

From: Garni

RN and The New American Voice

Matthew Arnold described his time as one in which it seemed as if men were

".....on a ~~darkly~~ darkling plain
Swept with confused alarms of struggle and fight
Where ignorant armies clash by night"

And I know that it has seemed that we too, in recent years, have stood embattled in the darkness, and that we have heard nothing but voices of despair and voices of chaos.

But in my travels around the country, in talks with fellow Americans, I have heard a new American voice.

A voice growing stronger day by day. A voice chastened by sorrow, but still recognizably American: strong and proud and confident.

It is a voice which has come to us imperceptibly through suffering and has taken firm root in the American spirit.

It is a voice composed of a million voices: voices from the south and the north; voices from the heartland and from the coasts; black and brown and yellow and red and white voices; many voices speaking in one voice.

I have heard this voice. What it is saying will not change us overnight. There will remain divisions and walls. But now our national life can once again begin to have positive meaning, a meaning of hope and confidence, a meaning of love for America---a meaning which we have the power to put into it.

This new American voice speaks of hope. It reminds us of who we are and of what we can again be.:

I will show you the things that are now being done, says the New American Voice. And some of the things that were long ago done, that you may take heart.

THIS IS
FROM
T.S. ELIOT'S
Chorus from
The Rock

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Let me say to you that this new American voice will rise above the confused alarms of struggle and flight.

That voice will become so strong that it will be heard by all Americans and all the nations of the earth and it will echo boldly through history.

Yes, we have stood embattled in the darkness of suspicion and despair. And we have wondered at times if even "a little light, dappled with shadow" would appear. And we have heard voices of fear and despair and distrust, and we have perhaps, at times, lost heart.

But I have heard a new voice. And I say to all my fellow Americans: listen.

That voice says that we have endured the struggle on the embattled plain.

That voice says that all our tragedies have but prepared the way to triumph, not despite what we have endured, but because of it.

I say to you: listen.

The new American voice is saying : take heart.

We have come through the long and bitter night.

And all over the plain, a hundred million voices, in one great voice , shout out:

We have endured.

We have learned.

And now, now, we must prepare to greet a new dawn.