
SATY A - TRUTHFUL IN THOUGHT, SPEECH & ACTION

There is a cult of ignorance in the United States, and there has always been. The strain of anti-intellectualism has been a constant thread winding its way through our political and cultural life, nurtured by the false notion that democracy means that my ignorance is just as good as your knowledge.

Issac Asimov



We are a deeply divided nation. The United States of America now seems like the United States of Division because of the fissures of discord that have erupted from our political parties.

Yes, we can lift our voices in peaceful protest.
May we never take this right for granted, but help us when our hearts turn to violence and incitement.

Rev. Cynthia Huskey

Who Are We?

By Ruth Ann Angus

Hard to believe it is the end of February 2021. A whole year gone. These were the last days of freedom for so many of us a year ago. I am not sure how to begin to enter back into regular life. I am not sure there will ever be a "normal" again. So, I reflect, and I grieve for time lost. At my age time is precious. Being under lockdown was not how I would have chosen to spend this year. It was foisted upon me as it was for everyone. Unwelcome. Misunderstood. Resented.

I've been reading a book titled "Captivity" by James Loney, the true story of his and three other men kidnapped and held hostage in Iraq for 118 days during 2005-6. As I read of their captivity, I suffer with them as I find myself confined to my home just as they were confined chained together in one room. During their ordeal they each examine their own identity. I now wait patiently for my second injection of a vaccine that I dearly hope will end this incarceration once and for all, I, too, wonder about identity.

We call ourselves Americans. We live in the United States of America as if these states are all there is of an "America." But America is not a country. It is a continent; two continents, the continent of North America where we live and the continent of South America. People who live in South America do not refer to themselves as "Americans." They are Brazilians, Peruvians, Chileans, Columbians, and more. Have you ever heard a person from Canada calling themselves Americans? No, they are Canadians. Mexicans are Mexicans. A person from Costa Rica in Central America identifies as a Costa Rican. Someone from Guatemala says they are Guatemalan. Only those of us in the United States refer to ourselves as "American." As if we were the only ones.

What about African Americans? Because the black people in this country cannot know exactly what country their ancestors came from, they identify as African Americans. Wrong on both counts. Africa is not a country. It is a continent. And just how American have we let our black people be?

People living in France, Italy, and Spain are Europeans but they say they are French, Italian, Spanish. Do the people in the Middle East call themselves Middle Easterns? Sounds silly, doesn't it?

As to United in the United States, perhaps we should think about dropping the united part since we appear to be anything but united. How about North American States?

The ancestors on my father's side came from Scotland and Ireland and on my mother's side from Austria and Poland. I live in California thus I am now a Californian. However, I was raised in New York and New Jersey. How should I identify myself? I guess I am a Scottish-Irish, Austrian-Polish, New Yorker-Jerseyian, Californian, North American State-ian.

How dare we identify ourselves as "American!" As if we were the only ones! What does it mean to be American anyway? We seem to have lost that meaning. Most certainly we have lost unity. A lot is being said right now about how we will become "united" again. Will we? As we hopefully come to the end of our pandemic incarceration one hopes we will take time to search out the answer to the question: Who Are We?

