

BLUEGRASS 4-7 EVERY SATURDAY

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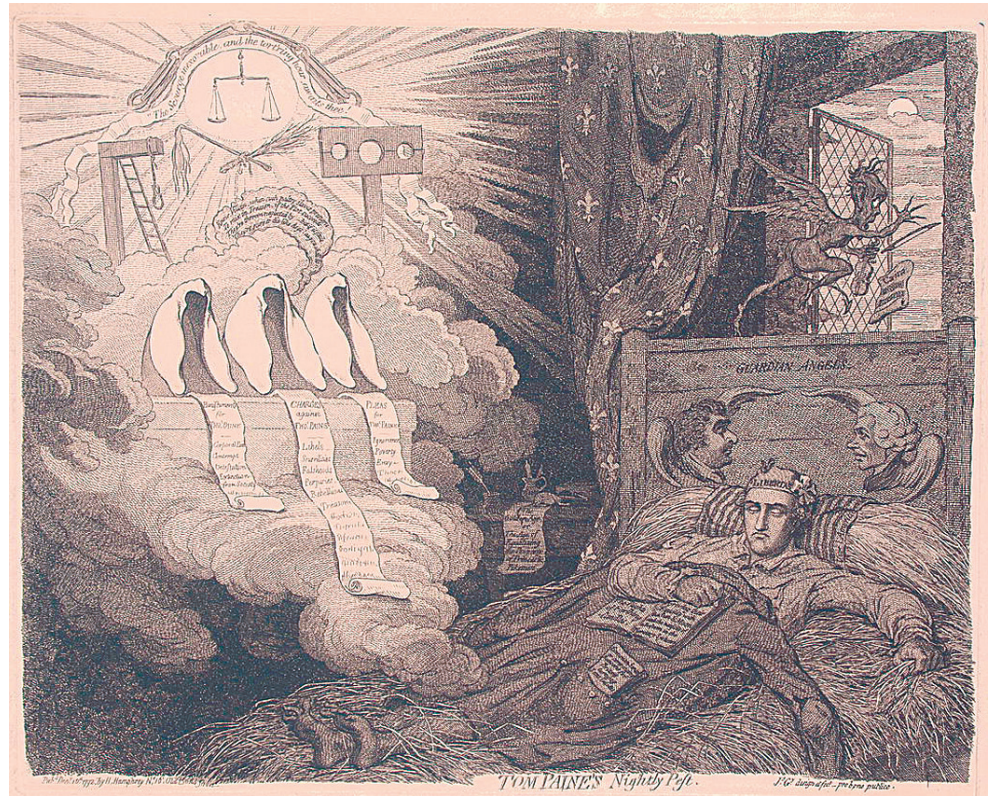
2 HAPPY HOURS 11-1 AND 4-7
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ESSAY | Dreaming The Nightmare

by Henry Nicolle



"... to sleep, perchance to dream." The awakening of a nightmare. My dreams are weird. Most of them. Some are just dreams, snippets of imagination and unreality, easily identified as dreams. But most of mine are memorable for their unmemorable consistency with daily life. If I watch closely, there are the fantastical aberrations which give away the game. They do not alter the effect. In my dreams, I am in one of two positions: Observing through the eyes of a dream avatar or as a "fly on the wall", a dis-incarnate observer.

The scenes are of ordinary life as lived by ordinary people, but they are not my life's experiences nor are the players my personal avatars. The roles, activities and environments are too varied and unusually ordinary (except for being totally foreign to my experience and personal knowledge) to attempt to describe in any detail. Suffice to say, in my common dreams, I live vignettes of other people's lives, from their viewpoints or from a casual point of a passive observer. Most dreams fade rapidly, the memory lasting only a few minutes. Some become a part of my living memory.

What I have gathered over the years are the elements of repeated circumstances, "themes", if you prefer, of the dream content. The main themes break down into three categories: Pre-Pivot, the Pivot and Post-Pivot. The "Pivot" as I am calling it for the first time, is a period of dramatic societal change, including apocalyptic environmental change, massive population dislocation/re-location and the initiation of great social alteration.

Nothing new there, except that it has been one of my repeated dream environments for over twenty years. I may note that in the dream, I am observing and interacting through the eyes of an avatar who is not affected by the environment, the crowds or the crowd-control or crowd management. No-one bothers me and I go where I please without interference. The stage is always dark with artificial lighting where necessary for some human activity - feeding, processing, resting, transporting, stuff like that. Imagine being in the desert with a hundred thousand people, keeping order, moving people to staging and loading stations, moving from food, shelter and sanitation to other waypoints in the middle of the night and you'll get the imagery.

In my Pre-Pivot and Post-Pivot scenarios, if I am not a dis-incarnate observer, my avatar, through whose eyes I observe, is affected by weather, controllers, fellow actors and other elements. Did I say that these dreams are in full High-Definition color, 3-D, sight, sound, odor, tactile and emotional effects? A serious entertainment facility, to be sure.

Pre-Pivot experiences are ambiguous contexts, wherein the pending, but undefinable Pivot event is discussed and anticipated. The prospect establishes an uneasy, troubling, undefinable emotional under-current which affects the behavior of all the actors and often alters the dream environment. For example, translating from a building or room to a train or outdoor setting.

The mood is as we live today, knowing change is imminent, but unsure if it is a virtual change, as in social or political or if it will be physically demanding or some combination. It is this suspicion without definite justifications, uncertain of what is actually in progress which relates to our waking anxiety.

We experience the explosions of contempt for our Rights and our Law every day, but we demand more of that contempt in the form of more government involvement in our lives and as the benefits of receiving a share of the booty stolen by government.

We know this cannot last. The more astute among us can virtually count the days to the inevitable collapse of American society as we have become accustomed.

Post-Pivot dreams are not pleasant. My view's perspective is unchanged, except that when I am in my avatar, I am not undisturbed by "authority", my movements are limited and my person threatened from several directions with various causes. There is constant implied control of what people (including my avatar) are allowed to do, conflicts between people and groups of people and a lot of general discontent and the aggressiveness inherent in a crowded, unhappy, controlled space.

The dream ends and re-awakens as a nightmare. Not for me as the dreamer, but for those who inhabit the dreams.

I see the parallel to these dreams in our waking experience in our country, our society, in our communities and families and in my personal life. Before the "Pivot", I had a relatively free and comfortable life. Then things changed in our country. We made ourselves the servants of our governments, abandoned our Liberty for the handouts stolen by government from ourselves.

— We Dreamers are now in the dark Pivot of events and our new waking may birth our nightmare.