

### COYOTE RAMBLINGS THREE

Thoughts that won't leave me alone  
but will probably never become full articles  
(this is known as brain flushing)

\* Herbalists are, at their core, phytoremediators for the human species. They are not doctors.

\* The coronavirus shutdown did something that americans dread more than anything else: it forced them to be with themselves, day after day, every day, with no relief. Finally faced with the inescapable strangeness of their internal world and all the feelings and thoughts and unresolved issues and deep philosophical questions that have been demanding attention (but were ignored) for all their lives, there was only one thing left to do . . . panic.

\* The pandemic is an implacable communication from the natural world about the repercussions of insistent ignorance.

\* Stupid term: Darwinian evolution. Darwin did not invent evolution, Earth did. It always seems foolish to me to give credit to people for something outside their capabilities.

\* Worst car trip ever: my eight hours in a tiny, very dirty car with a fanatical multi-level marketing salesman.

\* Being honorable, having integrity, developing kindness, compassion, and empathy as an aspect of character . . . all this is gender and race irrelevant. Anyone can be, and generally is, an asshole. Becoming something other than that takes time, introspection, and hard work. Every day.

\* Overheard at a playground: they are so cute at this age. Yeah, too bad they grow up to become white people.

\* Opiates are some of the most ecologically sound of all pharmaceuticals. Antibiotics are the

most ecologically dangerous. Our priorities as a people are so screwed up.

\* The academically elite: phenomena; Regular people: things.

\* As I have gotten older it has become clear that my main erogenous zone is intimacy. I don't know why it took me so long to discover that.

\* I deeply regret that my parents and culture were and are so shamed in themselves about sex and the human body. It takes so many years of fumbings, unkindnesses, and fear before learning that there is nothing to be ashamed of. It takes so very long to become two children playing in the fields of the sacred together. And before that time, we hurt so many and are hurt ourselves.

\* People are far more than the interplay between unequal power structures. How we self-identify, who we are and what we become over our lifetime is always the result of an interplay between external power structures and our internal responses to those power structures. However, there are far more external power structures than those focused upon by social justice advocates. There are ecological power structures that predate human kind. There are moral power structures that are embedded within Universe. We are embedded within a multitude of contexts and respond, as people always have, in complex ways to those multiple contexts. This has always been true, for all human beings in all times and places. The belief that the removal of a power imbalance will result in undamaged people and more functional social systems is just that, a belief, an assumption. While some power imbalances can be ameliorated to some extent, some cannot. The important question is: what do we do in response to those pressures upon us?

\* I hate finding a potentially interesting story online, reading the first two sentences, and then having a popup ad appear which exhorts me to subscribe. Wouldn't it make more sense to wait until the end of the article so that I can determine whether the site is any good or not? It really is a stupid marketing technique. (I have a rule to never subscribe to a site that does that. Irritate me will you.)

\* When I attended elementary school in the 1950s, one of the things that was continually stressed

was the stupidity of the farming techniques of the 1920s which led to the dustbowl. Specifically, farmers removed all wind breaks between fields, they did not practice crop rotation, and they did not let fields lie fallow for a year or two under a cover crop so they could replenish themselves. In the latter years of the twentieth-century all these practices have been actively reversed by giant corporations in order to increase their profits. In consequence, farm soil is no longer “soil.” It is dirt. In truth, corporate “farming” has become terraponics (similar to hydroponics but with dirt). The dirt is merely a substrate to hold the roots of plants, all nutrients come from added chemicals not from a healthy soil that is alive and vital. These patterns of stupidity endlessly repeat, and always end up the same way. I am not sure that it is legitimate to say that humans are the most intelligent species on the planet.

\* I hate it when I read a really scary, intense, or sad article which is accompanied by a photo of a smiling and happy author.

\* There are only two things that human beings need to know about technology that is more complex than a pencil: 1) the titanic is unsinkable; 2) nuclear power will make electricity too cheap to meter.

\* Every invention that distances human beings even slightly from the ecological matrix of this planet has side effects. The further they are distanced, the greater the side effects. Technological innovations only save time in the short run. In the long run payment must be made. And it is future generations that are the ones that pay.

\* Phrase I hate: Crimes in the neighborhood rose 200% last year. Without telling us the numbers of crimes prior to that, the statement is only a scare tactic. What if the crime rate the previous year was one?

\* Stupidly misunderstood word: bigot. The exact definition is: “a person who is prejudiced in their views and intolerant of the opinions of others.” As far as I can tell from that all people are bigots. There is always at least one view we are prejudiced about and at least one opinion we are intolerant of.

Usually there are many more than that.

\* A licensed electrician once told me that I could do all the wiring on my own house because I was intelligent but most people had to be stopped from doing so because they were too stupid. I have always had trouble with that point of view.

\* Stupidly misunderstood word: dialogue. A dialogue is a conversation in which no pre-determined outcome on the topic exists. In other words it is a: “discussion directed towards exploration of a subject.” What most people in social justice circles call dialogue is actually a disguised monologue. Pardon me if I leave now.

\* There are extensively schooled, generally decent people, who have no idea of the wider, very negative impacts of their profession and no desire to correct their ignorance. They are perfect examples of the unintended side effects of good intentions. Some of the most frightening sentences in the world are: “I am just the doctor, there are other people who deal with the family and their grieving;” and “I just do the science, I am not responsible for what people do with it.”

\* The term gaslighting is often being misused. Gaslighting is when someone actively alters the surrounding reality structure to make a person believe they are crazy (from the film of the same name), that is, they know you are right in your perception of reality but are actively, from malicious motives, altering the surrounding framework of reality to get you to doubt your ability to perceive reality. What most people are doing is in fact more accurately called Bulverism (gaslighting is an extreme form of Bulverism). Examples of Bulverism are responses in conversations that look like this: “You seem angry I think you have anger issues.” “You can’t understand what I am talking about because you are a woman.” “You only think that because you are white.” The point of this is to change the topic of the conversation to some personal attribute rather than discuss the topic itself. It is in fact, cheating.

\* Great line: “Those pre-bent on reflexive rebuttal.” (I really hate those kind of people.)

\* Another great line: “Reparative justice soon degenerated into a pageant of sanctimony and

opportunism.”

\* Something I really hate about the history of the second world war. This crucial fact is always left out: Franco would not have won his right wing coup in Spain without the help of the Nazi war machine. Hitler lent him men, tanks, guns, and planes for two reasons: 1) to see how they performed in actual real world situations; and 2) to see how the west would respond to him doing so. The west did nothing because the corporatists did not want a socialist government in Spain. This directly led to the second world war (and the deaths of millions as well as a totalitarian government in Spain that never should have been allowed to overthrow its democratically elected government.)

\* Part of the reason that so many evangelical christians will not support environmental legislation is that they fear the return of an animist or pagan religious form to the world’s people. Some of them say this openly. They are willing, in actual fact, to destroy the planet as long as their religion remains dominant.

\* Phrases I hate: “sold more than three thousand in 2017 alone.” The word “alone” is not necessary to the sentence. Note: once you are aware of this usage you will see it everywhere and you will find yourself becoming irritated. (Welcome to my world.)

\* Words I hate: Criterzzzz for animals and insects. Bugs for bacteria. Kids for children (they are NOT goats). All of them feel demeaning to me.

\* Many counties in the south seceded from the south and refused to participate in the civil war, some because they did not support or believe in slavery. Why was I 50 before I found this out?

\* Most of the slaves that ended up in the Americas were sold into slavery by their own tribes or captured by other African tribes to be sold into slavery. It was not primarily white people that did this. (Some of the descendants of those tribal chiefs have apologized, most have not, and say they never will.)

\* If you had to choose between your child and the last redwood on the planet, knowing that the redwood, if left alone, would regenerate the species while your child, in a human population of 8 billion

was not really ecologically relevant, what would you do?

\* The federally recognized tribal groups in the United States rarely disenfranchised members of the tribes until gambling was legalized in the late twentieth-century. Now it is very common, some tribal councils having disenfranchised up to half of their enrolled members. The revenues from gambling are split among enrolled members.

\* A number of federally recognized tribes are still trying to disenroll all black members of the tribes. Those black members are generally descendants of slaves held by the tribes or escaped slaves who were folded into the tribes prior to the civil war. The councils say it is about blood purity (a dangerous concept in and of itself). I don't think so.

\* Life, for those of us so inclined, is a continual process of becoming woke. There are countless aspects of reality, important truths, that lie outside our perceptual frame, our habituated ways of seeing and thinking, that are only revealed to us over the course of our lives. Someone or something suddenly turns on a light and caught unawares we see in a new way, awaken to something that has perhaps been right in front of us all along. We suddenly find our self inside a completely new context, have an entirely different relationship with an aspect of our world that we have, for years or decades perhaps, had one, narrow, superficial acquaintanceship with. And so, our world expands. We see from another point of view, perhaps even from that phenomenon's (i.e., thing's) perspective, be it a tree or an ecosystem, a virus or a particular grouping of human beings whose contextual orientation in our world we thought we knew but suddenly find we did not. This is a process that never ends. All of us are unwoke in a great many ways and that will never change.

\* My grandparents' black maid, Alberta Harris, loved me as a child, from the moment I was born. I did not know during my childhood, as children rarely know these things, that Kentucky was a segregated state, that Alberta could not go to the places that my grandparents could, that she had to drink from colored water fountains, ride in the back of the bus, and make way for white people on the street.

Yet, she loved me still. In hindsight I can see the pain in her, the damage that segregation caused her, in her sense of self, in her feelings of worth as a human being, or the poverty that it created and that she endured throughout her life. Yet she loved me still. In consequence I, unlike the rest of my extended family, never learned to be prejudiced or to accept their racist beliefs. She was part of my family and I loved her. Unreservedly. I often think about this, about how the love of those women, all through the south, for the children of racist people, changed those children and the racist underpinnings of culture. Yet, I rarely hear this spoken of or if I do it's in dismissive terms. I think sometimes, because of this, that the power of love, though often spoken of, is very rarely understood as the power it is.

\* I often think of Elie Wiesel's comment that "the children of killers are not killers, they are children." There is some kind of redemptive compassion in that statement that I have been spending my life trying to incorporate into my character. It's hard; I don't know if I can ever fully do so.