



## FLOODED MINDS

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I doubt many doors have flung open to house the displaced. Many homes in South Carolina resembling those depicted of the Capitol--in the the third installment of "The Hunger Games," "Mockingjay"--when pampered civilians suddenly find themselves on the move, homeless. We even have our own version of President Coin, slapped across every TV screen with a facial-facade of control; and therein lies proof of the delusion, that there even is such a thing.

The father of existentialism, Søren Kierkegaard wrote in his "Works of Love":

Which deception is more dangerous? Whose recovery is more doubtful, that of one who does not see, or that of a person who sees yet does not see? What is more difficult--to awaken someone who is sleeping or to awaken someone who awake, is dreaming that he [or she] is awake?

"Gobbledygook philosophy," for some, but clear as day for those intellectually enlightened. Too many of us ALLOW ourselves to be blind--we are inescapably the products of the society in which we are born and reared--subconsciously assimilating the shows, films, books, and general flow of information (e.g., world web, news, etc.) into our sense of self. There's something disturbing about this. In natural selection, the best adapted survive, usually; in social Darwinism, the societal preferences survive. That's not good, because: "We're fickle, stupid beings with poor memories and a great gift for self-destruction." (Collins, Suzanne. "Mockingjay," p.379)

QUESTION: Why believe things will remain as they are?

TO PONDER: The Earth has NEVER remained as it is.

QUESTION: Why believe WANT can overpower global warming, a.k.a. Climate Change?

TO PONDER: We are NOT the masters of our domain, not completely.

QUESTION: Why--CONTINUE--on a path of destruction?

TO PONDER: Societal suicides HAVE occurred many times before.

The Federal Government has--for decades--given financial aid to South Carolina (just as it has in other states) for many things. Some of those things happen to be dam inspection and safety--in which S.C. ranks 47th in the Nation--and road repair, in which we also rank low. The state has created artificial bodies of water in places not made to hold it, refusing to spend the money needed to ensure its safety; and now citizens are injured, displaced, or even dead. Where did the money go? Bonuses and raises for state employees. We have small-town sheriff departments with military grade vehicles (built for war in the Middle East, against IEDs, and tank attacks!) All part of the overgrown and unsustainable law-enforcement and incarceration bandwagon that's sucking up state budgets across the country.

Money is funneled away from schools, roads, homes, jobs, power plants! S.C. does have nuclear power facilities! Do they cut safety costs there too? I hope not--but suspect they do. What if we'd had a meltdown here? Making S.C. a flooded, and radiated land. We had an earthquake not too long ago too....

Upper tier government makes these choices of self-service.

They scream at the Feds, to stay out of their decisions; yet, the minute an accident occurs they're the first to have their hand out for Federal Aid, telling citizens to turn to the Feds instead of the state "Capitol." All of our little State President Coins and Snows never admit the cherry-picking of funds. All over S.C. cops have new decked out cars, helicopters, and tank-like trucks--while kids go to schools that can barely afford to employ teachers, riding in buses twenty (or more) years old, on decayed roads, in towns with closed art museums. But that's okay, because the cops have high-end cameras and drones keeping an eye on things.

Priorities are sadly screwed up.

Fight crime through education and rehabilitation. And stop thinking the world is put here for our dominion, to do as we wish! We have to



consider future generations, and the world we leave for them. What they will think of us, and what we did with what we had.

A society that thinks its own existence has priority over Life itself--as in Nature, in which we are inherently a part of--does so at the risk of its own demise. Yet, this line of idealism will most likely remain, because a more humble, existentialistic society--for many--is unthinkable, and unacceptable! Each state, not just South Carolina, must embrace sustainable lifestyles, and take climate change head on. Don't bend Nature; bend WITH Nature.

Make the state efficient.

It's not complicated. It just takes a step off the Ivory Tower.

Educate the populace with a core of knowledge common to a Nation that is technologically and scientifically literate! Step out of the past and into the present--let go of old ways--or else accept the consequences of Middle Age/Dark Age mindsets. We need to embrace a larger scope: this is not the 1800s, or the 1900s; we're in the 2000s, and need to be looking ahead to the 2100s and the 2200s, not just our current pockets.

South Carolina is awake, but too many are still dreaming.

