

EPSTEIN/TRUMP/PELOSI

Moral degeneration among America's public elites is like poverty in India or Bangladesh - just when you think that you've seen the very worst you discover yet another layer of destitution below it.

Two stunning events this past week lifted the last veil. First, the Jeffrey Epstein scandal that revealed turpitude and moral squalor previously unseen from the occupants of the White House to the hallowed halls of Harvard. That is to say, not just the usual suspects. Then the Trump proclamation of his deep-seated racism and Fascistic instincts in his heinous assault on elected representatives who have the temerity to confront him in ways that he had never experienced from his otherwise *pusillanimous* opposition of Pelosi/Schumer.

This is not an epi-phenomenon - unique and peculiar to persons and place. The United States as a society has degraded itself - a process deepened and facilitated by its elites. Epstein was a fixture in that world of celebrity, a caste, which encompasses persons from all spheres of the privileged. The AOC affair was triggered by Nancy Pelosi in her interview with Maureen Dowd in the *NYT* in which she yielded to petty vanity and envy in a bout of catty nastiness reminiscent of the Orangutan himself. The response to Trump's Twitter storm is not adequate: a few boilerplate words about diversity being America's strength notwithstanding.

AOC and friends are bringing out the worst in many of us - as well as the best. Take a look at this exhibit. The following words were written by a

man of considerable distinction who held some of the highest positions in national Intelligence, and the US Army, and who oversees a much praised - well frequented - blog:

"IMO AOC is a revolutionary subversive sitting in the House of Representatives after having insincerely sworn to uphold and defend the Constitution of the US and laws legally enacted under it."

The Epstein affair, a sordid and criminal saga that encompasses 20 years of illicit conduct, epitomizes our celebrity culture. Celebrities in contemporary American (and Britain) are a privileged caste whose heteroclitic membership have license to do pretty much whatever they wish simply because they are celebrities. There are no strict criteria for entry into this exalted company, although money and fame however achieved are the key ingredients. Money however gained, fame through politics, finance, entertainment, or sport.

In that category are the powerful persons and institutions that participated in his heinous crimes and/or gave Jeffrey Epstein legal cover amounting to immunity from punishment in 2005-06. They may include occupants of the Oval Office. The *Times'* editors rushed into print (July 12) an exceptionally strongly worded editorial telling Congress to lay off the Epstein scandal on the specious grounds that the current legal proceedings in New York should suffice to see that justice be done. Moreover, they admonished: "Congress has more important things to do" But, that judicial activity is restricted to matters stipulated in the indictment – and very likely will not engage the

issue of political intervention or the role of celebrities. Moreover, prosecutors will be under tremendous pressure to keep the focus as narrow as possible and on Epstein alone. They will narrowly restrict the investigation and trial to Epstein's specific crimes without any reference to other persons - or, certainly, what happened in the cover-up between 2006-2008.

The Times followed up with a long story on Sunday July 14 that talked about all the celebrity associations that Epstein continued to cultivate. It notably made no mention of the Clintons even though Epstein was a founding donor to their foundation, Bill was a regular on Epstein's private jet "Lolita Flights" as they have been commonly referred to for at least 15 years, and Ghislaine Maxwell – Epstein's right-hand woman and de fact 'madam' in his criminal syndicate was an honored guest at Chelsea's wedding).

By Monday, the *Times'* editors can relegated the story to a curiosity item. Their one article on Epstein was a biographical account of his adolescence and stint as a NYC public school teacher. There were copious quotes from former students, fellow teachers, janitors and whomever. In other words, the typical "human interest' filler that substitutes for serious journalism. This "coming-of-age" piece is a classic diversion strategy of the *Times*. It was deployed to 'humanize' youthful neo-Nazis, to make torturer-in-chief Gina Haspel palatable, to vaunt Nikki Haley and to promote Joe Biden. It quite likely was calculating. After all, how could its reporters have tracked down all of those contemporaries of Epstein in 72 hours. The story may

well have been written years ago, kept in the file like the pre-cooked obituaries to be dug out on the occasion. They expected for years that the Lolita Express story they never bothered to pursue would surface one day. So it was prudent to have the burial squad ready.*

Epstein did make one, back door *NYT* appearance, in a piece on the forthcoming Israeli election that described the dilemma created for Ehud Barak (Netanyahu's challenger) by revelations that had been one of Epstein's cronies.

This kind of puerile treaty of an historic development helps create a favorable eco-system for monsters like Epstein and Trump. So long as our elites behave in the manner of the *NYT*, America will be prey to their predations.

An ONION-style report conveys the essence of celebrity treatment by the media;

Joshua EPSTEIN, companion of Presidents, is back in the celebrity spotlight. Now there are hints that he, Clinton, and Trump had a flying pinochle game at 30,000 feet on Epstein's private easy jet. Attention has focused on the youthful invitees who sat in as the fourth hand – and the group's outreach program that sought to introduce the game to young women from around the world. Devoted to the principle of diversity, they targeted a varied corps of blonds, brunettes and redheads from all ethnicities. This program was underwritten by grants from the William J & Hillary R Clinton Foundation, the Trump Trust, the Ukrainian mafia, the

Israeli mafia, the Roumanian mafia, the Albanian mafia and contributions by chumps like you.

On The Democratic Party Front

Nancy PELOSI has thrown down the gauntlet and come out fighting. From now on, it will be no holds barred & no prisoners. The target of her ferocious assault, Rep. Alexandra Ocatavio-Cortes, who responded on tweeter by saying – I paraphrase: "Nancy - compared to Montezuma , you're a pussycat. Please come back in 10 minutes; I never engage in combat until I finish dinner .' She then proceeded to prove it.

On Wednesday, Pelosi mobilized her forces within the Democratic Caucus. There, she was in full “Maureen Dowd” mode. She denounced the “squad” as a threat to Democratic unity, scolded them for criticizing other Democrats (as she had done to them in the *NYT* on Sunday), disparaged their electoral victories and constituents, and mocked them for thinking that 4 million Twitter follows means anything. AOC’s (“Even a glass of water could have won”) victory was over Representative Joe Crowley, long-time NYC machine politico and, by some accounts, Pelosi’s hand-picked successor to be. Mr. Crowley painlessly made a quick transfer to the Washington lobbying and law firm of Squire Patton Boggs.

At the end of the caucus meeting, Pelosi sought to heal the wounds she had freshly reopened, and asked a preacher to come forward and lead a prayer so that the rifts in the Democratic Party may be papered over a la a

Obama homily. No preacher came forward, as none were present, so Majority Whip James Clyburn, D-S.C., led the faithful. “His prayer was brief and powerful and incredibly well received,” said Hakeem Jeffries, D-N.Y., the caucus chair. “He simply prayed for a spirit of discernment, the spirit of being able to do the right thing and to move forward collectively.”

Reports do not tell us whether caucus members burst out in a raucous chorus of USA! USA! USA! so as to inoculate themselves against Republican charges that they were harboring pinkos. Whereas the GOP doesn't hesitate to cosset neo-Nazis and white supremacists, the Dems feel the need to publicly denounce elected Representatives who are simply New Dealers and immigration activists. The inability of the Party establishment to recognize this dramatic evidence of a generation-long political failure explains much about the state of the Democratic Party and the state of the country.

Pelosi concluded by proudly declaring “Every time I'm attacked, I raise **more money**,” looking directly at Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and drawing huge applause from the caucus. She failed to note that it's not just the money, it's what you do with it that counts. Hillary had more money than Trump in 2016. Moreover, her focused look at AOC betrays a remarkable absence of self-awareness. The latter does not see herself as in a competition to curry favor – and cash – from hedge fund predators, rapacious drug companies or mendacious Silicon Valley hustlers like Mark Zuck-coin.

Afterwards, Pelosi told reporters: “I don’t do regret” Obviously, you can’t do regret if you can’t do conviction.

Political suicide is an ugly business. That’s especially true when it’s the act of an entire party - the one which you’ve always sympathized with. The Democrats don’t even do us the courtesy of ending it all with a swift, clean stroke. Decisive action remains alien to them even at the finish line. They dither and drag it out for decades. Their excuse is that the other guys, too, have taken the path of self-extinction. So, maybe, it’s best to hold off as long as we can to avoid the bloody gore; indeed, maybe we can just hang on in our infirmed state as the last surviving embodiment of the faded American Dream.

This Theater of the Absurd pretty much sums up our dilemma. The country is being run – and run into the ground – by a clinical psychopath who leads a cult of neo- Fascists; they dominant the public discourse. Together, they already have deformed American political and economic institutions in ways that are likely to endure. We officially engage in mass kidnapping and abuse of children. Our celebrity elites number among consorts of Jeffrey Epstein whose heinous crimes they participate in as well as cover-up. There is a good chance that two men who have held the highest office in the land are among them. Yet, amidst all this, we are offered the spectacle of the threadbare Democratic Establishment invoking God to stuff a rag in the mouth of the few who speak the truth and urge that we act on it.

Shakespeare, in his tragedies, carved out brief scenes of comedy to alleviate the dramatic stresses. The Democrats have become the simple-minded comedy act that diverts us briefly while the tale hastens to its calamitous end.

In 2016, it looked like the Republicans beat us to it – a fatal thrust of the *hari-kari* blade. Never doubt the Democrats' dedication to miss an opportunity, though. They came through with emergency care, saved the would-be suicide victim against all odds – and then went on yet another retreat where they resumed the group discussion on how best to terminate themselves. So, here we are.

The Democratic Establish is like a radish – red on the outside, white on the inside. The Radish should be the party logo. Its two sided nature makes it very useful. Progressives can claim that it is organic: grown only with natural ingredients, cultivated by cooperatives that pay their workers \$20 per hour and prohibits work when the mercury reaches 90 degrees. Blue Dogs can confide to each other that the radish is grown in toxic saturated fields worked by exploited illegal Latinos who live in shacks. So, in the future voters will have a clear choice between Radishes and the Republican Chinos (Christians In Name Only). Complaints from any progressives who discover this bait-and-switch will be met by admonitions from Barack Obama that purists and positive change are mutually exclusive. To preserve our freedoms, like the 4th Amendment, it's best that you don't overuse it. Then, we all can sit around the campfire in unity and roast potatoes together – without asking as to whether they're organic. **

Why does the Democratic Establishment attack AOC so ferociously? To do so even though it makes no logical sense either in terms of legislative politics or the 2020 election? That's not hard to figure out – for she threatens them in a variety of ways. She is more intelligent, better informed, far more articulate than they are – and she has convictions. The last is most disturbing. To go beyond striking an attitude to actually doing something marks her as a fanatic in their eyes. They, for their part, are the antithesis: shop-worn, self-important hacks whose failure rate over the years is dismayingly high. She, by the very act of opening her mouth, reveals that truth for the world. It also undercuts their assiduous efforts to conceal it from themselves.

As for Nancy Pelosi herself, the venomous personal assaults reflect a detestation that goes beyond political differences *per se*. To get at the reasons for this vituperation, we have to drop to a pretty primitive level. Pelosi's self-image is that of the homecoming queen *cum* Empress. Suddenly, out of the blue comes this Puerto Rican kid from the Bronx who looks like she stepped out of her Yorktown high school's production of *West Side Story*. She grabs the limelight, effortlessly it seems, and threatens to upstage her. Pelosi is the daughter of a former Congressman and Mayor of Baltimore as was her brother; politics is in her blood. She thinks that she's the ultimate wheeler-dealer. AOC implicitly and unintentionally tells her that she's anything but. (Pelosi has been deified by Paul Krugman as “the greatest Speaker of the House ever” – one can only

wonder how many privileged dinners with D.C.'s movers-and-shakers equal one endorsement by a Nobel winner).

Pelosi believes that she has been laboring in the liberal vineyard all these decades; now they're throwing shade on her as a sell-out. Pelosi, a life-long practicing Catholic with 5 children, has no doubts that she is on the side of virtue. AOC is young, single, no children and likely an atheist yet she holds a moral mirror before her. Pelosi is immensely rich; she and her husband live in San Francisco's most exclusive enclave community abutting the Presidio, where house prices range between \$20 – 30 million. Diane Feinstein is one of her neighbors. AOC springs from a working class, half immigrant family that struggled financially. She worked part-time as a Manhattan bartender before running for Congress. Finally, Pelosi is a strikingly beautiful woman who always had been the diva for all occasions. Now at 79, she looks her age despite the cosmetic surgery and glares at the trim, shapely Caribbean woman with that lovely year-round natural sun tan. Where have all the flowers gone? That's why Pelosi has refused to talk to her since January.

Is this last point 'sexist?' No –it only is a part of the complex truth. Isn't that obvious?

If the 'squad' and other progressives were really after Pelosi's skin, they would employ far more drastic methods. There is a lot of heavy artillery at their disposal. Let's remember that Pelosi has been an ardent back of the War on Terror in all its manifestations ever since 2001. She never has criticized the huge costs of Iraq and Afghanistan that have inflicted untold damage on ourselves and others. She asks no questions about our

continued military presence there and in 68 other countries. It took her 3 years to utter a peep against the U.S. participation in the slaughter of Houthis in Yemen. Furthermore, her record on civil liberties is just as dismal. Pelosi was a founding member of that small coterie of high officials that conspired to launch massive surveillance of Americans in full awareness that it was illegal and unconstitutional. That was in 2002. It was bipartisan and involved persons from all three branches of government. The plan was instigated by Dick Cheney and the program directed by Michael Hayden, then Director of the National Security Agency. The ensuing activities constituted impeachable offenses, and probably were criminal. Three successive presidents decided not to attend to the matter. The whole affair was first exposed by James Risen of the *NYT* in his 2006 book after the editors had suppressed the story for nearly three years. ([*State of War: The Secret History of the CIA and the Bush Administration*](#). New York: [Simon & Schuster](#) 2008 Chapter 8) It has been confirmed by numerous sources in various places since. Pelosi never has addressed her role in this criminal activity.

Anyway, as Barack Obama might say: that's water under the bridge, let's turn the page to get closure - going forward.

If AOS and friends really 'had it in' for Pelosi, they would not abstain from using this highly combustible material. Their aim, though, is to promote a progressive agenda and for the Democrats to regain its standing as the country's predominant party. And is it unpatriotic to raise a few long

overdue questions about our crazier, politically suicidal actions in the Middle East?

The disproportionate number of 'blue dog,' conservative Democrats in the House is due in good part to Pelosi's misjudgments. Over the past 20 years, she consistently has promoted candidates of that hue – systematically weeding out progressives. In this, she leaned on the advice of Rahm Emanuel- the notorious former Mayor of Chicago under whose rule the police ran clandestine 'black sites' where unconvicted 'enemy combatants' were abused.. In his heyday, he was a power – as a Congressman who had Pelosi's ear (holding two Democratic leadership positions, serving as the chair of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee from 2005 to 2007, and as the chair of the House Democratic Caucus, from 2007 to 2009). Before that he had been a personal adviser to Bill Clinton in the White House. He returned to the White House when appointed as Barack Obama's abrasive Chief-of-Staff. He despised 'progressives,' belittled them to the point of shouting obscenities at them, derided them by name at every turn, shunned them and did all within his considerable power to block the candidacies of anyway who opposed Clinton's right-turn, the Iraq War, NAFTA, Obama's embrace of Wall Street and endless concessions to the rightest Republican Congress. The result of this misbegotten strategy has been to ensconce a reactionary Republican Party as the dominant force in American politics at every level. Pelosi was his close collaborator throughout.

The Trump-led Republican Party has declared war on Democrats, on liberals, on all people of color and on the nation's foundation principles rooted in law and custom. This week's events are the firing on Fort Sumter. There have been forays, provocations and power grabs for the past 30 years. Most of us were blinkered in our failure to appreciate the stakes or to see what they portended. The Democratic Party Establishment in particular has been culpable of gross sins of non-feasance. Now, they are unprepared to act as war leaders or commanders – in terms of temperament, skills and experience. Pelosi, Schumer et al are simply not cut out for what's to come. They cannot marshal and lead the requisite forces. Nor is a Joe Biden who still can congratulate himself for being patronized by Jim Eastland who addressed the 40 year-old Senator as 'son.'

This does not auger well.

The craven chorus already is audible. Yesterday, CNN's liberal anchors agreed with a *NYT* op ed page Observer that Trump had set a trap for the Democrats. That he wants to run against the 'squad' – therefore, they and the Democrats generally should 'cool it' lest they provoke the mob shouting "send her back." They are urged to concentrate on policy issues and distance themselves from the furor. This is the counsel of fear; it lacks logic. If 50% of American voters get a vicarious thrill from hearing the rage of racists, neo-fascists, Christian jihadis and anomic morons, then the game is lost whatever you do. They're already provoked. If, instead, Trump's hard-core base is 10-15% of the electorate (the rest of his support from died-in-the-wool Republicans and the rich/special interests who profit from his

policies), the election next year is yours for the taking since all those combined are well short of 50%. You attack across the board and you exploit the backlash of those repelled by the rise of American fascism.

Let's recall that the 'cool it' strategy was followed by the Social Democrats in Germany in 1933-34; it didn't work out very well. Hitler never won a much as a third of the ballots – losing some votes in the last election. Triumph of the Will brought him to power. Trump and his mob have the Will – what does the opposition have?

(There is a straightforward way for the Democrats to foil Trump's scheme to make the 'squad' his target for 2020: a couple of white male members of the progressive caucus – 70+ in all – should join them for a press conference. Tactical political sense?)

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***What's the true Epstein story? I'd bet on this version- if I had to. It also explains the high level intervention that in effect gave him immunity in 2006. Clinton? Trump? Prince Andrew? CIA/FBI?**

A Plausible Theory Of What Jeffrey Epstein Was Actually Doing

Moon Of Alabama

Jeffrey Epstein thread

A question that no one could so far answer is how Epstein got as rich as he appears to be. A person who calls himself Quantian has an interesting theory of what Epstein was actually doing.

Here is the short version:

Epstein offered the post puberty teenyboppers he seduced and/or bribed to the rich people he knew. He invited lots of interesting people - artists, scientists, politicians, rich businessman - to his exclusive parties. There were always these young girls around. There was always a free bedroom. There were also cameras in place. When one of the rich guys messed with a girl Epstein would blackmail him.

But instead of taking cash he asked them for investments in his offshore hedge fund. For someone who owns billions it is peanuts to put a few dozen millions into a fund. It is legal. The money isn't gone. It will even bear interests.

Epstein is not known for having done much currency trades or other larger Wall Street transactions. His company is small, he didn't work a lot. It is likely he mostly re-invested the money in a simple index stock fund which follows the S&P 500. Those type of funds brought over the years quite a good profit.

Epstein would have taken the typical hedge fund fee of 2/20 which is 2% of the investment per year plus 20% of the profits. The hedge fund would be

completely legal and there would be no tax troubles. The entrapped people would simply have to stay invested to keep Epstein quiet and the video tapes off the broadsheet market. Some billionaires might have invested upfront to gain access to the girls.

For Epstein the scheme would have been a very elegant way to pursue his personal 'hobby' while creating an ever growing income.

Quantian's theory sounds very plausible to me. It conforms with everything that is publicly known about Epstein and about what he was doing. It does not require any additional conspiracy theory about Mossad/Mafia/CIA involvement. But it also doesn't exclude that there is some.

Another metaphorical image comes to mind. It's high noon in Dodge City. The prairie wind is kicking up the dust and sends the tumbleweed rolling down main street in front of the Long Branch Salon, Sheriff Matt Dillon walks with heavy step toward the arch villain The Jalapeno Kid – the orange sicario from Nuevo Laredo. Hands a few inches from the butt of their revolvers they stare at each other in the confrontation that will make or break the West. Suddenly, Dillon dashes through the swinging doors of the Long Branch to breathlessly tell Kitty: "I need a lemonade...make that a double!". He then pulls out his Smartphone, and his quavering voice is heard: "Get me Bob Mueller – or, if he's busy deposing some Russian– Barack Obama. I need him urgently to mediate a dispute, to find some common ground." Doc pulls out his stethoscope...."