

To the Editor February 3, 2020

Profiles in Cowardice

The story of America is a story of heroism, but also of our own cowardly tragedies.

We Americans who reside in these United States of America, unless indigenous or transported here and enslaved, are the descendants of the DNA that had the courage to choose to leave famine, religious intolerance, militarism, and wars.

We are the DNA of those who left their homes to search for something better. Those who did not leave, or survive the arduous trips to their escape points likely died, their DNA gone.

We are the DNA of those who survived horrendous trips to America across oceans, deserts, and frozen tundra. Those who did not survive these trips are dead, their DNA gone.

We are the DNA of those who came here with nothing and built lives and families. They did this without the support of parents, siblings, uncles, aunts or cousins. Those who did not are dead, their DNA gone.

Those of us here now have the DNA of these immigrants and are capable of most anything, both the incredible and the incredulous.

That includes original sins, not the supernatural magical thinking ones, but rather real affronts to our insistence of our own humanity. Americans, like all other human beings are inherently neither good nor evil, but display an equal capacity for both.

Those descendants of those natively here, the ten percent not killed in our original genocide, have ancestors that have protected Mother Earth for thousands of years, and yet we have almost destroyed it in a few hundred. They continue to have the courage of their convictions. Water is life.

Those millions enslaved here have done much to overcome racial imprisonment, institutional death penalties, bigotry, lynching, and discrimination, which continue today. They continue to have the courage of their convictions. Black lives do matter.

From a single bomb that killed hundreds of thousands of Asian civilians, to our endless wars that continue to kill, torture, and imprison millions of Muslim civilians, our sins requiring atonement are many. Redemption is always possible, but redemption requires putting in the difficult but not impossible work to fix the mistakes of the past.

Yet even now in our full and unobstructed view, our politicians and leaders continue to exhibit "Profiles in Cowardice" by trying to split the baby, hide under rocks, stick their heads in the sand, and take both sides of issues. They preside over the loss of the fundamental operating system of our once great democracy...the rule of law. They preside over and facilitate the destruction of our planet. They preside over and actively seek the economic destruction of and theft from the majority of our citizens. They preside over and animate the division of our solidarity as Americans. They actively advocate and acknowledge the cheating in elections to empower the minority.

We Americans actually agree on far more than on which we disagree. Despite the influence and activism of these societal dividers, we can and do cooperate with each other on a daily basis.

I now fully understand why John F. Kennedys' political essay "Profiles in Courage" was a small single volume book.

From the Courthouse to the Whitehouse, we need to vote these un-American cowards out of their offices this spring and this fall. We need go all *political Darwinian* on those who vote against the will of the majority. This is ultimately, how we improve the gene pool of our leaders. More at www.tcw.org.

"There is no legacy as rich as honesty." — William Shakespeare, All's Well That Ends Well