

Yankee Steve's Column

for the Week of October 30, 2008

An American Success Twisted into Tragedy

Rags to Riches Success

Talk show host Oprah Winfrey is quite possibly the richest black woman in the world. Her accomplishments indicate that beneath the smiling face she wears for television, there is a determined woman, a fierce competitor, and an intelligent soul. Oprah has not just been lucky; she is the epitome of the American dream.

Ms. Winfrey can be of service to us because she proves that Capitalism is after all the best system for gaining wealth. So why is she supporting Barack Obama for president when anyone can see that he is a Socialist?

To answer that, we must remember that Socialism is the wealthy man's solution to poverty and need. The leading Socialists of America (FDR, Roger Baldwin, etc.) have more often than not come from the upper classes. Their philosophy is that of President Lyndon B. Johnson, another prosperous man, "**We are going to take all the money we think is being unnecessarily spent, and take it from the haves and give it to the have-nots.**" [Human Events, 2/18/64, quoted in the *New York Daily News*]

Redistribution of wealth is what Obama is all about, and I am certain that Oprah knows it. A 2001 radio interview conducted in Chicago has just been unearthed and lofted into cyberspace. It has become ammunition for John McCain who has delayed too long to complain about the fact that Obama is a Socialist bent on redistributing wealth. McCain knows that Obama has set a goal for himself. He wants to accomplish what early twentieth century Socialists had originally set out to do, "soak the rich."

While discussing the Warren court which dealt with civil rights, Obama showed his true colors. A pretentious Obama told the interviewer something that would have gained him favor with Lenin and Stalin,

And I think **one of the tragedies of the civil rights movement** was that the civil rights movement became so court-focused, I think there was a tendency to lose track of the political and organizing activities on the ground that are able to bring about the coalitions of power through which you bring about redistributive change, and in some ways we still **suffer** from that, [emphasis added]

The McCain camp has finally jumped on those last five words noting that Obama is much too liberal for the White House. Former Director of the Congressional Budget Office and now McCain's chief economic policy adviser, Doug Holtz-Eakin said, "**Now we know that the**

slogans 'change you can believe in' and 'change we need' are code words for Barack Obama's ultimate goal: 'redistributive change.'" All of a sudden the shadows of underground Weatherman Bill Ayers, who is still committed to the overthrow of Capitalism, and Communist author Frank Marshall Davis, the bosom pals of Obama, loom treacherously over America's future.

Obama stands in direct opposition to men like economist John T. Flynn. Flynn writes that with the redistribution of wealth, poverty is not abolished, only redistributed. A small minority reaps some increase, while the vast majority suffers a decrease in means.

Now how did Oprah get on the Socialist bandwagon? Answer: she hangs out with the Hollywood crowd.

Ancient philosopher Diogenes needs to return with his lamp bright. Today he would not be searching in Sparta for an honest man at noonday, but in Hollywood for a Conservative.

Success Turns to Tragedy

Ask yourself, what happens to someone when against all odds they become so successful that they can travel anywhere in the world and be recognized? And what happens when that same person falls in with the effete of Hollywood who are so blinded by their stardom that they actually believe that their opinions are shared by most Americans.

So how proud has Oprah become? She has not only trashed Capitalism which made her rich; she has scorned Christianity which made her the woman we grew to like. Oprah has now been reincarnated as the high priestess of the New Age Movement and is preaching her new found religion.

Believe it or not The Oprah Winfrey Show is not just about celebrities, dieting, and relationships. It has become an emporium for books on metaphysics, which are filled with promises of what will happen if you just think the right thoughts. I kid you not; Oprah has begun to dabble in first causes, the same subject which stretched to the breaking point the mind of Aristotle.

Oprah must be a woman of great pride as well as courage. Metaphysics is not to be fooled with; it is a labyrinth, one which has claimed the likes of Giordano Bruno, George Berkeley, and even Jonathan Edwards. But these hazards don't even faze Oprah. She tells us that after she looked over the subject of God she knew that she had outgrown Christianity.

All of this might be explained. One day on hearing a sermon in which the preacher said, "God is a jealous God," Ms. Winfrey took exception. Was God petty she thought? Isn't jealousy incompatible with love and mercy? Never having consulted Augustine who wrote, "He that is not jealous is not in love." Oprah decided that she had had it with the Baptist religion. She took a religious detour with Rev. Jeremiah Wright. And then she began to delude herself into thinking that she could arrive at conclusions about God just by exhibiting the required sincerity. How can you go wrong if you are sincere? Anyway who needs the Bible?

The labyrinth was too much for Oprah. After having rushed in where angels fear to tread she happened on the idea that God is not a self with whom we must reckon. Suddenly the great God of all creation was reduced to an abstraction, a something in the consciousness which enables you to rise above the din and strife of this world. In other words Oprah became a Hindu of one sort or another, and I might add a very permissive one. From what I can see she has among other things signed on to the homosexual agenda along with the rest of her friends from tinsel town.

So where does the Jesus of her childhood fit in with all of this? He doesn't. Jesus has been demoted. He has been reduced to the level of the philosopher Spinoza, a man intoxicated by God. The expression "Son of God" has been reinterpreted to fit Ms. Winfrey's new religion. To explain this she told her viewing audience that she no longer believed that Jesus came "into the world to found Christianity." Now of course this does not mean that Oprah is no longer sentimental. Why just this past week she got all gooey over the singing of "Amazing Grace" by Il Divo.

I would venture a guess at this point. Oprah's Jesus is the "way shower" (a super guru) of the Unity School of Christianity, a school of thought that would like you to think that it is a bona fide church even though it espouses Hinduism.

Ms. Winfrey by embracing what has to be thought of as Hinduism has surprised many of us, especially since Hinduism is the religion that must take responsibility for India's grinding poverty and its inflexible racism, a religion that thinks of itself not so much as a religion but a metaphysic, a way of interpreting reality. Oprah needs to know that if God and the self are one, which seems what she is teaching as if she were a Hindu, then she has in fact adopted atheism. For God to exist He must exist outside of and independent of the Me.

Now in spite of the fact that Ms. Winfrey has put her money and mouth behind Obama, and that she now hobnobs with those who think that profit is evil, Oprah would never turn down the chance to make a buck. You don't become a billionaire by accident. Rather than trash Christianity privately, she has discovered how to profit from her apostasy.

Accepting Helen Schucman's book, *A Course in Miracles*, and Marianne Williamson's guidance, she has begun selling what I would call an atheist's version of self-help. How very American and pragmatic! Religion is sold to you on the basis of what it will do for you, and not what you will do for God. In other words a good religion would never tell you to be jealous over God.

Alas I fear that Oprah has opened wide the gateway to the crystal labyrinth, and that she has influenced a myriad of fans to follow behind her. Such tragedy for one and many!

Ever Yours,

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