

## Local Politics Matter

# Looking In The Mirror

## Fearing What You See



In looking at the state of our nation in 2017 one has to wonder how we got to this point. How did we get to a point where we can't have a civil discussion about politics? How in 2017 are we in a place where we are forced to continue to debate the deadly shootings of unarmed black men, women and children by law enforcement officials? How in 2017 did a man who has shown himself to be at best unsympathetic to the plight of citizens of color and at worse a downright racist get elected to the highest office in the land? How in 2017 did we find ourselves watching white supremacists and neo-Nazi's marching in our streets holding tiki torches and chanting racist dogma.

While there are many people who would espouse to complex theories to answer these questions I really think that the answer is quite simple. The people who have helped to create and promote the ugly environment that exists in our Country today have looked in the mirror and been frightened to no end by what was staring back at them. That mirror tells a tale that is so haunting that they are frightened to the point of quashing any thoughts of the browning of America. These are the horrors that appear in that mirror:

- The pillaging and ultimate theft of a land inhabited by Native Americans.
- The rape and murder of innocent men, women and children

of color.

- The enslavement of Africans under the most horrifying conditions.
- The breakup of families and the destruction of cultural artifacts tied to enslaved Africans.
- The crafting of a constitution that was meant to uphold all the ill-gotten rights of slaveholders.
- The near breakup of the Country that they stole in order to maintain the horrifying act of slavery.
- The lynching of blacks as an art form.
- The continued use of laws to oppress all people of color.
- The eradication of the horrible history of slavery from our educational system.
- The refusal to make reparations to those that they harmed in such a substantial way.

They are terrified by the fact that they come from a lineage so evil that those who believe in the bible can only describe them as demonic and devilish. They fear that they are people who will never lay eyes on any promised land. They are terrified by what looks back at them. They are terrified by the realization that their lineage is one of rap-

ists and murderers. These people are terrified because they have no explanation for behavior that is abhorrent to all civil minded human beings. So what do they do? They justify the horror that they see every time they look in the mirror by taking on the persona of their forbearers and claiming "White Supremacy". They do this because they have no other explanation for the acts that their family members perpetrated on millions of innocent human beings. This is the only answer that relieves the tremendous burden of guilt that they feel. Guilt that stares them in the eye each and every time they walk by that mirror.

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