

Canada now has a new Liberal Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Jean Chrétien, who on his election to the leadership of the Liberal Party in 1990 faced much adversity, as Mr. King did in 1919.

About the Liberal Party leader, Mr. Chrétien, on his election to the leadership in 1990, it was said that he too would not last long in that position. Some of his detractors predicted his quick and early exit from politics, and many of them were quite ready to facilitate his departure.

In 1984, Mr. Chrétien ran unsuccessfully for the leadership of the Liberal Party. At that convention, the musical accompaniment to his grand entry into the stadium was the theme music from a film called *Chariots of Fire*. The words "chariot of fire" are borrowed from a hymn called *Jerusalem*, whose words were authored by William Blake and later put to music by Sir C. Hubert H. Parry. The relevant verse containing the term "chariot of fire" reads as follows:

Bring me my bow of burning gold!
Bring me my arrows of desire!
Bring me my spear! O clouds, unfold!
Bring me my chariot of fire!
I will not cease from mental fight,
Nor shall my sword sleep in my hand,
Till we have built Jerusalem
In [this our] green and pleasant land.

These words reflect on and relate the human struggle on earth for the heavenly Jerusalem, termed "the City of God" and that human journey which is tried in fire. I have always pondered why Mr. Chrétien chose that piece of music in 1984; and now, ten years later, in 1994, I fully understand and it all seems perfectly natural.

How fitting his choice was then and now. How fitting it was as the current era, assisted by the government recently in power, discredited politics and politicians. How entirely appropriate when looking at life from the opposition benches these past nine years. How appropriate as we Liberals looked at despair, degradation, bitterness and anger across this land as the government ruled with disregard and even malice for many citizens. That government ruled, headed by a reincarnated sorcerer's apprentice.

Many of us agonized as we witnessed the dismantling of this country and the abandonment of principle. That government ruled and sustained itself by engaging in the darker sides of the human persona. That government ruled by unleashing impulses in the human organism that are largely ungovernable, impulses which, since recorded history, religion has sought to improve and correct, legislation has sought to limit, and education has sought to overcome by instruction. That government ruled by engaging the forces of humans' lower nature that usually governments seek to contain.

That government ruled by engaging the psychodynamics of greed, jealousy, prejudice, division, racism and regionalism, traits that years of Liberal enlightenment, Liberal principle and Liberal humanity had sought to tame. Pandora was surpassed.

Deception was their hallmark. That government demonstrated repeatedly that the human psyche is an "artful dodger" when

prejudice paraded as conviction, greed paraded as political philosophy, spitefulness paraded as justice, and human weakness paraded as party discipline.

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A sorcerer's apprentice with his unchecked *libido dominandi*, to use St. Augustine's term for the drive to dominate, the lust for power, headed a government for many years. This *libido dominandi* was the engine which drove that of his closest supporters and at strategic times enlisted the *libido dominandi* of the general population. He dabbled in the recesses of people's minds, in areas which escape detection, in the pre-rational areas of which few have consciousness and few can identify, and even fewer understand. Such was the lust for domination working in the "Directing Mind" of this country; and today such is the consequent damage inflicted on the body psyche, the body politic, the body economy, and the body social of this country. Many were compromised. Many were affected. Many were degraded.

I have now observed that one dimension of this *libido dominandi* is now identified in the journalistic lexicon as "rolling the dice". It has been said that the unreflective mind is unreliable, and that the nonintrospective personality is untrustworthy.

Honourable senators, it is not my intention to disparage anyone today, but simply to bear personal witness to the past nine years as I have observed from the opposition benches in this Red Chamber. I am very proud to be associated with the great defences of Canada and liberalism that were undertaken by the Liberal senators in this chamber led by the Honourable Senators MacEachen, Frith, and others.

Prime Minister Chrétien entered politics under the leadership of the Right Honourable Lester B. Pearson in 1963. He was largely influenced by the liberalism and *modus operandi* of Mr. Pearson. Mr. Pearson was renowned at home and abroad in his personal and professional life for his insistence "...upon integrity, honesty, and openness on the part of those who exercise power." In 1962, the politician Pearson wrote as follows:

Liberalism must strive to foster all those forces in a nation which will make for true development in other than material ways: the willingness to work and serve and sacrifice to achieve ends that are outside of self; appreciation of the beautiful and the good in life; understanding that bread and circuses are not the ultimate objective of existence, either national or personal; recognition that a society is only as strong as its adherence to moral values.

I repeat that a society is only as strong as its adherence to moral values.

Mr. Pearson's remarkable words are those of fundamental human sensibility and decency. This is the political position on which Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and the Liberal government are now standing firmly, and which was articulated in the Throne Speech yesterday. Many Liberals have subscribed to this sense of moral value as a building block of political principle and political