He should realize that it's better to cash in his chips, walk away from the table while he still has some winnings than to go down in history as a benign political figure who didn't know when to 'fold up.'

Politics is a fickle amoureux. She chews up those searching for love in all the wrong places and spits them out, unceremoniously. She cares nothing about her lover's feelings and often turns them into pitiful, needy men. Joe Biden doesn't deserve to be put in her spell. He's a decent man who's suffered in his life with the loss of his first wife and his daughter in a car accident and later the death of his son, Beau. After the loss of his wife and daughter, Biden walked around in a haze. The accident left him filled with both anger and religious doubt: "I liked to [walk around seedy neighborhoods] at night when I thought there was a better chance of finding a fight ... I had not known I was capable of such rage ... I felt God had played a horrible trick on me."

In 2015, Beau, then only 46 years old, died of brain cancer, and once again, Biden was at an emotional crossroads. Granted, many people have lost loved ones to tragedy, but no one is truly ready to shoulder the burden. Biden soldiered on, and it was how he handled his personal loss that endeared many from the Left and the Right to him. Why would he put all of that pain - again - out there in the fiery cauldron of a presidential campaign? Biden has been criticized for his 'hands-on' approach to retail politicking, and much of that criticism is, in my opinion, undeserved. If anything, Joe Biden was just being Joe Biden, trying his best to put people at ease. Unlike William Jefferson Clinton who often *said*, "I feel your pain," Joe Biden *did* feel their pain or discomfort and was doing what he could to allay it, not exacerbate it.

That should be Joe Biden's legacy...as someone who empathizes with people and does not capitalize on their situation with a staged cheesy photo op. If I could sit down with him, I would tell him that he's done enough, that St. Peter will probably host a heavenly gala when he does, eventually, arrive at the Pearly Gates. His kind of politician is anathema to the kind of politics that is practiced by his party today. The Democrats are using him because they don't understand or appreciate his real worth. Do yourself a favor, Joe, and reverse your decision. No one will blame you for it.

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