

Credo

I Believe God Had Reason for fashioning Adam from clay
and Eve from an unneeded rib, deconstruct that as you may.
IBGHR for making women life-givers, caretakers and healers,
the heart of family life, then allowing men to legitimize
the entrapment of women in the “safety” of a home,
doubtful that men were able to curb their baser instincts,
as far too many women can testify.

IBGHR for giving white-haired men the authority to make laws:
Who better to denounce the lascivious nature of women
and compel them, even to death, to protect their unborn babies?
Who better to model civic duty, empathy, and moral rectitude
than the men who lash slaves, ignore the violence of poverty,
build walls to keep out and prisons to keep in?

I Believe God Had Reason for teaching man how to fashion tools:
the fist, the club, the knife, the ax, the sword, the gun, the bomb,
the gas chamber. And IBGHR for bestowing upon man the gift of
language, that he might lie, betray, slander and demean, double-talk,
propagandize, proselytize, even blaspheme. IBGHR for hard-wiring men
to hate strangers and to make heroes of the lambs who volunteer
to annihilate the enemy.

IBGHR for granting politicians silver tongues, charging them,
without a touch of irony, to glorify division, death and war,
and justify the brutalities it forces men to inflict upon
the beloved sons of their enemies, and themselves.
IBGHR to protect the strong, the privileged, and the self-righteous
while sacrificing to unjust causes the weak and disenfranchised.

God, I further Believe you Have Reason to be proud of your reputation
as the embodiment of all that is enigmatic, ineffable, and mysterious.
And I trust that, in your omniscience, you understand why I hope
that in the end Good will triumph over Evil,
and Wisdom will prevail over Ignorance, Prejudice, and Superstition.
Given the state of things, however, I cannot help but ask:
What the hell were you thinking?

Credo II

It is 9 a.m. Memorial Day, 2019. One day after writing “Credo.”
I am up early and scrubbing the back deck
when my wife yells out the upstairs window
that our grandson is being taken to the hospital.
He is only 3 ½.
Just my luck: I have angered a vengeful god who reads poetry.

FAKE NEWS

*(A Short Selective History
with Fake News in bold)*

I

Fake news is older than sin
& the Bible is where it begins:
claims of **Creation in six days**,
followed by rest,
push credulity to the ultimate test.

II

Things were perfect for a short little spell
till Eve ribbed Adam into tasting a shiny apple;
cast out of Eden and forever to blame
mankind's parents, **original sinners**, covered their shame.

III

Another Misstep from Genesis:
Noah naked, cursed Ham for his knavery,
couldn't know that millennia later, Christian
slave owners would **use Ham's curse to justify slavery**.

IV

Earth is the center of our solar system and flat.
(Bad science was once due to ignorance,
or Religion, or both—ask Galileo about that.
Today, bad science is best attributed to willful stupidity.)

V

The divine rights of kings.
(Not even Jesus claimed such a thing.)

VI

All men are created equal.
(A more accurate declaration would boast:
Some white men are created more equal than most.)

VII

Manifest Destiny: America's divine right to colonize the West.
(See VI for obvious exceptions: Indians and Mexicans)

VIII

WWI was “The War to End All Wars.”

(Hopeful hyperbolic language is something to adore.

Now consider this litotes: Man will never not settle the score.)

IX

“Guns don’t kill people, people do.”

(That kind of logic makes me feel a whole lot better

about pollution, bombs, mass murder, and Dear John letters.)

X

“Free at last, Free at last, Thank God almighty we are free at last.”

(I wish that were true, Martin Luther King, but alas, it’s still a Dream.

Another Dream: a god for whom giving a damn is a consistent theme.)

XI

Men are superior to women.

(It’s men who most often repeat this cant. Which is a bit like asking

your brain which of your body’s organs is most important!)

XII

Women have the right to control their own bodies!

(I wish that were true, but alas, it isn’t.)

XIII

Bill Clinton did not have “sexual relations” with that woman.

(By “that woman,” did Bill mean Monica or Hillary?)

XIV

Nine minutes after American Airlines’ Flight 11 slammed

into the World Trade Center’s North Tower on 9/11,

a voice on the South Tower PA system announced:

“The building is secure. Please return to your desks.”

(Regrettably, “secure” isn’t the same as “safe”.)

XV

George W., “the Decider,” sent Colin Powell

to the U.N. to tell the world about Saddam’s WMDs.

(And the world took to heart Powell’s pleas;

however, **what Powell claimed was a lie.**

It’s been nineteen years of war, and thousands have died.)

XVI

May 1, 2003, aboard the USS Abraham Lincoln:

George W. declared *Victory in Iraq!*

(Talk about a premature ejaculation!)

XVII

**Torture chambers, black sites, & waterboarding
are not war crimes; in fact, they're perfectly legal.**

(Imagine a beach where Bush feeds trash to gulls.

And we're the gull-ibles.)

XVIII

Chelsea Manning and Edward Snowden are traitors.

(Drone bombings & NSA spying was our government's bit;

Manning and Snowden stood up, wanted nothing to do with it.

Manning & Snowden are heroes. And scapegoats. Not traitors.)

XIX

"Change You Can Believe In," quoth candidate Obama.

("Really it's the same old shit, repackaged," quoth your mamma.)

XX

"I will close GITMO," promised President Obama.

(Gitmo is still running, holds men in striped pajamas.)

XXI

Barack Hussein Obama wasn't born in America.

(So you really think Obama is that shifty?

Born in 1961, Hawaii's statehood in 1959 made it #50.)

XXII

When Syria's Bashar al-Assad gassed his own people,

Obama drew a red line in the sand. Since then, tens of thousands
of innocent Syrians have become red lines in the sand.

XXIII

**Donald J. Candidate Trump is a GREAT businessman
& will Made America Great Again.**

(Is there any debate about this megalomaniac's plan?)

XXIV

Donald J Trump's **coronation**
drew the largest crowd in the history of inauguration.
(Any debate now that his ~~d***~~ hands are the most powerful in the nation?)

XXV

No one inspects respects women more than Donald Trump!
(Although Bill Cosby and Joe Biden may be close.)

XXVI

What part of the 2016 Republican Presidential ticket
included Trump's family?

XXVII

Don't believe any propaganda that I feed ya',
"The enemy of the people," is the corrupt media.

XXVIII

The environment is a commodity, not a living, breathing
biome with intention. **It was given to Adam and his litter**
to manage, control, and sell to the highest bidder.

XXIX

Nature? What's the big to-do?
Animals are dangerous. They **belong in zoos.**

XXX

The EPA is now The Environmental Profit Agency.
Its mission: to give away our nation's natural resources
for a trifling fee. And roll back anti-business,
eco-sniveling standards most liberally.
(Oops. This one is true.)

XXXI

CO² and Methane are naturally occurring gasses.
Trump expels both during twitter time, most from where
his ass is. "Ain't America Great" boast his faithful masses!
(Oh, poop. This one is true too.)

XXXII

All jobs are good!
From coal mining, let us not escape.
And let us also frack the frick outta our green landscape.
(Please don't. It's time to transition out of fossil fuels!)

XXXIII

Global Climate Change is a HOAX.
Just because 98% of the world's scientists claim
GCC is real, **doesn't mean you gotta buy their spiel.**
Polls get it wrong; ignore the din!
(Have you forgotten: Hillary was supposed to win. Ha!)

XXXIV

Mexico is gonna' pay for the Wall!
(No comment needed, ya'll!)

XXXV

Puerto Ricans are ~~not~~ Americans!
And Hurricane Maria's name has too many vowels.
(Here, have a roll of these super-absorbant paper towels.)

XXXVI

Speaking of PR and Hurricane Maria:
FEMA did a GREAT JOB!
(At the After Party, Don "Juan" Trump sang,
"I just tamed a 'Cane named Maria." Whatta heart-throb!)

XXXVII

Trump's presidential campaign did not collude with the Russians.
(Ask Vlad, he'll vouch.)

XXXVIII

Brett Kavanaugh is a great guy. Unfairly ~~maligned~~ maligned.
(Brett & Donald's feelings about women are perfectly aligned.)

XXXIX

Stormy & Pocahontas! FAKE bOObs & FAKE DNA!
(My **bold** just ran out of ink; so you decide, okay?)

XL

What's all this talk about draining the swamp?

What swamp? I don't see a swamp. That's fake too, man!

(Just as fake as "Dewey Defeats Truman.")

XLI

Coronavirus? What me worry?

It'll go away when the weather warms.

If not, I'll blame China and the WHO.

How can anyone think I'm responsible?

(We don't. We know full well you're irresponsible.)

XLII

After the country goes into lock-down,

filings for unemployment compensation hit an all-time high.

So much for bragging about an economy that's gone bye-bye.

(Nothing **bold** about this!)

XLIII

Anyone who criticizes Israel is an anti-Semite!

(Since when is criticism the same as hate speech?

The bullied has become the bully, oppressing Palestinians with its awful might. And to say so is my right!)

XLIV

The End is Near!

(Well, maybe. Maybe not. Fill in your opinion here: _.)

XLV

I'm 45! I'm 45!

BEST ~~dam~~ ~~damn~~ damn President ALIVE!

I accomplish tweet MORE IN A MONTH than MOST,

but don't PRESS me cuz I HATE to ~~BOSTE~~ ~~BOAST~~ BOST!

(This was written before the COVID-19 pandemic. What can I say?)

XLVI

Fake news may be older than sin,

But it marches on unabated, as the fools rush in;

It won't end with Trump and his hundreds of lies,

No, it will not end till the last man dies.

Evolution

I gave up praying for advances in human evolution
 And I'm too old to sit tight for the next cultural revolution.
 So I fill my time with all flavor of instigation:
 Protests, writing op/eds, some Lake Erie activation.

Problem is: It's the same old crowd filling the picket lines
 And it's the same old politicians ignoring their signs.
 What's it gonna take to get the world off its lazy ass?
 What moral imperative? How deep the economic collapse?

Hong Kong, till recently, was the king of protestations,
 And for a while, the world decried Beijing's domination.
 We stood with the kids, masks concealing their faces and fists in the air.
 But how quickly fades to black the world stage,
 Our attention diverted by COVID-19's deadly rampage.

We've let Netanyahu's indictment slip out of view
 And there's a humanitarian crisis in Yemen
 But what's that to you?

Remember Sandy Hook, Vegas, and Florida's Parkland?
 Tragic, yes. But now's not the time to take a stand?
 Clever you, preparing your family to hunker down for a spell,
 Thus avoid Coronavirus *and* the madman's death knell.

Evolution implies things are forever getting better,
 If that's so, why are our coastlines getting wetter and wetter?
 We're all sinking under the weight of unimpeded greed
 believing god gave us the right to take whatever we please.

The Amazon burning / dinner plates loaded with meat:
 If that's evolution, it's time to retreat.

Surrender your weapons and open your heart,
 Pull down your fences, that'll be a good start.
 Take a seat at the table, pass the blessings around,
 Reconnect with Nature, admire the life that abounds.

Untangle the fly, then build a new home for the spider.
 We're all part of the web; no one's an outsider.
 Let go of the idea that Man is number one;
 We've got to control our egos before the world is undone.