



"No" Vember

"We have seen the enemy and he is us". (Pogo)

"Here in the United States of Samsara, ignorance is the status quo". (Noah Levine)

"Perhaps, we have not been listening to the cries of our world with ears of wisdom and determination." (Roshi Pat Enkyo O'Hara)

" For darkness restores what the light cannot repair". (Joseph Brodsky, " On Love")

Now that our vulgar, fear mongering, 2016 presidential election is finally over and with the victory of Donald Trump, we find ourselves somewhere between Upton Sinclair's, "It Can't Happen Here" and the warning often attributed to Sinclair Lewis: "When Fascism comes to America, it will be cloaked in patriotism and waving a cross."

Fascism, to be clear, can be defined as a fusion of corporate and state interests in which individual human beings are merely cogs in the wheels of an authoritarian regime, fueled by the jingoistic ethos of "my country right or wrong". Moreover, we find ourselves in an era of weaponized religion where slick Orwellian trolls have succeeded in fusing our American flag with a belligerent iconography of signs, symbols, and other images of imperial hegemony. Our Pledge of Allegiance now carries the religious power of the Lord's Prayer of Christianized Fascism. Police and military willingly serve as foot soldiers for the corporate leviathan with politics looking ever more like staged psychodrama, launched in unending whirlpools of media disinformation in service of full-spectrum dominance. Signs and symptoms of our

collective insanity are everywhere and it is becoming increasingly difficult to ignore the shape-shifting shadows gathering in this dull November twilight.

If there is any good news within this sudden and shocking turn of events, we can at least be assured that the corrupt, war mongering Bush/Clinton cabal won't be carrying on with business as usual. Amongst the predictable cries for hope and unity and a need to shine a light brighter than this spreading darkness; spiritual storyteller and Harvard educated scholar of comparative religion Vera De Chalambert, offers a different message for this political moment. Paradoxically, the price of genuine hope is being unsettled beyond repair, and instead of running for the light, we now allow ourselves to fully venture into the dark. Cutting off the inconvenient is a form of spiritual fascism and in resolving to remain only in the light, we risk emotional deportation. Our fears, anger, heartbreak and feelings of helplessness and revulsion are all appropriate; in need of contact and a place to rest.

The essence of darkness, the ultimate formlessness of Yin, is a field of receptivity that hosts everything, without exception. Mystics tell us that we need spiritual crises and that we must enter into the Cloud of Unknowing; profound darkness and deep uncertainty, the Dark Night of the soul where illusions are broken and truth awaits. (rebellesociety.com, November 11, 2016)

Many of us felt the dark reclaiming its place, with the recent passing of 82 year old Canadian singer and songwriter Leonard Cohen. Shortly after leaving us with his final and most spiritually attuned album, "You Want It Darker", so in keeping with his earlier message;" Forget your perfect offering/There is a crack in everything/cracks are where the light gets in". As Cohen and other wisdom keepers offer a shift that occurs in the system, (especially one that generates fear and discomfort), we see that it creates space for something strikingly different to emerge in service of our evolution as a people. The nature of this process, as such, is that we won't know where we are going until we get there. (Zenjo Earthlyn Manuel).