

DETROIT NATIVE SUN

Smoke and Mirrors

Evelyn M. Bingham
SUN COLUMNIST



Unfortunately, we now live in a world of *Smoke And Mirrors*, a world designed of deceit and deception wherein almost nothing is as it appears at first sight.

Smoke - something that beclouds or obscures

Smoke screen - anything said or done to conceal or mislead

Mirror - anything that gives a true description or representation

Deception - the act or practice of deceiving

Deceive - to make a person believe what is not true, to be false, to betray

To mislead - to cause to follow the wrong course or to err in conduct or action, though not *always* deliberate

Delude - to fool someone so completely that what is false is accepted as being true

Betray - implies a breaking of faith while appearing to be loyal

Living in this kind of a world, makes it very difficult for anyone of integrity to maintain a satisfactory, productive and joyful life. If you will seriously pay attention to the definitions above, and interject them into the many situations of your daily lives, it will become quite clear that we encounter more smoke, than mirrors!

We are inundated by brilliant marketing schemes, in order to convince us to purchase or not purchase, a particular item by using subliminal, covert or overt methods of convincing an unsuspecting public, to a particular purchase direction. We as a buying public are very gullible, we are drawn to flashiness, glitz and glamour. If someone has a brand name item or a designer label, we automatically want one, we are blindly led to acquisitions in order to conform. Whenever we decide to follow our own

mind regarding our individual purchases, we tend to be labeled as eccentric, a loner or different, etc.

As citizens, we are faced with many areas of deception. As consumers, we are daily faced with unscrupulous retailers with sales, meticulously contrived to dupe us, and to cause us to spend our hard earned monies unwisely. Senior citizens are especially vulnerable, it seems as though nearly everyone, organizations, businesses and ill intentioned individuals, think that seniors are easy pushovers and easy targets for abuse. Lack of respect for the elderly, and the assumption that because you are older you are somehow less intelligent or stupid, and thereby, are fair game, and an open market to be targeted by unscrupulous predators, *all* while forgetting that it is *upon the shoulders*, of these flawed, inept seniors *that they stand!*

Adults of today, who are still aware of what integrity and honesty mean, are compelled to act in an honorable manner at all times, free from excuses, blame, accusations and destructive criticism personally, and in business dealings. As parents, we are being observed at all times by our children and others, and must not *be or give the appearance of being*, hypocritical.

Our government, city, state and federal and *politics in general*, are portraying a perfect example of *Smoke and Mirrors* making it nearly impossible to believe anything we hear and most of what we see.

Unfortunately, we see impropriety at every turn, religious clergy, business, government, professionals, and even family and friends. Although we witness various forms of corruption, we must *not allow* ourselves to become bitter, cynical or callous, but instead, maintain an attitude of positivity and personal integrity. You never know who is observing you! It only takes *one!* *Who knows* what we, collectively, can do!!

By Evangelist Barbara Colbert-Brooks
SUN COLUMNIST



In his letter to the Believers in chapter 6 of the Book of Galatians, the Apostle Paul warns that the charge of a true follower of Christ is to do good unto others. To be aware of the challenges and struggles of their fellow man, and to be willing to bear their burden with a spirit of compassion and meekness. He reminds then that this must be done with a sincere heart, following the pattern that Christ has set for them, lest they fall themselves by their own trials, temptations, or heavy burdens. Paul further reminds them that though they to are to always lend a helping hand, a shoulder to lean on, and maintain a heart of compassion to others, remember that there are still tests and trials of their own. Even though Believers shall always hold themselves as a tightly knit family of love and godly support, each man must still carry his own cross, as did Christ himself. This will gain him his own testimony having known the Lord for himself, as his own Deliverer, up close and personal.

This having been imparted into the hearts of the Believers, Paul further encourages them that they must not grow tired, weary, or discouraged. That if they stay steadfast in their walk, in due

time, they will be rewarded "And let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."

Most importantly, Paul speaks candidly about the state of mind one must maintain as they go about carrying out this charge as a member of the Body of Christ. While they must open their hearts to others, remain rooted in the spirit of Christ, they must never think too highly of themselves. Such mindset or disposition will only lead to self deception, making all that they do really an act of self glorification. Paul warns them that God is all-knowing, and He shall not be made of no significance. That at end of the day, whatsoever a man sows, so shall he reap. ("Be not deceived; God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to the flesh shall reap corruption, but he that sows to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.")

Therefore, it is imperative that the one who pursues a life in Christ, remain steadfast, humble, and true in his faith. Do good unto others, but work his own salvation with fear and trembling, and be sure to do all things to the glory of God, securing a bounty of life everlasting. It is good to remember that at times the spirit may be willing, but the flesh is weak. Yet, God has promised that if we grow not weary, and persevere in doing His good works, we shall be rewarded with that which only He can give; life from here to eternity.

Embracing the Goddess Within: Evolve...Mind over Matter

By Adonna Smith AKA Goddess Godis
SUN COLUMNIST



To experience continued growth, change and transformation, to become the greatest version and highest vision of yourself (Your Goddess Self), you must be willing to do the inner work

necessary to let go of the hurt, anger and pain from things that have happened in your past.

You must be willing to spiritually grow and evolve. Your spiritual growth and evolution is the revolution that will bring about change. Change is what your soul is crying out for. It is what you unknowing and unconsciously are seeking. The elevation and consecration of your mind, body and spirit. Your evolution can only happen in direct proportion and to the degree that you are in relationship, communion and conversation with God.

In reality, your life is a spiritual journey. It is a sacred dance between you and God. When you choose to spiritually evolve, you are choosing to live life in a higher and greater truth. You are choosing to move beyond what you can not see and what your brain does not know.

Your brain stores and processes information based on what you have come to believe, as a result of your experiences and what you have been told and what you have learned and been exposed to.

There is a process that you must go through to evolve to reach higher ground. You must first be willing through daily meditation and prayer to go to a place where the brain cannot take you. You must ascend into the universal mind of God - the sacred place within you where the Holy spirit dwells and where ancient wisdom lives and where God resides.

As you commune in the sacred

place of the most High, your spiritual eye is opened and you able to see all of your life experiences through God's eyes. And, you are able to gain higher knowledge and wisdom through all of your life experiences. As a result, you are left with a greater experience of life, a greater peace, love joy, and wisdom. It is important to always remember that you are not your life's story. Your life's story is just that - your story.

And you are not just a body. You are in essence the spirit that is contained within the body. You are a spirit being having a human experience. And, you have been sent to this planet to evolve.

Goddess GODIS is a Detroit Spiritual Artist who is dedicated to using her gifts as a photographer, garment designer, writer and speaker to document, celebrate and inspire the emergence of the Goddess within women of great spiritual beauty and wisdom who knows that she is a daughter of God. She is in touch with her creative and spTo contact GODIS email GODDESSGODIS@yahoo.COM.



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Please make copies & Circulate

Opinions are encouraged 586-918-3061

Wednesday September 18, 2024

Detroit and other Michigan Cities will visit Lansing (the state capitol) and

Step Up for Safe Driving Residents will petition lawmakers to enact and enforce laws that will put an end to red light running and drag racing.

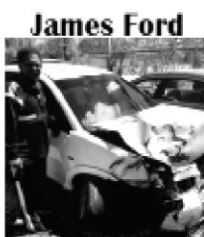
*This event has been approved by the state. Chartered buses and cars will meet and leave Bert's Warehouse near downtown Detroit at 9:00am and return at 4:00pm. Participants from other cities can meet at the Lansing State Capitol at 11:00am.

The program will start at 12 noon. It is advisable to bring a lawn chair. If you wish to travel by chartered bus call 586-918-3061 • 701-301-3118

Driving is an option. Opinions are encouraged



1123 people in Michigan die each year in traffic accidents, that equals 21 people per week. In Detroit alone 156 deaths equaling 3 per week. 20,000 accidents



James Ford I walked away but will you?