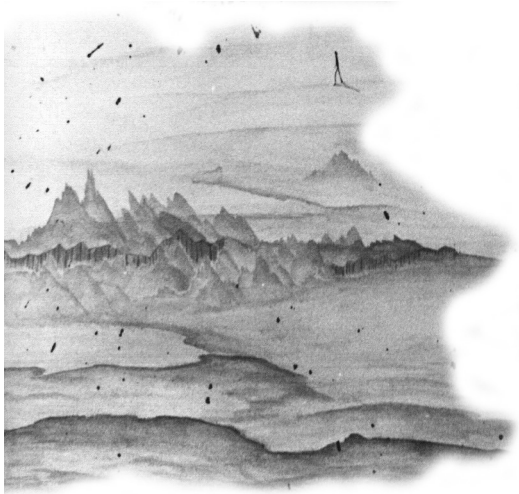


The poverty of political discourse,

indeed the poverty of most modern social discourse, is revealed in those brilliant corners where colliding vectors of false opposition force exposure – where “antagonists” attempt differentiation and defense of nearly identical positions, or assert drastically divergent conclusions drawn from the same unchallenged presumptions.



Our relationship to POWER is at the base of the great unchallenged presumptions of our time. It is both the functional dynamic and sole purpose of all hierarchical relationships – social, political, and economic. It is never neutral.

POWER is about accumulation, dominion and control. It wants “more” not “better”. It is an insatiable lust for empty moments, the compulsion for artificial conquest, a passion for pyrrhic victory.

But this POWER is not personal (the possession of individuals), nor is it organizational (the possession of Mega-Multinational Corporations, or even well-armed governments). POWER is Freddie Krueger, socio-economic dreams turned *Nightmare On Elm*, a mass hypnosis, a collective hallucination which threatens our lives.

POWER perpetuates itself through mediations and manipulations which alienate the general population from socio-economic reality (even those who are believed to be “in power”). It becomes “the way things are” while focusing all attention on artificially “important issues”. It consumes individuals as individuals consume commodities.

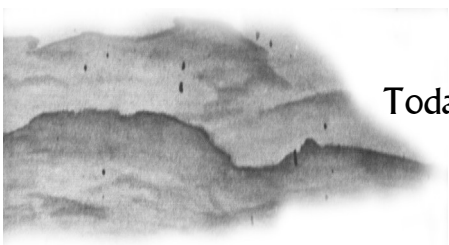
Politics serves POWER.

Because politics operates exclusively in the realm of the practical, it is always a force of mediocrity. Its issues are diversionary, deflecting attention from what *should* be done, to what *can* be done; from what is *desired*, to what is *possible* within the existing order.

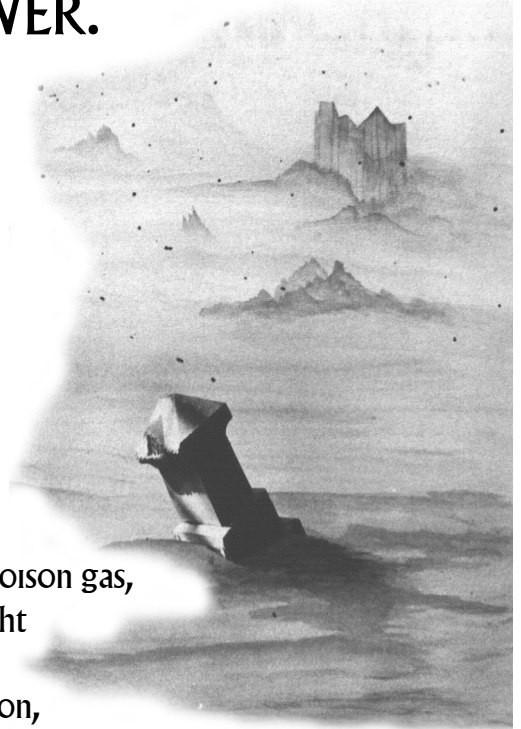
Politics is what leads to the spectacle of two opposing factions compromising over some irrelevant policy, after a lengthy debate (or perhaps going to war after a lengthy face-off) which studiously avoids all challenge to their common fundamental preconceptions.

Politics serves the same purpose world wide. In Russia or the United States, in Brazil or South Africa, in Iraq or Sweden, politics is about the distribution of POWER – it is inherently hierarchical.

At its best, politics demands the compromise of individual pursuits. At its worst, it demands the sacrifice of individuals.



Today, as the clichés spread like poison gas,
displacing all critical thought
and
incapacitating the imagination,



“leaders” posture and people die.

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