

The Art of the Lie

by: *Ronald L. Dart*

Someone long ago said that politics is the art of the possible. They should've gone on to say that politics is also, the art of the lie. 24/7 news coverage has made this a whole lot worse than it used to be. That's not to say that there is any less lying about politics in the pre-television age, but the lies have gained a lot more power than they used to have, because they are repeated so often, and with all sorts of visual reinforcement. In the aftermath of the Great Hurricane of 2005, students of the lie have a wealth of material to look at, starting with the lie that the slow response to the hurricane was somehow racist. Now you and I need to understand that that allegation is political and therefore, it's a lie. It's not merely a mistake, it's a lie. It's not just spin, it's a lie. It is not just partial truth, it's a lie. But what is the lie for, why do politicians lie so often, so easily? You know the joke, how do you tell if a politician is lying? If his lips are moving. Now, it's not good enough to merely accuse a politician of lying. We need to know what it is that he's after, with the lie. Now here is the generally accepted definition of politics. It is, and I quote, "The art or science of government, the art or science concerned with guiding or influencing governmental policy, the art or science concerned with winning and holding control over a government." The short version is politics is about power. And the lie itself is an instrument of power. This is true, whether it's a senator who's lying to you, or a used car salesman. And it's sad in this country that a lot of people are finding it increasingly difficult to distinguish between the two.

A friend of mine underlined for me the true significance of great natural disasters. He put it to me this way: In less than a year, God, or if you prefer, nature, has shown us two things. Whether there is absolutely no warning, as in the tsunami in desperately poor Southeast Asia, or there is technological sophistication of warning as in New Orleans, it will not matter. God, or if you prefer, nature, is exhibiting his true power. Whether man has 3–5 days or weeks of warning, or whether he has hours, man is shown to be inept, unable to handle his environment, his fellow man and it is irrespective of the measures that he takes. Now, I don't think that Hurricane Katrina was a purposeful act of God. It was a phenomenon of nature, a manifestation of the properties of matter, but it surely did demonstrate the ineptitude of man, even when man is doing his best. The one certainty I took away from the endless discussions of the aftermath was this. Not one of the talking heads on television could have handled the storm any better than the people who had the thankless task of doing so. Criticism, by hindsight, is so cheap. Yes, I know that there were all sorts of people from *National Geographic* to the *Times-Picayune* newspaper that explained how it was going to happen. But look, having someone tell you something is coming and describe it doesn't mean you're going to really get it. And the truth is, even though you had a few people

screaming about it and saying, "You've gotta do this. You should do that", most people, most people, the vast majority of people, didn't give it a second thought. They just assumed it was all being taken care of by the government. A little humility would be nice and God's creation has her own way of administering humility.

Another friend asked in a sermon this week, "Is life fair?" His conclusion was, no, life isn't fair, it gives us unequal outcomes. I thought about it awhile and I told him afterwards, I said, no, I think life is imminently fair. Hurricane Katrina was absolutely indiscriminate. She killed more black people than white, but she didn't care that she killed more black people than white. They just happened to be the ones that were there. She killed black, white, Asian, Hispanic, young and old and she didn't care. She flooded the lowlands, not because black people lived there, but because that's where water goes. Do you get this, Katrina didn't care. And, our government was not the omnipotent protector we thought it was. Hello, do we get that? Is there no one who will stand up and tell us that if we don't take care of ourselves, no one else is really going to do it? Well I guess I did—just stood up and told you: If you don't take care of yourself, how can you expect someone else to take care of you?

Right now, there is a 100 square mile bulge in the earth, in Oregon. It's about the size of Portland, Oregon, a city of over a half-million people, roughly the same size as New Orleans. This bulge in the earth is centered some twenty-five miles from downtown Bend, Oregon, population 57,000. The likely cause of this bulge in the earth is a pool of magma that according to Deschutes National Forest geologist Larry Chitwood, is equal in size to a lake 1 mile across and 65 ft. deep of molten lava. The magma lake is rising 10 feet each year under tremendous pressure and it deforms the earth's surface as it expands, causing the bulge. Scientists tell us it may become a new volcano. Now, if I lived very close to that bulge, I would consider this very useful information, indeed. I could say, well, but if the thing blows me halfway to the moon, or if it buries my home under tons of cinders and ash, it would obviously be the fault of the government. Wouldn't it? Or maybe I should consider the wisdom of relocating my humble abode so I could get some piece of mind. Of course, what are you going to do with the whole city of Bend, Oregon, with a population of 57,000 people?

Well, we do know you can relocate a lot of people all at once, we learned that from New Orleans. And maybe the next time we would do it better but, volcanoes are different from hurricanes, you have no clue (at least not much clue) as to when they're going to do their thing and when they do it, well, can you say Mount Saint Helens, children? Other causes of this thing could be anything from the birth of a new volcano to a routine and anticlimactic pooling of liquid rock, that's what researchers tell us. One USGS Geologist said this, "The honest and shortest answer is, we don't know." Hallelujah, he didn't lie. And yet, they say if it does erupt, it will probably just create a small cinder cone. After all, there are lots of those out there along that fault line. Probably, but, they really don't know. And at least, as far as we know, he isn't lying about it. But (and it's a very big but, indeed) if it turns out to be a real doozy of a volcano, guess what? The government let us down again. Didn't you notice the "United States" in the man's job description? He works for the government.

But, nature is fair. She will not discriminate if she buries Bend, Oregon. And fairness is something, isn't it? Now, back to my theme of politics being the art of the lie. As sure as that volcano erupts we will go looking for people to blame and someone somewhere will use the event to gain political power. And to do that, he will lie.

The British recently were treated to a classic example of the political lie. You were no doubt aware that the British police are cracking down on any kind of terrorist activity in England. Wes Prudens, editor of the Washington Times, wrote recently that many of the Muslims in Britain were somewhat put out when the cops in the West Midlands raided a block of apartments in Birmingham just before dawn and arrested several suspects in the latest London terror bombings. Ok. Now, in the view of some Muslims, this was insensitive. So, the authorities invited the "moderate" chairman, "moderate", put that in quotes, the "moderate" chairman of the central Birmingham mosque to participate in a press conference to discuss the raids. And I'm quoting from the Washington Times article by Wes Prudens, "The session had hardly begun before one Dr. Mohammed Naseem began a denunciation of the West, of Britain, of the police and other assorted infidels who had libeled Islam by suggesting that Muslims were in any responsible for the bombing campaign in London in which more than 50 men, women and children have died. Prime Minister Tony Blair, he said, is a liar, the security forces are evil, the suspects were merely innocent bystanders and he isn't interested in hearing about DNA evidence because DNA science could not be trusted." Now mind you, this man is called a "moderate" in English Muslim circles. The man is also, a liar. He is a liar because he knows the terrorists in the bombing were Muslim. He would have been lying, even if had, like the USGS geologist said, he'd have been lying if he said, I don't know.

Wes Prudens couldn't resist the remark about the untrustworthy nature of DNA science, he said, and I quote "Well of course it can't be trusted, since DNA science was developed after the 8th century when the prophet set out everything that could ever be known about anything." Lies like this, and you count them at different places at different times, are just breathtaking. It's reminiscent of the Iraqi Information Minister, remember him? Standing in downtown Baghdad, reporters all around, cameras on him and everything else, denying that the American army had reached Baghdad. Oh no, they're nowhere near Baghdad. And you could actually hear the cannon fire in the outskirts of the city. So how did the British authorities respond to this flagrant lie? Well, the Superintendent of police said, "The chairman of the mosque was probably suffering from shock brought on by the unusual events of the last few hours." Well, by this time, the whole had degenerated into a classic English farce. We should see it soon in a new Brit-com on BBC America. We will laugh but it really isn't funny. People died there. And the Muslim leadership is lying to cover it up. The British authorities are lying, presumably to maintain good community relations among the Arab population. And the lies all paper over a terrible growing menace that is going to get still more people killed. The London Daily Telegraph remarked, "When senior police officers go to great lengths to make such prim and dubiously politically correct statements, then it's not surprising that Muslim leaders, such as Dr. Naseem, end up believing them and expect to be taken seriously when they take these assertions to their logical conclusion."

You know, we just been introduced to an oxymoron, “Politically Correct.” Politics is the art of the lie, so political correctness is merely a socially acceptable way of lying. Wes Prudens ended his piece by saying this, “The real phenomenon of the age of terror is how the infidels, the Christians, the Jews, the unbelievers, have kept their cool and their ideals intact in the wake of a rich provocation to retaliate. Few of us in the West necessarily believe the mantra of Tony Blair and George Bush that Islam is a religion of peace. Any more than Messrs. Blair and Bush, despite their huffing and puffing about it, necessarily believe it themselves. But polls here, and in Britain, consistently show that the majorities are clear-headed about who the villains actually are. It’s a tribute first and last to the enduring power of Jewish ethics and Christian faith that shapes and informs the societies of West. To which, so many millions of Muslims aspire.”

There was a warning from an ancient prophet about a people who were being poorly led. “From head to tail” he said, “the whole thing was a lie.” It was Isaiah, chapter 9. “The elders and the prominent men” he said, “are the head. The prophets who teach lies are the tail. Those who guide this people mislead them and those who are guided are led astray.”

Now I know what Bush, Blair, and the London Police are doing. They are trying to avoid having mobs assault Muslims in the streets. They are trying to avoid mobs of people going and burning down mosques. But in lying, they are cooperating with the liars on the other side and making their lies even more believable to their own people, and it’s dangerous. In consenting to the lie they allow the other side to deceive their own people. Who said this? Listen to the quote. “The broad mass of a nation will more easily fall victim to a big lie than to a small one.” It was Adolf Hitler. It was a testament that the idea that the bigger the lie, the more believable it becomes. And the brazen, huge, lies that are being told, not only by our own people who tend to cover up what’s taking place here, but by some of the Islamists themselves, it’s just breathtaking. You don’t know what to even say in the face of such brazen lying. Generally speaking, we get in trouble because someone lied to us and we were willing to be deceived. Someone told us something we wanted to hear, and we bought it. We were, in a word, willingly ignorant of the lie. Peter wrote of this in his second epistle. He wrote to his beloved friends and he said, “I am now writing to you” in his second epistle, it’s 2 Peter, chapter 3, “I want to stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance. I want you to be mindful of the words spoken before by the holy prophets and of the commandment of the apostles of the Lord and Savior. I want you to know this, in the last days there will come scoffers who walk after their own lusts and say, ‘I thought you said Jesus was coming, where is He?’ Since the fathers fell asleep everything is going on just like it has from the beginning.” Then Peter adds this, “This they are willingly ignorant of.” In other words, they are not just ignorant, they are willingly ignorant, and they are cooperating in their ignorance. “For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished”. Willing ignorance led to death of, God only knows, how many people. Willing ignorance is dangerous.

The apostle Paul put it this way in 2 Thessalonians the second chapter. “The mystery of iniquity is already at work. The time is coming when that wicked one will be revealed whom the Lord will consume with the spirit of his mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. Even Him, whose coming is after the work of Satan with all power, all signs lying wonders. And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish, because they receive not the love of the truth that they might be saved.” Ahh, it is sometimes so painful to love the truth. It is so painful to face the truth. But it is those who won’t do that who are willing to believe signs and lying wonders by prophets who will tell them things that they want to hear. And, in the end, all of them are damned who believe not the truth, but have pleasure in unrighteousness. The political lie works because we let it work. We want it to work. And it will, in the end, get us killed. The lie works because it feeds a need that people have. It may be in any number of areas, but if they weren’t needing the lie to be true it wouldn’t work. So there is always self-deception when we’ve been hoodwinked by someone else.

The art of the lie involves pandering to people’s needs and wants, and so the art of *avoiding* deception involves first speaking truth to ourselves. So, if there is an art of the lie, perhaps there is an art of not believing the lie? And we may be coming to a time when it is crucial that we master that art. Because in writing to Timothy, in 1 Timothy, chapter 4, Paul said this, “The spirit speaks expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, doctrines of devils, speaking lies and hypocrisy having their conscience seared with a hot iron.” It is so hard for us to accept that, it is so hard to believe that someone will look us in the eye and with no conscience whatsoever, lie in his teeth. But you know, the bald lie is a staple of Muslim propaganda, just as it was of Nazi and Fascist propaganda, and just as it is all the way to this day in Marxist propaganda.

Dr. Mike Adams, writing in September of 2005 said that, “Arguing with a Marxist is similar to arguing with an alcoholic who just ran out of liquor. The conversations seldom go anywhere and the Marxist, just like the drunk, rarely concedes a point. The similarity is unsurprising considering Marxism and alcoholism are both diseases rooted in emotional, spiritual, and intellectual weakness.” And I can’t help but thinking the same thing about that branch of Islam that we call Islamic Fascism. I couldn’t help noticing the comparison with the leader of the Birmingham mosque and the way he went about this. Dr. Adams also said, “I have also noticed that the Marxist unwitting reveals the central danger of the Communist agenda by this unwillingness to concede even the most obvious of points. It seems to me that the Marxist recognizes that Communism is an end which can only be achieved by rigid adherence to identity politics and total disregard for any transcendent principle.” Now we may have to think that through a little bit before we fully can grasp the similarity with the Islamo-Fascists that are out there right now. But, the rigid adherence to their identity and identity politics, a disregard for any transcendent principle, like human life, is right there. Dr. Adams goes on to say, “So one can always expect the Communists to suppress the truth and promulgate a lie in defense of a comrade. Any feigned interest in truth or enduring principle will last only as long as is necessary to inflict injury upon a political opponent.” It’s pure opportunism; it’s just the truth of the moment, which is a lie. That is ultimately why the

communist chooses to hold himself to the lowest possible standard of conduct and that, in part, explains why the Communists murdered 100,000,000 innocents in just 72 years. Compared to the Communists, the Islamo-Fascists are pikers, so far. But it does seem that they intend to make up some lost ground. Dr. Adams acknowledged the temptation to engage in censorship as a means of eradicating people who have a political agenda that have such a murderous past. But he points out something that I think is interesting, he says, “Censorship is wrong and can even harm the battle against those who seek to revive the communist agenda on our nation’s campuses. [J. S.] Mill was right when he said the danger of censorship is two-fold. First, there is the danger that censorship will suppress the truth. Secondly, there is the danger that censorship will rob us of a greater understanding of the truth by means of its juxtaposition with falsity.”

And that is why we have to stop supporting the lie as well. We have to lay out the truth so that it stands in sharp contrast to the lie that’s being told. The British authorities fell into a trap in trying to make this thing look good, trying to smooth the whole thing over, they actually failed in an opportunity to show how clean and how clear the truth is standing alongside the lie. So Dr. Adams says we must not engage in censorship, we must allow the lie to come out there, but we’ve also got to tell the truth at the same time. He continued to propose the establishment of the first national communist holocaust museum on the campus of one of the nation’s big public universities. He said, “It shouldn’t be difficult to raise several million dollars to fund this bold, new initiative. The generosity and patriotism of Americans will see to that. The real difficulty will be finding a public university that will allow such a museum to be constructed in the face of staunch opposition from socialist professors. Take a moment to imagine the impact of a museum like that. The atrocities of Stalin could be outlined in the Stalin Room, the atrocities of Mao could be displayed in the Mao Room, the atrocities of Pol Pot could be shown in the Pol Pot Room. Each room could feature a burning candle for every 1 million innocents murdered by the dictator after whom the room is named. Imagine the possibilities.” Imagine them, indeed. And you know, it’s singularly bad when journalists lie; and they, like everyone else it seems these days, are lying in their teeth about what is happening. Hate gains longevity through lies and it is high time the journalists stopped.

I’m Ronald Dart.

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P.O. Box 560 Whitehouse, Texas 75791
Phone: (903) 839-9300 — 1-888-BIBLE-44 — www.borntowin.net