

## **Have We Lost Our Way...Again?**

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Speaking candidly, Americans are living in a country that is divided because politicians and pundits are fanning the “flames of hatred.” The 2008 Presidential event was supposed to be an historic election because of the Democratic nomination of the first African American presidential candidate and the Republican nomination of the first woman vice presidential candidate, and yet, the so-called “leaders” of America turned it into a “freak circus.” How will the world view us? Well, many countries and most importantly adversaries of America will view us as hypocrites. Do we really want that?

During the 2008 Presidential election when politicians spoke of “pro-American” and “anti-American,” well, that was “*McCarthyism*.” I ask Americans, “Did you really want to revisit this sad chapter in American history?” When press agents for one of the Presidential candidates called one part of Virginia the “*other*” Virginia (Northern Virginia and birthplace of General Robert E. Lee who called Virginia his country because of his love for it) and the Presidential candidate’s brother called Northern Virginia “communist country,” I ask you America--did we really want to play the game of division and derision among the citizens? *Did you really want another Civil War in America?*

When pundits stated that a highly decorated, respected, and revered four-star general was “ungrateful” because of crossing party lines in support of a candidate and used ethnicity as the #1 cause, this was the “breath of racism” that our great country could not afford as the rest of the world “watched in worried curiosity” about the state of the election and America’s standing as a world leader. When a Presidential candidate “crosses” party-lines he’s called a “maverick,” but when a general crossed party-lines he was viewed as a traitor to his party (the Republican Party).

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Have we lost our way? Are we the beacon of democracy for the rest of the world or is America *pretenders* to the title? I am concerned about where America is headed! When Americans clash with *Americans* because they are Muslim, Jewish, Asian, Native American, Latino, African American, Caucasian, etc. we are heading to the “dark side” of our souls instead of listening to the “better *angels*” within us that promote peace, love and tolerance to all.

*Have we lost our way? Have we? Or did the politician’s political pundits from the liberal and conservative sectors merely awaken the “sleeping giant” of racial, ethnic and religious intolerance in America. Americans have been down this “dusty road” before, and according to many historians we nearly destroyed this country. An individual for whom I have the greatest admiration once said, “We can never stop hatred--but we can foster understanding. I don't need people to like me--I don't even need them to respect me. I just need them to respect my right to live and survive in this country like everyone else.”* Imagine if each one of us followed this philosophy.

Abraham Lincoln once said, “If destruction be our lot, we must first be its author.” Although for the first time in American politics...an African American has been voted to the highest office in America and one of the most powerful positions in the world; when conflict, hatred and prejudice reign we’re traveling down a path that we might not return from. We are traveling down a path that our children may not be able to rescue, namely our country that at times is teeters on chaos and possible oblivion.

I ask you America, are you sure this is the course you want to chart? Is it?