

Narcissus at Home in Trump Tower

by *Stanford J. Searl, Jr.*

Introduction: The Elephant in our Quaker Meeting Room

The July-August, 2017 issue of *Western Friend* focused upon “Politics” touched heart and soul and mind, reminding me how the Quaker commitment to love is not really enough in this age of Trump.

I think that my Quaker community in Santa Monica has created a flexible, elastic container to hold participants and others in love and care. In many ways, this emphasis upon community and its caring and love pushes back against – or is a form of resistance to – the dominant ethos of fame, fortune and success associated with greater Los Angeles. This is a huge challenge and puts enormous pressures on the fabric of this Quaker community and its practices. Whatever we end of doing in support of community participants, it’s not enough. We need good, creative, spiritually important work; we are searching together for supportive alternatives to competition and violence, open to affirming our common humanity and love.

Being together, serving on committees, visiting others, meeting together, loving one another through education and service, all of these activities are wonderful and yet not nearly enough. Our elephant in the room is the Trump administration and its practices and corruption. It’s so bad, so evil, and so terrible, that it’s hard to talk about it. After all, this Quaker community is one that assumes there’s that of the Divine in everyone, including a corrupt liar such as the President. We do believe a million things; but, what ties us together is a commitment to the practices of the First Great Commandment that we love the Divine, God, the Spirit, the Light, whatever we choose to name her, with all of our hearts and bodies and souls and minds and our neighbors as ourselves. That’s it.

One of our founders, George Fox, said it in his *Journal* how “you will come to walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in everyone.” That’s it.

The challenge is to apply these wonderful values about the potential for the Inner Light, the Inner Spirit and God within all, to the sycophantic minions of the Trump administration and to the President himself. We need direct and immediate intervention from the Spirit to help and sustain us. Is it really possible to do this? Together, we must pray for healing inside the heart and soul of President Trump.

I really want to pray for the current President and hold him in my heart of love and healing. I will continue to do so and will try to call upon my fellow Quakers to do so; in the meantime, a poem leaked out of the prayerful worship silence:

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An elaborately coiffured President Trump
stooped over the fountain in the midst of his 66th floor penthouse tower,
mesmerized by a golden shimmering within the still water

seized by his own rippling self-reflection
and for a moment – now elongated into hours –
unable to move, even though his body started to ache

from bending over his dreamy image,
floating into his own watery, lovely self.
Kellyanne Conway couldn't seem to find him

as she just wanted to talk, to be reassured,
now wandering into the living area
amidst its gold and marble décor

with the bronzed statue of Eros and Psyche
seeming to gaze up at the crown molding
accentuated with its 24 karat gold flakes

as the President stooped-over the fountain's quiet water,
contemplating a golden crown that reflected back only himself --
but oh, what a self, so intimate, perfect and grand.

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