

*Do you yell at the TV while watching the news? Do you repost maddening articles on Facebook? Do you find yourself overwhelmed by the 200 new political emails in your inbox every day? Left, right, center, far left, or far right, we must work together to address climate change.*

## **Dead Mankind Walking**

by Johnny Townsend

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Johnny Townsend

A man with dark hair and intense eyes, wearing white skull makeup with black accents around the eyes and mouth. He is shirtless, and his neck and upper chest are also painted with black and white patterns. The background is dark with a bokeh of yellow and orange lights.

DEAD  
MANKIND  
WALKING

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# Contents

Introduction: Cynical Pollyanna.....	21
White and Delightful Abomination .....	25
I Am Liberal, Hear Me Roar .....	35
With Gods Like This, Who Needs Devils? .....	38
I'm a Jew Who Wants to Boycott Israel.....	43
Village of the Darned .....	47
Willing, Not Happy, To Pay Regressive Taxes.....	52
Missing the Forest for the (Dead) Trees.....	55
The War on Voting.....	59
Gerrymandered Out of Church.....	62
Lesser of Whose Evil?.....	65
Mandatory Courses on Race, Gender, and Social Justice .....	69
How Do We “Demand” Justice? .....	73
Crazy Lady on the Bus .....	78
Ugliness to the Lord .....	83
Grasping at Pistodegradable Straws .....	86
You Might Be a Conservative If... ..	92
Blame Me For Losing Or Do What It Takes To Win.....	96
Abolish the Electoral College, Establish Open Primaries, and Hold All Primaries on the Same Day .....	101
Assholiness.....	104
Fossil Fuels Anonymous .....	109
We Were Good to Our Blacks.....	113

*Johnny Townsend*

A Conservative Game of Liberal Chicken .....	116
Add a Personal Message for Greater Impact.....	119
Parable of the Three Firefighters .....	122
Let's Put a Brake on Traffic Pollution .....	127
Non-Consensual Conservative Values.....	131
A Mormon By Any Other Name.....	136
The Expletives Next Door.....	139
Democrats Must Adapt to Political Climate Change...Or Go Extinct.....	145
Sacred and Subversive Interview .....	149
Anger Isn't a Solution .....	160
Climate Change Deniers Are Committing Mass Murder-Suicide.....	163
Very Tiny Acts of Relative Kindness .....	167
Ashamed to Call Myself a Mormon.....	174
You Scratch My Back, I'll <i>Let</i> You Scratch My Back .....	177
Our Nazi Who Art in Heaven .....	182
Infidels for a Better World.....	186
When the Humans Buy the Farm, AI-AI-Oh!.....	190
The Dildo of Dorian Gray.....	194
Palliative Care for Humanity .....	204
Dead Mankind Walking.....	207
About the Author .....	220
Books by Johnny Townsend .....	223

## Democrats Must Adapt to Political Climate Change...Or Go Extinct

(published in *LA Progressive* on 9 January 2019)

Democrats must adapt to political climate change or go extinct.

Most of us are already aware that the Earth is in the midst of its sixth mass extinction event. The previous extinction events were caused by asteroid impacts or supervolcanic eruptions while the current mass extinction is almost certainly caused by human activity. Whatever the cause, however, it's observably happening. That fact cannot be denied.

Many Democrats are conservationists with a strong belief in science, but even they don't seem able to apply what they observe happening in nature to their own lives.

One of the main factors of the current extinction crisis is rapid change in the environment. Many species can adapt to tremendous changes if those changes develop slowly, over thousands or even tens of thousands of years. But when they develop in the space of just a few, many species simply can't keep up.

If I point out to my traditional Democratic friends that the future of the left is to be bold and progressive, not

conservative, they tell me, “It’s people like you that caused Hillary Clinton to lose to Donald Trump! Haven’t you learned anything? You must get behind the mainstream candidate or we’ll lose again! And it will be all your fault!”

Gallup polls show that 47% of Americans—not just Democrats but all Americans—favored universal healthcare in 2010. Today that number is 57%. The numbers are even higher in polls done by other organizations that included more information when asking the question. “Saving Obamacare” is not where the voters are right now. Voters want Medicare for All. Voters no longer want “affordable college.” They want tuition-free colleges, universities, and trade schools. This isn’t just an evolution in ideas, as important as that may be. It’s an evolution in experience. Most of the industrialized world already has both of these policies, and we can see it with our own eyes.

Learning is part of adapting. When farmers learned that planting corn in the same field year after year depleted nutrients from the soil, they learned to rotate their crops. When sailors learned that eating citrus prevented them from developing scurvy, they began including lemons as part of their essential supplies. At the start of the last Ice Age, humans moved south and put on more animal skins. Or they died.

But the Democratic Party seems to be having difficulty making the mental adjustment to the facts now facing them.

I understand that mainstream Democrats WANT things to go back to the way they were. “Before” was emotionally comfortable. But the environment has changed.

My friends are scared and angry and desperate to “fix” progressives, who they see as “others,” so they won’t need to make any modifications to their own behavior.

If it makes moderate Democrats feel better, I can agree it would be smart for people to do as the moderates wish, that we should all do as they say, that I myself will do it.

But you know what? None of that means it’s actually going to happen. Millions of other Democrats and Independents are still not going to do as the moderates demand. That’s just a fact. Like oceans growing warmer. You can yell and curse and condemn all you want. But if you don’t accept facts, you’re in serious danger. And as we know from observing ecosystems, when one species goes extinct, there is often a cascade of events bringing about the end of a dozen others. So if moderate Democrats are worried about us bringing them down, we are equally worried about them bringing us down. We would give in if we could, but we can’t...because the climate has changed.

And we want to live.

George Bernard Shaw said, “Those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything.”

I’m sorry this is difficult for my mainstream Democratic friends. Pointing out the new political climate is like telling them they have diabetes, and now they will have to reduce their carb intake and inject themselves daily with insulin.

I know you don’t WANT to have diabetes. You don’t WANT to have to change the way you live. But like it or not, that’s what the new reality requires.



The majority of eggs American alligators lay will produce female hatchlings when those eggs are incubated at 30 degrees Celsius. Those exact same eggs, incubated at 33 degrees, will produce mostly male hatchlings. As global temperatures rise, can you see the implications for the continued survival of the species? They will either find a way to adapt. Or they won't.

Species that cannot adapt to change in their environment become extinct. This is an observable, scientific fact. Sometimes, species that have dominated their ecosystems for millions of years go extinct in the course of only a few years, an infinitesimal fraction of their time on Earth, because the changes occur too quickly for them to keep up.

Democrats, you must adapt or you will go extinct.

## Our Nazi Who Art in Heaven

(published in the *Salt Lake Tribune* on 23 December 2018)

*Seinfeld* fans fondly remember the Soup Nazi, a belligerent cook who made such great food that customers battled long lines during short lunch breaks to grab a bowl. If someone made it all the way to the counter and then took too long deliberating which soup to buy, the Soup Nazi shouted, “No soup for you!” and kicked the person out of the line.

The recurring character is funny because he’s obnoxious, over-the-top, and clearly not as terrible as a real Nazi. But would we want such an “endearing” being as our God?

“No coffee for you!”

“No tea for you!”

“No wine for you!”

“No marijuana for you!”

If this were the extent of it, perhaps we could accept arbitrary bans against common pleasures. We can stand in another line, after all, and buy a burger or falafel or bagel. But this *isn’t* the end of Heaven Nazi’s list.

“No nice underwear for you!”

“No extra piercings for you!”

“No tattoos for you!”

“No bare shoulders for you!”

“No R-rated movies for you!”

Some of us may have little desire for a tattoo or piercing, but at times it’s difficult not to feel that many of these proscriptions are simply code for, “No fun for you!”

Mormonism’s Heaven Nazi prohibits most normal sexual activity as well.

“No masturbation for you!”

“No sexual fantasies for you!”

“No consensual premarital sex for you!”

Mormon Sophies are faced with a difficult choice—give up almost all sexual exploration and satisfaction for their lifetime or give up sex altogether for eternity.

“No temple wedding for you!”

“No Celestial Kingdom for you!”

“No sex ever again for you!”

But Heaven Nazi doesn’t stop at an eternal chastity belt with no accompanying key.

“No family for you!”

“No planet for you!”

“No eternal progression for you!”

“No presence of God for you!”

Jews in Nazi concentration camps were told, “Arbeit macht frei,” to keep them hoping if they obeyed every last awful order, they’d eventually be free and happy again. Mormons are given other brutally dishonest messages. “Seek and ye shall find.” “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.” “Study it out in your mind; then you must ask [God] if it be right, and if it is right, [God] will cause that your bosom shall burn within.” But what does Heaven Nazi say if Mormons actually do any of this?

“No questioning for you!”

“No critical reasoning for you!”

“No transparent history for you!”

Mormons are so afraid Heaven Nazi will pour out his wrath that they excommunicate anyone who commits these infractions, hoping he doesn’t mistake the devoted for the damned. It’s spiritually analogous to members of the Judenrat making lists of Jews to be deported from the ghettos in a vain attempt to protect those prisoners who remained.

Perhaps it’s hyperbole to describe Mormon God this way. But who committed the first genocide with a worldwide flood? Who killed the firstborn of every Egyptian? Who cleansed the “undesirables” from the Promised Land to make way for his visiting son?

Who, in fact, allowed the “real” Nazis to murder millions of Jews, gays, Roma, Jehovah’s Witnesses, soldiers, and

others? Allowed the genocide of Kurds, Tutsis, Armenians, the Jie, the Congolese, and many dozens of other groups throughout history?

Mormons are spiritually ambitious and committed to becoming gods themselves. So it is both natural and necessary for them to emulate God as best they can every day. Yes, there was Mountain Meadows and decades oppressing native Utes, but these days, Mormon anger is turned toward everyone, even themselves.

“No tolerance for you!”

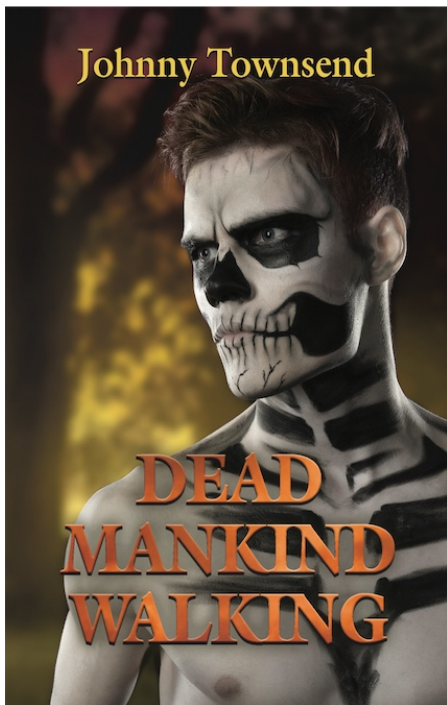
“No tolerance for me!”

“No tolerance for anyone!”

People abused as children often become abusers as adults. How can we expect Mormons to treat others any differently than they’ve been treated by their own Nazi in Heaven? Perhaps the best we can do, for ourselves and for them, is to liberate the camps.

Wahrheit macht frei.

Or, as a non-Nazi God might say, “The truth shall set you free.”



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