

*The people in Washington D.C.
They've got a curious sidelong glance
It goes all the way from Capitol Hill up to the Pentagon.
What they gonna do, what they gonna do?
Tell me what they gonna do...*
—John Cale, "Dr. Mudd"



Brendan Smialowski/Getty Images

Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi during a news conference on Capitol Hill on Wednesday [Nov. 5, 2008].

November 11, 2008

In the presidential races of 2000 and again in 2004, the people of the United States became subject to the authority of an openly fascist regime by dint of electoral fraud. On November 4th, 2008, the American people perpetrated a cruel hoax upon themselves and the world by voting in a crypto-fascist regime magnificently disguised as a shining path forward toward a more human nation, and the fulfillment of a dream too long deferred.



Doug Mills/The New York Times [Nov. 6, 2008]

“I will do everything in my power to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon. Everything in my power. Everything.... *Let there be no doubt: I will always keep the threat of military action on the table to defend our security and our ally Israel. Sometimes there are no alternatives to confrontation.*”

—Barack Obama, addressing AIPAC, June 4, 2008



Amidst the political choices offered at the polls you must've somehow missed the plebiscite on whether or not to save, if only por ahora, the bankers' hides. Because you can't remember having voted to hock Gwen's generation up to their eyeballs, or mortgage what's left of the farm to China and a gaggle of Emirates. All so that Goldman can keep on sacking.

Loot a burning house, counseled Sunzi, some four centuries before the Magi followed the star to the manger. And while you're at it, Grab a lamb in passing.

November 26

"The economic consequences of October's financial meltdown continued to roll in on Wednesday.

"Consumer spending, traditionally the workhorse [!?:-)] of American economic growth, dropped a full percentage point last month, the biggest monthly decline since the period after the 9/11 terrorist attacks in 2001, the Commerce Department reported on Wednesday."

New York Times, "Fresh Signs of October's Slowdown," Michael M. Grynbaum

"Investors in New York took in a series of discouraging economic reports on Wednesday, as shares opened lower the day before Thanksgiving.

"Some profit taking [!?:-o] was expected given that the markets have finished mostly higher for three consecutive days.

"In one report on Wednesday, the Labor Department said initial requests for unemployment benefits fell to a seasonally adjusted 529,000 from the previous week's upwardly revised figure of 543,000, yet remained at recessionary levels.

"In another, the Commerce Department said orders to factories for big-ticket items plunged in October by 6.2 percent, more than double the 3 percent decline economists expected. And in a third, the Commerce Department said Americans cut back on their spending in October by the largest amount since the 2001 terrorist attacks."

- New York Times, "Markets Open Lower After New Data," David Jolly.

Your bet, though, is that the market runs itself up a little bull on the day before Thanksgiving. Capitalism is, if nothing else, deeply sentimental. And bone-chillingly literal.

Yes, yes, and on Black Friday, which this year falls on the 28th of November, the *Times* offers, in descending column order, the following sample of headline prosody:

“Mumbai Fighting Narrows to One Hotel: More than 150 Are Confirmed Killed.”

“Brooklyn Couple Killed in Attacks: A young rabbi and his wife who moved from Brooklyn to Mumbai to run a Jewish center were found dead.”

“All Eyes on Holiday Shopping Turnout in Bleak Economy.”

“Getting Creative With Leftovers.”

“Wall-Mart Employee Trampled to Death By Customers.”

Yet, “Americans Have Lost Their Appetite for Spending.”

Where, oh where has the thundering herd gone? To the Valley Stream Wall-Mart, of course. And a picture of the murdered man, of African descent, as are we all, supine like a steamrolled Christ.

Military Industrial Media Shopping Complex. Otherwise known as the Maul of America.

But Mumbai’s the word.

December 1

Beneath the spreading ramifications, phylotactically-challenged in this leaf-stripped winter, one gets a great opportunity to see the heavens above.

Out on one withered limb hangs the headline “Pakistan May Move Troops from Afghan to Indian Border.” Authored by Saed Shah, and promulgated by McClatchy Newspapers, the first paragraphs read thusly:

“Pakistan has warned that it will divert troops fighting the Taliban and al Qaida on its western border with Afghanistan to its eastern frontier with India, as tensions

over the terror attacks in Mumbai push India and Pakistan towards military confrontation.

“Washington may be forced to mediate as Indian officials declared that their country was being put on a virtual war footing. Indian officials have squarely blamed Pakistan while its media have reported detailed but unconfirmed accounts from unnamed security officials, that last week's assault on the commercial capital Mumbai was planned and launched from Pakistan.”

Apart from questions of fact and interpretation – such as the prefacing of “war footing” with the word “virtual,” there is one major league typo, or transcription error. Clearly “Washington may be forced to mediate...” should read “Washington may be forced to *meditate*.” Sic. Transit. Sic. ‘Em.

Before the snows.

Bombay. Some say the name is a wedding of the Portuguese masculine word for “good” and the English topographical noun signifying the embrace of sea by arms of land. Who knows?

December 3

The Great Conjunction of Monday Last. Venus, Jupiter and a waxing crescent moon, harmoniously triangulating in the south. And lo, a sweeping clear of what was predicted to be a cloudy sky.

Twa nights ago, December 1, 2008, an evening that will live in, and, when recalled, enliven, the geometry of the mind.

“China Shuns More Investment in West’s Finance Sector” headlines the a.m.’s virtual *Times*, before going on to equate the fate of capitalism with the survival of the planet twice – once in quotes, and once sans:

“HONG KONG – The chairman of China’s sovereign wealth fund said here on Wednesday that China had no plans for further investments in Western financial institutions, nor did it have any plans to ‘save’ the world through economic policies.

“The comments by Lou Jiwei, the chairman and chief executive of the China

Investment Corporation are the clearest signal yet that after sustaining heavy losses on initial investments in Blackstone Group, Morgan Stanley and Barclays, state-run Chinese institutions have no appetite for further purchases in this sector.

“Right now we do not have the courage to invest in financial institutions because we do not know what problems they may have,’ Mr. Lou said as part of a panel discussion on the second and final day of the Clinton Global Initiative conference here.

“Asked whether China might pursue economic policies aimed at saving the world, Mr. Lou said that the country’s leaders had a narrower focus. ‘China can only save herself...’”

Yet, comes an email from the Americas Society. If the attached photo is to be believed, Hu goes there. To Lima, that is.



*The Americas Society/Council of the Americas and the Asia Society
invite you to a panel discussion on:*

CHINA-LATIN AMERICAN RELATIONS

Implications for Trade and Development

Friday, December 5, 2008 New York

Panelists include:

- **Don Hanna**, Managing Director, Emerging Market Economic & Market Analysis, Citigroup
- **Kati Suominen**, International Trade Specialist, Inter-American Development Bank
- **John Delury**, Director, China Boom Project and Associate Director, Center on US-China Relations
- *Moderator: Christopher Sabatini*, Senior Director of Policy, AS/COA and Editor-in-Chief, *Americas Quarterly*

Registration and Continental Breakfast: 8:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.

Panel Discussion: 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Asia Society 725 Park Avenue (at 70th Street), New York, NY, 10065

December 4

As calculatingly as in EAP's "Casque of Amontillado," brick by brick the story of the Pakistani origins of the Bombay massacre are laid. Not forgetting the detailed, stamped metal cornicework of Israeli-American victimization. Who knows what, if any of the official reports are true, or who is really behind these murders. What is certain, though, is that yet again, we're witnessing a set-up. Like an algorithm playing out, that moment when internal number crunching paralyzes the action on the screen and a little clock appears to signify that the computer's "thinking." As ever, NPR and the public media outlets fall in behind their bigger, but no badder siblings, and along with other, less visible forces, they set about their task.

Which is to help manipulate India into attacking Pakistan, or preemptively vice-versa. The end's as transparent as the depth of evil that dreamed up the means – and it all absolutely accords with certain strategic players' hegemonic fantasies, regardless of what puppet sits behind the desk of the oval office. And there may be some advantage here for the Chinese too. Perhaps a really ugly story needs many authors.

Use, as Sunzi advises, other's knife to kill.

December 5

When France's currently reigning foreign-born queen was told about her adoptive country's vicissitudes, she reportedly responded: "Well then, let them eat CAC."

There is an order of pure constraint with which a bad community asserts itself against some of its wolves, but chiefly against all of its victims, and another order which emerges from the community itself, from its support and structure. In the first case, there is no real order at all, but only regulated or rather forcibly maintained disorder.

Said Bloch.

And further: *The freedom of acquisition by not becoming the freedom from acquisition manifestly ended in tyranny.*

Only 19 more trampling days to X-mas.

December 15

The shoes hurled round the world.

December 19

For days we'd read the unfolding melodrama of Bernard Madoff, and discussed, in myriad fora, the orgy of greed that would henceforth be associated with his name. But it took nearly a week before the *Times*, bless it's prune-like heart, informed us that here we'd been pronouncing his name all wrong, using a short "a" when really it was "MAY-doff" – thus transforming him into a character out of our own neo-Georgian *School for Scandal*. Poor Lady Teazle, now that Sir Peter's ruined! Lady Sneerwell, however, is in no danger of running out of Surfaces off which to ricochet. What to do then but laugh all the Lauder? If not to the bank.

And what rough beast, Heaven help us, is a Bluh-GOY-uh-vich?

December 20

NYT headline: “After Lifeline, Big 3 Are Still in Deep.” The sentence begs for a direct object as urgently GM and Chrysler plead for that perennial spare dime. So we readers supply a final noun from our personal treasury of associations. But wouldn’t it have been more fun if, instead of leaving the final metric foot to our devise, the gray lady had simply said \$#@!

That we’re in denial, that’s beyond a doubt. But which cataract are we approaching? Or is this the floodplain at last?

Boxing Day

Illuminating the latest in a series of globalist self-post-mortem articles upon which the *Times* has umbrella’d beneath the collective title *The Reckoning*, one encounters this image:



Pool photo by Goh Chai Hin

American trade and budget deficits have grown worse and Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson Jr., with President Hu Jintao of China, has not been able to allay the problem.

December 27

Power failure blacks out the entire island of Oahu, where President-Elect Obama is vacationing en famille. This according to an AP dispatch of 11:54 a.m. ET, which adds that “The cause of the outage is still being investigated.”

Flash on a locution that stuck in your head some years back during Clinton’s war on Serbia. Googlio and find the following CNN report, dateline Belgrade, May 3, 1999:

“...Overnight, airstrikes took on what NATO officials called a ‘new feature’ of bombing – striking at Yugoslavia’s power grid. Nearly three quarters of the country was plunged into darkness Sunday night when NATO bombs hit five power facilities.

“‘No power means no runway lights, no secure communications at all,’ said NATO spokesman Jamie Shea during the alliance’s regular briefing. ‘NATO has its finger on the light switch in Yugoslavia, and we can turn the power off when we need to and when we want to.’”

Ten minutes after the initial AP dispatch, the *Times*’s “Lede” runs a story headlined “In Hawaii, No Power to the People, But...”. And pithily, Liz Roberts commences her column “President-elect Barack Obama has yet to even assume power, but he suddenly lost it.”

We learn too that, supuestamente, the blackout was caused by “lightning surges.”

Old man Zeus – he’s at it again. Even as, in the midst of the Festival of Lights, the Israeli Air Force pummels Gaza, the carnage carried out with American F-16s, burning American-supplied jet fuel and firing American-made missiles.

“Israeli Gaza Strike Kills More Than 225.” A Sarajevo of sorts with Hamas police stations standing in for Franz Ferdinand. Trigger point for the grand clash of alliances. From here out, it’s all on rails, downhill. Do the American strategists and Israelis really imagine they can win the war they’ve begun against Islam? Or does this conflict, so long in the set-up, represent the flowering of a grand Judeo-Christian-Muslim death wish wherein the only role humanity can play is that of hostage?

December 28

Though the picture of the bomb-shattered Gaza streetscape takes up the *Post's* entire front page, one scarcely sees it, overwhelmed as it is by the four inch high headline: BLITZ.

When the high priests of Mamon rubbed sacred oil on the Free Market's tiny, wrinkled head, they wisely refrained from telling the congregation the infant's middle name: Fall.

December 29

As Israel's Chanukah carnage grows into the mid-three figures, and the airstrikes betoken an imminent Merkava (Hebrew for chariot) heavy armor attack, the *Pest* offers another four inch headline: HAMAS-CIDE.

But click anywhere, even BBC, and you'll see broken children being carried from the rubble.

"Israel," quoth the *Times* in a soi-disant News Analysis, "Reminds Us That It Has Teeth." Beneath which headline, a certain Ethan Bronner, dateline Jerusalem, asserts that: "Israel's military operation in Gaza is aimed primarily at forcing Hamas to end its rocket barrages and military buildup. But it has another goal as well: to expunge the ghost of its flawed 2006 war against Hezbollah in Lebanon and re-establish Israeli deterrence."

Ah, so that is how one expunges the ghost of one's "flawed war." By creating hundreds of new ghosts, each of whom will cry out the injustice of their murder, accomplished by means most foul, strange and unnatural: a rain of Raytheon Hellfire missiles fired from drones programmed by men turned golem – *Remember me!*

While in another *Times* article, this one datelined Washington, DC, Steven Lee Meyers and Helene Cooper report that "When President-elect Barack Obama went to Israel in July – to the very town, in fact, whose repeated shelling culminated in this weekend's new fighting in Gaza – he all but endorsed the punishing Israeli attacks now unfolding.

“If somebody was sending rockets into my house, where my two daughters sleep at night, I’m going to do everything in my power to stop that,’ he told reporters in Sderot, a small city on the edge of Gaza that has been hit repeatedly by rocket fire. “And I would expect Israelis to do the same thing.”

The very town. I would expect. Rockets to my house. Daughters sleep at night. Stop that.

That.

That which is hateful to you, do not do to your fellow: This is the whole of Torah – the rest is explanation. Go and learn.



Gaza, 12/29/08