



November 2013

"These Are the Times That Try Men's Souls."

Dear friend of Radio Liberty,

"[M]an is by nature a being intended to live in a polis [or city]. He who is without a polis, by reason of his own nature and not of some accident, is either a poor sort of being, or a being higher than man; he is like the man of whom Homer said in denunciation: 'Clanless and lawless and heartless is he.'" Aristotle (1)

"To prove that these sort of policed societies are a violation offered to nature ... it needs only to look upon the sanguinary measures, and instruments of violence, which are everywhere used to support them. Let us take a review of the dungeons, whips, chains, racks, gibbets with which every society is abundantly stored, by which hundreds of victims are annually offered up to support a dozen or two in pride and madness, and millions in abject servitude, and dependence. There was a time when I looked with reverential awe on these mysteries of policy, but age, experience, and philosophy have rent the veil; and I view this sanctum sanctorum ... without any enthusiastic admiration." Edmund Burke (2)

Ethan Couch doesn't deny that he was driving while intoxicated when he caused a crash that killed four people. That was an act of criminal homicide, but Ethan's attorneys insisted that the 16-year-old, who comes from a wealthy family in Fort Worth, Texas, suffers from a condition known as "affluenza" – a lack of moral discipline resulting from a privileged background in which he was not taught the rational connections between behavior and consequences.

Testifying on behalf of the defense, psychologist G. Dick Miller blamed Ethan's parents for giving him “freedoms no young person should have.” Before the murderous joyride last June, Couch had previously been given a ticket by local police after he had been found in a parked pickup truck with an unconscious, naked 14-year-old girl. (3) Facing a 20-year prison sentence, Couch was given ten years’ probation, during which time he will be given “therapy” in an expensive – and very comfortable – facility in California.

Among those killed by Couch were Hollie Boyles and her daughter, Shelby, who had come to the aid of a woman whose car had broken down on the side of the road. Brian Jennings, a pastor, saw the group on the side of the road and stopped to help. They were rendering compassionate service when the intoxicated teenager lost control of his truck which careened into them. In addition to the four who were killed by Couch, two passengers in his vehicle were injured, one of them left paralyzed and unable to speak.

“There are absolutely no consequences for what occurred that day,” protested Eric Boyles after Couch was spared prison time. **“The primary message has to absolutely be that money and privilege [can] buy justice in this country.”** (4)

Couch’s defense was that he was, in some sense, a victim – morally handicapped because of his material comforts: **“Yes, I’m a pathologically spoiled child who killed people, but since I’m spoiled I can’t be held responsible.”**

This defense is close kindred to the one offered in the parable of the child who murdered his parents, and then begged for clemency on the grounds that he was an orphan. A variant of that defense was offered, unsuccessfully, by the sociopathic Menendez brothers who murdered their parents, (5) but perhaps the most cynical version of that defense was presented in the notorious Leopold-Loeb murder case in Chicago, during which Clarence Darrow represented the killers, who – like Couch – were scions of wealthy and powerful families. Richard Loeb was the son of a retired Sears Roebuck vice president; at the time of the murder, he was preparing to enter Harvard Law School. Nathan Leopold was the son of a millionaire box manufacturer; Loeb, who was a student of philosophy, and was seen by Leopold – with whom he had a homosexual relationship – as the embodiment of Nietzsche’s “superman.” (6)

Deeply immersed in "nihilistic philosophy," Leopold and Loeb disdained the moral law as something that applied to lesser beings than themselves. Leopold wanted to commit the “perfect crime.” Their original plan involved kidnapping and murdering a wealthy child. Their selected victim was 14-year-old Bobby Franks, whom they killed with a chisel. After burning the victim’s lifeless body with hydrochloric acid and disposing of it in a drainage ditch, the killers sent a ransom note to the young man’s parents. The boy’s mortal remains were found through the intervention of what an investigator called “the

hand of God at work in this case." The murderers were identified and eventually confessed and pleaded guilty.

Representing the confessed killers in a sentencing hearing, Clarence Darrow built his case for a punishment other than death by insisting that the moral sense of the two young men had been abraded away through alcohol abuse, sexual deviancy, and prolonged exposure to nihilism.

Darrow's summation was a masterpiece of cynical sophistry that depicted the killers – and everybody else — as helpless material artifacts of an indifferent nature who should be pitied, rather than punished. Clarence Darrow proclaimed:

“Nature is strong and she is pitiless. She works in mysterious ways, and we are her victims. We have not much to do with it ourselves. Nature takes this job in hand, and we only play our parts. In the words of old Omar Khayyam, ‘we are only impotent pieces in this game; He plays upon this checkerboard of nights and days, hither and thither moves, and checks, and slays, and one by one back in the closet lays.’ What had this boy to do with it? He was not his own father, he was not his own mother....All of this was handed to him. He did not surround himself with governesses and wealth, he did not make himself. And yet he was compelled to pay.... Tell me that you can visit the wrath of fate and chance and life and eternity upon a nineteen-year-old boy!”

Leopold and Loeb were spared the noose, and sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. Twelve years into his sentence, Loeb was killed by an inmate who claimed to be defending himself against a sexual advance. Leopold was paroled thirty-four years into his sentence, eventually dying of natural causes in Puerto Rico. (7) There is nothing novel about the spectacle of privileged people being spared the consequences of their evil behavior. Psalm 73 notes:

“And they say, How doth God know? And is there knowledge in the most High? Behold, these are the ungodly, who prosper in the world; they increase in riches. Verily I have cleaned my heart in vain, and washed my hands in innocence. For all the day long have I been plagued, and chastened every morning.” (Ps. 73: 11-14)

Anybody familiar with the exploits of the Kennedy clan knows that justice is routinely perverted on behalf of the elite. What is striking about the case of Ethan Couch is the way that this kind of impunity was enjoyed by a youngster who is wealthy, but not otherwise distinguished. The same public that is titillated by degenerate celebrities, and that has long since become inured to the amorality of the ruling elite, was scandalized (and properly so) by the leniency granted to Ethan Couch.

Amusement park patrons will often see signs informing children of minimum height requirements for certain attractions, as in **“You must be this tall to ride the bumper cars.”** In a similar fashion, there seems to be a minimum privilege requirement for people seeking immunity for certain criminal behavior. This exemption has become commonplace for public officials. Law enforcement officers, for example, enjoy a spurious privilege called “qualified immunity” that protects them from criminal conduct – such as assault, unnecessary use of lethal force, and deception – carried out in their official capacity. (8) Prosecutors who convict innocent people through concealment of evidence or subornation of perjury enjoy “perfect immunity” in most jurisdictions, under a recent Supreme Court ruling. (9)

One illustration of the all-but-impregnable immunity enjoyed by prosecutors is offered by the case of the former Williamson County District attorney, Ken Anderson, who recently spent five days in jail for obstruction of justice. What was Ken Anderson's crime? Three decades ago he prosecuted a man named Michael Morton for murder, and secured a conviction by suppressing exculpatory evidence that proved Morton was innocent. What happened? Morton served a quarter-century in prison: he was recently released when DNA evidence proved he didn't commit the crime. What happened to Ken Anderson? He became a District Judge, and remained in that position until he was forced to resign because a court determined he suppressed evidence that proved Morton was innocent. (10)

It's difficult to tell if those calling themselves our leaders have corrupted society, or if their corruption is simply a reflection of our own societal sickness. Since the time of ancient Babylon, rulers have been worshiped as deities. In imperial Rome, as described by the satirist Juvenal and the historian Tacitus, this form of idolatry was extended to athletes and other performers, thereby creating what could be considered the first celebrity culture.

The cult of celebrity is the unofficial – yet ubiquitous – religion of our contemporary culture. The advent of social media – which is a qualified blessing, given that it decentralizes the collection and dissemination of news, a very healthy development – has abetted an epidemic of narcissism by encouraging the masses to seek a celebrity. Through YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, Vine, and especially “reality TV,” the public has been presented with a modern refinement of the lying promise hissed by the Serpent of Eden: Celebrity-worshippers are told that they can become like the “gods” they adore, enjoying notoriety and, perhaps, absolution from personal responsibility.

Idolatry is the defining sin of the human condition, which is why the first Great Commandment requires that we acknowledge our Creator – if only by admitting that we are *not* random accidents of nature in an unsupervised universe, as Clarence Darrow claimed in his defense of Leopold and Loeb. That recognition is necessary in order to love ourselves as our Creator intended. That variety of self-love entails a refusal to

indulge transient appetites that undermine –and eventually destroy – our physical health, and ruin our souls.

The second Great Commandment requires that we recognize that every human being is as important as every other, in terms of the protection of individual rights and the dignity of the individual person. Even those of us who are far gone in destructive self-indulgence usually need little if any prompting to value ourselves. The Second Commandment and the Golden Rule require that we value others as we do ourselves, and be just as zealous in defending their rights as we are in asserting our own.

Unless we live at a strict reserve from society – like Thoreau at Walden Pond, or Simon Stylites in his tower – each of us is part of a family and a *polis*. We are bound by natural law – which is written inescapably on our hearts — to practice the second Great Commandment. Where Aristotle erred in speaking of a man without a city being either a beast or a god is in his failure to understand that in the City of Man, the most prominent and powerful – the ones who administer what Burke called the “mysteries of policy” — claim to be god-like, while being beast-like in their behavior.

References

- (1) Aristotle, *The Politics*, Book I, Chapter 2, 8-9.
- (2) Edmund Burke, *A Vindication of Natural Society* (1756); accessible at http://oll.libertyfund.org/index.php?option=com_staticxt&staticfile=show.php%3Ftitle=850
HYPERLINK
"http://oll.libertyfund.org/index.php?option=com_staticxt&staticfile=show.php%3Ftitle=850&layout=html"& HYPERLINK
"http://oll.libertyfund.org/index.php?option=com_staticxt&staticfile=show.php%3Ftitle=850&layout=html"
HYPERLINK
"http://oll.libertyfund.org/index.php?option=com_staticxt&staticfile=show.php%3Ftitle=850&layout=html"
HYPERLINK
- (3) “Outrage follows probation for teen who killed four in crash,” WFAA News, December 10, 2013.
- (4) Texas teen Ethan Couch gets 10 years’ probation for driving drunk, killing 4,” CNN, December 12, 2013.
- (5) For a brief summary of the Menendez Brothers case, see [http://content.time.com/time/specials/packages/article/0,28804,1900368_1900369_1900305,00.html\(6](http://content.time.com/time/specials/packages/article/0,28804,1900368_1900369_1900305,00.html(6)
) A detailed overview of the Leopold-Loeb case can be found here — <http://law2.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/leoploeb/accountoftrial.html>
- (7) Ibid.
- (8) For a discussion of “qualified immunity,” see -- <http://freedominourtime.blogspot.com/2013/10/qualified-immunity-license-to-commit.html>
- (9) “The Supreme Court Stands Tall for Misbehaving Prosecutors” by Scott Horton, Harper’s magazine, April 1, 2011.
- (10) “Anderson gets jail for wrongful conviction of Michael Morton,” KVUE News, November 8, 2013.

Written by William Grigg

I believe Thomas Paine was correct, in 1776, when he wrote:

"These are the times that try men's souls"

A similar situation exists today. Why? The U.S. monetary system is on the verge of collapse.

The views of a number of reliable financial analysts are cited below.

John Williams is an independent financial analyst, and has been a guest on Radio Liberty on several occasions. When I interviewed him on December 12, 2013, he stated that **he believes there will be a major financial event during the first or second quarter of 2014.**

Ambrose Evans Pritchard was a frequent guest on Radio Liberty when he was stationed in the United States. At the present time he works for the (London) Telegraph, and, on December 14, 2013, he wrote:

"(The) Eurozone (is) in danger of Japanese-style deflation that will cripple Club Med nations as (the) money supply drops to record low levels....The ECB's (European Central Bank)....Financial Stability Review warned that bond tapering by the US Federal Reserve could lead to an interest rate shock, with a sharp rise in bond yields. Yet it has been slow to mitigate the dangers with pre-emptive stimulus."

The following quotations come from a recent article by **Michael Snyder**:

Harry Dent wrote a book titled **"The Great Depression Ahead."** He believes:

"Our best long-term and intermediate cycles suggest another slowdown and stock crash accelerating between very early 2014 and early 2015, and possibly lasting well into 2015 or even 2016. The worst economic trends due to demographics will hit between 2014 and 2019..."

Marc Faber publishes **The Gloom, Boom, & Doom Report**. He wrote:

"I see a bubble in everything that relates to the financial sector."

Gerald Celente publishes **The Trends Journal**. He wrote:

"Any self-respecting adult that hears McConnell, Reid, Boehner, Ryan...and buys this baloney, ...they deserve what they get. And as for the international scene... the whole thing is collapsing. That's our forecast. We are saying that

by the second quarter of 2014, we expect the bottom to fall out...or something to divert our attention as it falls out."

Mike Maloney, a well know financial talk-show host, stated:

"I think the crash of 2008 was just a speed bump on the way to the main event...the consequences are gonna be horrific... the rest of the decade will bring us the greatest financial calamity in history."

Jim Rogers, a wealthy investor and former associate of George Soros, recently stated:

"You saw what happened in 2008-2009, which was worse than the previous economic setback because the debt was so much higher. Well now the debt is staggeringly much higher, and so the next economic problem, whenever it happens and whatever causes it, is going to be worse than in the past, because we have these unbelievable levels of debt, and unbelievable levels of money printing all over the world. Be worried and get prepared. Now it (a collapse) may not happen until 2016 or something, I have no idea when it's going to happen, but when it comes, be careful."

Russell Napier, who works for a company that provides investment advice, wrote:

"We are on the eve of a deflationary shock which will likely reduce equity valuations from very high to very low levels."

Howard Marks works for Oaktree Capital, He wrote:

"Certainly risk tolerance has been increasing of late; high returns on risky assets have encouraged more of the same; and the markets are becoming more heated. The bottom line varies from sector to sector, but I have no doubt that markets are riskier than at any other time since... 2008 (for credit) or early 2009 (for equities), and they are becoming more so."

Jeff Berwick is a respected financial writer. He wrote:

"If they allow interest rates to rise, it will effectively make the U.S. government bankrupt and insolvent, and it would make the U.S. government collapse....They are preparing for a major societal collapse. It is obvious and it will happen, and it will be very scary and very dangerous."

Michael Pento, the CEO of Pento Portfolio Strategies, wrote:

"Disappointingly, it is much more probable that the government has brought us out of the Great Recession, only to set us up for the Greater Depression, which lies just on the other side of interest rate normalization."

Professor Laurence Kotlikoff, who teaches Economics at Boston University, wrote:

"Eventually somebody recognizes this and starts dumping the bonds, and interest rates go up, and inflation takes off , and we're off to the races."

Hugo Salinas Price is a Mexican billionaire. He wrote:

"I think we are going to see a series of bankruptcies. I think the rise in interest rates is the fatal sign which is going to ignite a derivatives crisis. This is going to bring down the derivatives system (and the financial system). There are (over) one quadrillion dollars of derivatives and most of them are related to interest rates. The spiking of interest rates in the United States may set that off. What is going to happen in the world is eventually we are going to come to a moment where there is going to be massive bankruptcies around the globe."

How can you protect yourself and your family? Remove your funds from the stock market, diversify your assets, avoid dollar-related assets, and rely on Jesus Christ.

Why is God going to allow the destruction of our monetary system? I believe He is going to bring His judgment on our nation.

Barbara and I appreciate your faithful support, and your continued prayers.

Yours in Christ,

Stanley Monteith