

Reflections on the Election

With the election of Barack Obama as the next President of the United States of America, we here at the Center are filled with hope and are in a place of prayerful reflection about what this means in this moment of history. While God blesses all countries, at this time we feel a particular blessing upon the United States, and thus the world.

President Elect Obama's intelligence, his grounded peacefulness in the face of difficult situations, and his amazing gift of inspiring hope and new desire in all of us, is the answer to years of prayer for spirit-filled leadership.

This is an exciting time of hope and rebirth. For years, much of our country and our world had been trapped inside of cynicism. How can one assess cynicism when ensnared by it? What damage does resignation to war, arrogance, and greed do to the heart, the mind, and the soul? Now we know how cynical and hopeless we had become by this newly appeared opposite!

Suddenly our eyes are widened and our heart is beating anew as we experience the presence of goodness and greatness. How can one pay or give adequate thanks for such gifts as these? These gifts are indeed "radical grace". Suddenly we are all saying, "Yes, we can!"

One of our initiated men wrote me today that he also wept during Obama's address in Chicago's Grant Park. What he heard woven into the talk were the same five essential messages that the men are given at the Rites of Passage. He said, "I think we have an authentically initiated man here!" All the more amazing, considering that he was raised by a single mother and had to largely self initiate. Perhaps the abandonment by his father and the loss of his mother was itself his "sacred wound".

If you are interested, refer to my pre-election article on "[Voting and Discernment](#)" where I said that Jesus taught us to look at the "yeast" of a person or event, and not just single issues or one-liners that we like or don't like. *It is at the level of rapidly rising good yeast that so many of us see God's Spirit at work.*

Unfortunately, when we function out of a dualistic mind, we miss the opportunity to participate in this change in energy, flow, and vitality. This is particularly likely if one's chosen issue was seemingly overlooked.

Discerning minds and hearts, however, can feel life energy and enjoy love energy—even if it is still imperfect, as all things human are.

I am quite sure Barack Obama will make mistakes, and will probably enact things that I and you might not agree with; such is the human and limited situation of which we are all a part. He is not the Messiah, and our hope is still in God and the Gospel of Jesus, but we owe President Elect Obama our loyal support, our Gospel criticism, and the protective power of guarding angels.

I close with the brief statement that I was asked to write for SOJOURNERS magazine, my little bit of advice for the new president.

Dear President Elect Obama:

You have been given a wonderful opportunity to help and heal America and the world. Thank you for using your gifts so well. Jesus says, "When a man has had a great deal given him on trust, even more will be expected of him." (Luke 12:48). We ask you to do the truth and to do justice, especially for the outsiders, the poor, and the voiceless. To do this well, we ask you to let go of any concern for a second term, and leave that future to God and to grace.

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