

Living In Historic Times

Preface 1: CLIS

*"I am an **invisible** man. No,....."*
(Invisible Man; Ralph Ellison)

"I'm sick with CLIS, complete locked-in syndrome, I'm sick with. But: No, I'm not lying in a bed, not able to move, not able to communicate, but apart from that, I'm sick with CLIS....."

Preface 2: Lucid Dreaming

*„.....oft nämlich sagt einem, wenn man schläft, etwas in seinem Bewusstsein:
Was dir da erscheint, ist nur ein Traum.“**

*(Aristoteles: Über Träume (de insomniis; On Dreams), Paragraph III, 462a
Quoted according to the translation by Eugen Dönt:
Aristoteles, Kleine naturwissenschaftliche Schriften, Reclam, Stuttgart 1997, S. 127)*

* (".....often, when one is asleep, something in your consciousness tells you:
What appears to you, is only a dream." – Translated by the author.)

He sat at his desk and looked at the screen of his PC, Lucid Dream - Wikipedia, but it not helped, he found no answer. He sat at his desk and looked at the screen of his PC and his consciousness told him: What appears to you, is only a dream, a nightmare.....

Part 1:

A Bad Time Came To Its End?

Election Day

I was a tough man, living in the toughest city of my tough nation - why I knew this? Well, homicide for instance? Not only we could talk about a difficult to grasp homicide rate, only during this weekend a boy was shoot dead as a collateral damage while walking home back from school, a girl sitting beside her mother in the car as well, and as these examples were not enough, also a baby. Yes, only three examples from one of this bloody weekends that we had more and more. Had I to talk about the actual homicides, how much, why, and so on? It was like living in a country where a bloody civil war took place, but we lived in peaceful days, our civil war was long ago, at least they told you this.

One could buy a real estate in the city, up the hills, or in one of the nice valleys, spending a hundred million or even more, was no problem. You could live in a hellhole, and nobody was interested in your situation, especially not your government, especially not the last four years.

We lived in the middle of the worst pandemic since a century, millions without health care, and the government did everything to take away health care from additional millions, not to provide health care to more people, maybe to all people.

I could continue, could make a tasteless quiz: What did you think, while reading this, in what city I would live, in which nation? I could tell you that much, not in the Middle Ages, not in a third world country - at least they told you so.

But today was a very special day, today was election day, would that change everything now? Except for the obvious fact, that the outcome of the election was obviously important, that it would be important to get rid of the current administration, also a new administration would not be able to change everything. At least not immediately and in an easy way, but four more years of the current administration would destroy our nation finally, would lead into a dictatorship, into a Nazi dictatorship. It was November the third, and I was a private eye.

*

Old man sitting by the side of the road / With the lorries rolling by - CSN were singing these lines, and he felt very much like this old man, especially in the following lines, and at the end of the song. But today he was excited, today was election day, today was the election day, the most important election since he lived.

*

Imagine, you would be a young black man in the USA, November the third, watching TV. Your former President of the United States had talked to you several times in the last weeks, via social media, via speeches broadcast by TV. What would you feel?

It would be arrogant in a very disgusting way to answer this question, but an election, that would decide about your future in a way, far beyond any normality? The hope, maybe no longer been treated like a second class citizen, if even, not to be seen as a former slave anymore, or the certainty, that the next four years, at least, would become even worse than the last four years, maybe would mean the end of all your hopes and dreams.

Easy, sitting in a foreign country, another continent even, thinking about such questions, like a funny intellectual game. But for this young black man, of course he stood as a metaphor or a symbol for all the other "minorities" and discriminated social groups, it was no funny intellectual game, the outcome of the election for him, was a deadly serious matter.

*

Insecure, with no self-confidence, always doubting about oneself, I think, this is a comprehensive description of this young boy - whereby, with his black, soft and naturally curled hair, his slim

figure, his bright and blue-gray eyes, he looked anything else than unattractive, in fact, one could say, that he looked cute, only nobody told him - you could imagine that this boy would have a cute girlfriend, in fact he had no girlfriend, and he never would have one.

A middle class family, a family that, together with the whole country, managed a certain social advancement, the cars got bigger, a first holiday abroad, a first flight, the first time real smoked salmon, not this colored fake stuff. The TV got colored, it became more and more normal to eat in a restaurant, real restaurants, to experience a certain kind of "luxury".

What else could I say about the boy? Maybe that he was interested in anything, curious about everything, he loved it to look at the stars, in winter he looked at Orion and his two dogs, framed by two huge fir trees - a view that would accompany him his whole life, even long after the huge fir trees were no longer. Science, all science, but also art, attracted him, but it was difficult for him, not only because in his youth many things were not even thinkable, that would be a matter of course in his later life. In TV only three programs, later a more and more, but as a boy he was not allowed to watch TV alone, he had to go to bed early. The family owned only a few books, but some, especially two. At one night he stood up, his parents already in bed upstairs, he slept downstairs besides the living room, he switched on the TV in the living room and discovered.....but I'm not sure, if this is interesting at all, interesting to talk about this insecure boy, who struggled to find his way, his way in life, his place in the world - never he would find any of it all, during his whole life.

The boy's name? Name him Peter, if you like to do so, but you could give him also any other name as well.

*

Old man sitting by the side of the road / With the lorries rolling by - CSN were singing these lines, and I felt very much like this old man, especially in the following lines, and at the end of the song. But today I was excited, today was election day, today was the election day, the most important election since I lived.

6 pm ET

Six o'clock eastern time, the first polling stations closed, sure it still would need some time till we would get the first numbers - CNN talked about the ways to win by constantly dropping numbers and states names. Yeah, they had to kill time as well as I had, tired of all the shit of the last days, weeks, months and years. And yet, still now it was not excluded, that the worst time would be still ahead of us. Indiana first, two third for the liar, but this was Indiana, other states would be the important states.....

*

Indiana was the first, two third for the wannabe dictator - last time three quarters? Okay, no resilient numbers of course, and even if, I sat in Germany, looking at the TV, the whole night I would do so, but why? Of course, this election would be important not only for the States, at least if the racist would win. Two times I had stayed in the States so far, Los Angeles respectively Los Angeles and San Francisco - Kentucky also for the racist, not very surprising, so far everything okay. Los Angeles was very interesting, staying in Downtown West and Westlake, among this Latino scum - I liked it very much to be there.....

*

Yeah, also Kentucky red, but who would have expected something else? These states were not

really interesting, four years ago he had better numbers, but this was too early to hope because of such early numbers. Biden had to win, the elder of the white men had to win, had I to be happy because of Kamala? It never had been easy to live in this country, at least with some remains of humanity and compassion, but the last four years had been hard, especially the last months. A virus in the land, a virus in the White House and the worst was, that the more deadly virus was the one in Washington – oh, in Kentucky Biden in lead now, very slightly, but in lead?

*

Biden now with a slight lead in Kentucky? Okay, red again!

*

Interesting ten minutes! First Florida red but not much, now blue, but not much - give Joe Florida and this fucking nightmare would be over! Yes, yes, yes, everything much too early, but.....

*

Biden had a real chance to win Florida? Only a few counties so far, too few so far, but so far all could give you hope - should this night come to a fast end, it would be so good for this country! Biden's lead increased in Florida, two thirds in Georgia, very early, too early!

*

Two thirds for Biden in Georgia? Very early everything, Florida in the reach of Biden, still in the lead, but a very, very close race! Was this too good for the moment? It would be so bad, would the story of the night would be, it developed in a good way early, but in the end we had to see a win from the racist liar.

*

Florida red again, maybe it would be good to wait an hour or so? Hard to watch, sitting in Germany, but what one had to feel, watching this in the States?

*

Florida blue, then red, now blue again - it was to expect! Georgia still solid blue.....? Florida already red again, Virginia red, South Carolina as well, but not important. Georgia no longer so blue! New England blue so far, but also not surprising - Florida blue again! Please, give us Americans the relief - what about the Senators, they are at least as important as the president!

*

What an election night, could not remember any election in Germany, such nerve wracking! Florida blue at the moment, but how long? Till the official result?

*

Georgia turned red, a bad sign? Soon 8 pm ET, more and more states closed their polling stations, everything gathered speed now - Florida tie! And the electoral votes? According to CNN the prediction was 30 to 18 so far, in favor of Biden - Florida red again, and the panhandle was still missing, the red panhandle!

*

Florida turned red, more and more as the panhandle became colored more and more, redder! First possible match ball not used? It seemed so, it would have been so fantastic, but.....

*

Florida lost? A bad feeling in my stomach, sure many other roads to the White House still open, but.....

*

Okay, still only a numbers game, but the electoral votes in favor for the racist now - but in many of the undecided states Biden was in the lead, also in some crucial states. The American people could still do the first important, crucial, step towards a future, not a better future, simply "a future", because with the Nazi, there would be no future anymore.

*

My mood cooled down somewhat, Florida seemed to be lost! Yes, also without Florida.....Ohio, Pennsylvania, North Carolina.....it had to happen! Fucking Hispanics in Florida, hating Castro and electing Hitler, that was very clever!

*

Now the time began, when a lot of states counted, but no final results. And now fourteen more closed their polling stations, 3 am in Germany. Biden performed very well in some states, it could still become a fast matter, Texas still blue, but.....

*

9 pm ET, Ohio would be possible, now Biden much more electoral votes than the liar. Now most of the states had closed their polling stations, now everything was on the table, especially because the West Coast, still with open polling stations, was blue and would stay blue. North Carolina? Biden had still so many possibilities, even without Florida, but there was this tennis player with four match balls, losing the game anyway in the end.

*

Four years ago I sat also in front of the TV in the night, never liked Hillary. But of course I hoped that she would win, it was obvious what a person the man from New York was - called him a Nazi (travel to Austria) in January 2016. And of course I thought that she would win, but then she lost Florida, and then the disaster began. I could not remember, but at a certain moment I went to bed, hoped that I would stand up and.....it was shock, in the first moment I thought: No, now I will not travel to the states. But a day later I said to me: No, now more than ever! And this was one of the best decisions in my life! This night I would not go to bed!

*

Biden's lead shrunk in many states, and it felt like déjà vu. And the Senate? If this ended again in a disaster, what then? Electoral votes the liar closed up, and my head began to pain. Ohio was lost,

Florida of course. So far all states decided, had voted as expected - red or blue, no surprises so far. Not very calming, the liar had won last time, Biden had the task to flip states, so far he had flipped non, no Florida, no Ohio, still chances, but chances were no electoral votes! One was obvious right now, no landslide win it would become!

*

It was "nice" to see Anderson Cooper, again and again showing how many ways Biden still had to win, when I had a problem therewith, to find the "Blue Wall" - North Carolina was red now! Was it again time to go to bed, and never stand up again, at least never to read the L. A. Times again, never again the Washington Post, never again watching CNN? 4:21 am, most polling stations were closed now, it would become no short night, a night with mixed emotions, with headache, with a bad ending?

*

The time moved on, slowly and with no surprises, on the contrary, what made it very "boring" and tiring. Okay, any thought about a landslide win, a fast and very distinct win was over, still all chances for Biden, but I could no longer thought about "chances"! Our nation not needed chances, we needed changes, severe changes, but on what a basis, a weak White House and no Senate? Yeah, everything still possible, but.....

And also still this question was not from the table, what nation we had become, if such a president had still all chances to win the race, the GOP to keep the majority in the Senate, as we headed towards midnight. Even if Biden win in the end, even if the Dems win the Senate in the end, this was not for what I had hoped for, that we would tell the world that we had learned our lesson. I was disappointed!

*

An hour and some minutes later, of course the West Coast was blue now, Biden now in a good lead regarding the electoral votes, but not near the needed two hundred seventy - now just over two hundred, was this not Hillary's number?

Yeah, now it began again, the ideas about, what states at the magic wall one had to touch to give Biden more than the needed electoral votes, and of course one had not to touch many - three maybe, but this meant not that Biden would win them necessarily! Just over two hundred, as in 2016? Your rationalism told you: We all knew that it could need longer, still everything was possible, Biden was near the win, three, maybe four states, that should be possible in any case, but my head ached and I felt exhausted. Because I was nearly twenty-four hours awaken now? I had the feeling, that this was not the main reason.

*

Midnight, was it encouraging that the president not had proclaimed his victory already? But I became more and more disappointed - yes, I had hoped for a fast and distinct victory. The nation would have needed it, I would have needed it, midnight and still the president had all the chances to win? I felt fucking, I started to become cranky, what a fucking nation.....

Should I try to come down, thinking on mailed ballots, still not had been counted, some states had said, that they would need at least till Friday for a final official result. Yes, all this was true, but where was the loud statement of my nation, that the last four years had been devastating, that we had failed totally in fighting the pandemic? I became cranky!

*

Dawn, it got day again, the night was over and nothing was decided - I had hoped for.....
How long I should sit here, staring at the screen? I decided to sleep for two hours, to see what would be then. Maybe some relief or would it become a rude awakening?
Joe Biden speaks, he feels good, I not. Yes, you maybe will win, but.....

*

Joe speaks. Yes, it will take somewhat longer, but I had hoped for..... - you not? I should try to find some sleep.....

Morals Defeated - The United States Of America

Imagine, you would be still the young black man in the USA, November the fourth in the early morning, watching TV. Your former President of the United States had talked to you several times in the last weeks, via social media, via speeches broadcast by TV, and a few hours ago, your sitting president had declared victory, what would you feel?

It would be still arrogant in a very disgusting way to answer this question, but an election, that would decide about your future in a way, far beyond any normality, not decided right now? The hope, maybe no longer been treated like a second class citizen, if even, not to be seen as a former slave anymore, or the certainty, that the next four years, at least, would become even worse than the last four years, maybe would mean the end of all your hopes and dreams?

But what did this mean? The Dems had motivated their base, and the president? And what did this mean? Was it now finally the time to think about, how many Americans were willing to elect a labeled racist? Was it all about economy or was there more? And the fucking feeling, that there was so much the more!

Still easy, sitting in a foreign country, another continent even, thinking about such questions, like a funny intellectual game. But for this young black man, of course he stood as a metaphor or a symbol for all the other "minorities" and discriminated social groups, it was no funny intellectual game, the outcome of the election for him, was a deadly serious matter, now even more than before!

*

I opened my eyes, had slept somewhat. After two hours the alarm clock had rung, I had set the alarm. But not much had changed, so I closed my eyes again, after switching off the alarm. Now I stood up, still no real change, the president's speech I had missed - maybe better, obviously the predicted shit in this situation, he had declared victory and had talked about stealing an election. Who was the thief? After a shower the question arose, what happened in my country right now, what did this tell you?

I was a private dick, not that old as my new president, much younger, but retirement came nearer. I was in a good shape, should I quote now, tall and thoroughly fit..... - most people were pretty much astonished when I told them, that I was fifty-five. I wished to look forward to retirement, but at the moment I saw no reason to be positive. Yes, at CNN they did everything to explain that Biden still could win - oh Chris, was this important any longer? Yes, of course, but my question had a deeper meaning, of course only important if Biden would win. Would the racist in office win, then everything was over, but assumed, Biden would win, then he would win in such a way, a very humiliating way. Hey Peter, but he would be president anyway, yes no majority in Senate and even weakened in the House, but Biden would be president! President, yes president. Hey Joe, maybe you could be able to tell me, president of what a nation? But was I really interested in an answer, seeing the answer in real time on TV? We had lost, the American nation had lost - no, half of the nation had lost, maybe only in a devastating way, maybe by heading into the final destruction.

*

I opened my eyes, had slept somewhat. After two hours the alarm clock had rung, I had set the alarm. But not much had changed, so I closed my eyes again, after switching off the alarm. Now I stood up, still no real change, the president's speech I had missed - maybe better, obviously the predicted shit in this situation, he had declared victory and had talked about stealing an election. Who was the thief? After a shower the question arose, what happened in the States right now, what did this tell you?

Not for the first time it became obvious, that the American nation had a severe structural problem, had several, maybe many, severe structural problems, and this election showed very clearly, that these problems were in fact very severe and in any case structural. But this election revealed no solutions, only dragged all the problems into the light finally - still a well known racist, woman hater, mass murderer - there was still a pandemic with a quarter million of dead Americans, or? - had all the chances to win the election, legally, not by fraud! Again and again thinking about the German history? This was no good November the third for democracy, whatever the final result would be!

*

Sometimes the boy was alone at home, sometimes when his parents were in bed he was still awake, he was curious about, what all could be discovered in the house. In the living room, filling out a complete wall, was a wall unit with three huge drawers right at the bottom. I know no details, but one day he looked after, what all was in this three huge drawers. Table linen for instance, many of it, but this he knew already. The good ones, for holidays and family celebrations, but this was not really interesting. All in all, nothing of interest was in this three huge drawers, but then he discovered a book between some table cloths, easy to oversee, very well covered - a book? The family owned not many books, a series of lexica - a-z - all in all maybe twenty small volumes, sometimes he read in them. Some other books, a few novels, more kitschy ones, an uncle bestowed from time to time another volume of the endless Karl May novels, but he not liked them, stupid stories with stupid plots and stupid characters, only the movies were even more stupid, especially the endless re-runs, especially Winnetou I-III! His sister read them all.

But now he held another book in his hand, a book like he had never seen before, text, but it were the pictures, many pictures were in the book, the pictures aroused his interest. I cannot really say how old the boy was in this very moment, but young. He finished school at the beginning of fifteen, he started with school relatively early, he finished his apprenticeship at the end of seventeen. This discovery happened years before he left school, maybe he was twelve.

"Der Gelbe Stern" (The Yellow Star), a book by Gerhard Schoenberner, published in 1960, five years before the boy was born, fifteen years after the Third Reich became defeated by the allies. A book about the persecution of the Jews in Europe, 1933 till 1945, with nearly two hundred pictures. The boy looked at the pictures, often he would open this drawer from now on, to take the book and to look at the pictures, especially those from the concentration camps. He asked himself:

"Why this was possible?"

"Who could do something like this?"

A bulldozer pushed piles of dead bodies, all horribly gaunt, into a mass grave.

"Well, they had to do this, after they had liberated the concentration camps, what else they could have done? The danger of diseases, what did the American soldier felt, doing this, pushing piles of dead bodies into a mass grave, with a bulldozer?"

Americans forced Germans to visit the concentration camps, to bury dead bodies, to witness what has happened there.

"That's good to do so, no one should say: I had no idea about it, this has not really happened."

Pictures from the rebellion in the Warsaw Ghetto.

"Had they ever a chance, but what would have been the alternative?"

Pictures from the crematoria.

"Was a human in fact able to bear such a place, burning dead bodies in piecework, every hour, every day, constantly - only thinking about the smell?"

Pictures from endless lines of Jews, waiting to be on the row to be shoot dead in East Europe.

"Why the not ran away? Why they not simply ran away, they would die in any case, why not dying, when running away, maybe the bullets would miss you?"

There were many pictures, very disturbing pictures, pictures causing a lot of questions, question not finding a rational answer. It should take long, the boy already an older man, a millennium later, that he found his answers. Those who once liberated his country, saved him not to become endangered, to fall for the tricks of the Nazis, as a boy in the "HJ", the Hitler Youth, he knew that he was very enthusiastic, in regard to many things the Hitler Youth had offered, nature, science, technique - but thanks to those who ended this insanity, he never had to face this seductive offer, offered by devils.

But now the boy got his answers, and it was heartbreaking that those who once rescued him, now were the endangered, endangered to fall for the tricks of the devilish seducers.

*

He had no good feeling, 2:00 pm in Germany, looking at the numbers. Biden would need not only one or two of the few remaining states, he was not that much optimistic. Yes, at CNN they did everything to explain that it was not over, and maybe they even were not wrong, but was this the situation everybody had hoped for? At least he had hoped for a better outcome.

He was disappointed, deeply, fought not to cry. Yes, Joe would change everything, without Senate and with such a Supreme Court? Maybe it would be better the Nazi would win? - What blasphemy! Could a narrow win for Biden, should he win, be the basis for all the severe changes this country would need? Hardly likely!

Now tears ran down his cheeks, hearing the waves at Matosinhos beach.....

*

Six states open and a near tie race, 8 am ET? The Dems were the loser of the night, not only because of Senate. They were even in such a situation, only to mention the pandemic, not capable to flip the coin to their favor. This was an admission of failure, even with a new president Joe Biden, maybe especially with a new president Joe Biden. Why the Dems had tried it the same way as in 2016, not much they had changed? Only the question still was to answer: Too less, or would they become the "lucky loser"? I saw no future for the nation or a very hard one, but no bright one, it was fucking, as fucking as in 2016. Where was the diversity of the Dems? Why African Americans still voted for this racist, Latinos or Asian Americans? Why workers, threatened to lose not only their health care? Why was it okay that hundreds of thousands of Americans had to die unnecessarily - what a fucking nation I lived in?

I was a tough guy, I was a private eye, I was upset about what happened in my nation. Biden would win and at CNN they would be happy and the Dems would celebrate and nobody would talk about this total failure of the Dems - Happy America! Maybe the Nazi should get a second term, maybe this would enlighten my nation, maybe this would cost not only the lives of hundreds of thousands, maybe of millions, maybe I should.....

*

After three a clock in the afternoon and still the race was not decided, I no longer could listen to CNN! Yes, Biden had turned Michigan blue now, what a sensation! Apart that this would not be enough by far to win.....but do it again CNN, would he win.....now, and.....maybe, then he would be president! Yeah, and what a strong president he would be, maybe I should go shopping

or for a walk?

It was not the fear that Biden would not win, it was the fear that Biden would win with a very narrow lead – and winning popular vote would make it not better. Not because of the actions of the Nazi in office then, but because a such weak president Biden without a majority in Senate would be a dangerous option. How the Dems would react, if Biden made compromises with the Republicans? Obama? What if the Republicans block Biden, like they had blocked Obama? What will happen in four years then? What if Biden had problems to fight the pandemic, out of control in January? What if Biden had problems with the economy? A weak president Joe Biden seemed to be no good option, but the best one could hope for now - and that was really an admission of failure!

*

Intellectual game, should I start with intellectual games now? Was it maybe not the worst, that the Republicans were able to defend Senate? They had Senate and the Supreme Court, maybe this would be enough for enough Senators to decide, that a weak Joe Biden would be maybe better than an unleashed ruthless liar and racist for four more years? This could mean, that should the racist try to play dirty games after a narrow win by Joe Biden, enough Republicans would support Biden, so that the ruthless criminal in office would have no chance to cause too much trouble - one problem about it? Well, Joe Biden would have to win first, and even now, heading towards noon, this was absolutely not safe.

*

After hours of dramatic activity, a state of nearly no activity since some hours now. Six battleground states and a few more, that was all what was left. In any case time to get aware, that the election was not all, there was the virus for instance, in the States and in Germany, in Europe as well as in the whole world.

The situation in the States was very dramatic, again over a thousand deaths yesterday, in Germany yesterday somewhat over a hundred deaths. That sounded not so dramatic, Germany a quarter of the citizens of the United States, but it was ten times the number of four weeks ago! No longer Germany was the land of the bliss, but at least it reacted, but maybe some days too late? A new lockdown, but numbers rose, in some areas, counties, very dramatically. Also my county, even if not one of the most dramatic counties, headed totally in the wrong direction. But as said, the nation had reacted, the next two weeks would show what the effect would be. The States?

Not having a national plan, implemented by the states, that could only lead into a disaster, the disaster of winter and also no new president, inaugurated in January(!), would change this. It was hard to witness this mismanagement!

Good chances now for Biden to win, but still nothing could be taken for granted, and this was still a very sad aspect of this election. The American nation had been not capable to speak out in favor of democracy and equality, that was sad. But it was what it was, it was no nice story, it was the reality and one had to accept reality.

*

Around two o'clock pm ET, Biden could expand his lead somewhat by winning Wisconsin, but still the president had all his chances. Would Biden win Nevada, he would have a big advantage, but still I was unhappy about what had happened the last hours. I thought about, to stop tracing the developments any longer. Would the president win, everything would be too late, would Biden win, then we would have to see the developments of the next days and weeks, the developments during his first term from January 2021 on. In any case it would be a close election, maybe Biden would win with exactly two hundred seventy electoral votes, in a way this would be fantastic, in a way sarcastic, but then also very disappointing. He simply had to win, not matter how and why!

*

Well, the president started to become desperate, the Supreme Court came into play! But it appeared silly, were was the allegation? The next day came to an end and obviously it still need a longer time till the final decision. I thought about to go to bed, to stand up tomorrow, and to look after, who had become the POTUS - if then decided!

*

Yeah, now the next move, the Supreme Court! Not that much a surprise, but to stop counting, at a moment when he still could win? Much ado about Pennsylvania, of course, but Biden could win without Pennsylvania! All these efforts and in the end Arizona would become the key state? Yes, this president was really desperate, panic in the White House! They knew that it would become hard for them, if no longer staining the White House.

Words from Joe Biden, good words, calm words, but words clearly sent the president a message, that Biden would not cave in, why he should? Biden appeared much stronger at this moment as the president, who appeared very weak, insecure and frightened at this moment. - Michigan for Biden, a huge step, two states more and it would be over!

*

A short speech from Joe Biden, a good speech! It would be relieving, would I underestimate him and his vice president Kamala Harris. Sometimes it was relieving, to misjudge something, sometimes.....maybe the next long night.....

*

Not much had happened the last hours, apart from that, that the first supporters of the president appeared in front of places, where they tallied votes now. This was no surprise, to be honest I had expected much more turmoil and more actions from the president, but also this had it's ridiculous aspect! Okay, in Michigan, but to demand stopping the counting in Arizona, where Biden led, but the president was able to close the gap more and more? Or could I not see the sense in such a behavior? Whatever, as said, so far I was very surprised, that it had been possible to conduct the voting in such a "civilized" manner so far. Should at least this give you some hope, at least if Joe Biden would win at the end?

Of course courts would be active later, maybe some recounts of votes, but this was nothing new - Bush vs. Gore for instance. Could it be, that Joe Biden would win and, apart from some turmoil, maybe some attacks, everything could be handled without severe incidents, not to talk about a new civil war? If this could be the case, then the worst could have been avoided - but slowly, at the moment it was still not excluded, that this president would get a second term!

*

The hours passed and no new final results from any of the open states - it seemed as in a movie, when the director thought, it would be cool to delay the climax more and more, because this would make the movie more exciting, not realizing, that the audience not liked it, was upset about it, felt this simply as stupid and boring. But unfortunately our director named "reality", and therefore we had to be patient, no option - leaving the movie theater?

But something had happened, protesters in Arizona demanded, to stop the count of the votes - Arizona? Biden in the lead, but the president was able to close the gap more and more. So, the protesters supported Biden - or? No, these were supporters of the Nazi in office - but that made no

sense, or? No, it made no sense, absolutely no sense, but that was the American reality of the liar's society. So, the stupid Americans, the stupid uneducated redneck Americans, we knew them in Europe! One could find them in every European nation, in every! Most prominent at the moment in countries like Hungary or Poland, but they were everywhere, in all these well-educated nations, educated by the Age of Enlightenment, like the Nazis, one could find in Sweden or Germany for example.

I was surprised about, that so far everything happened so smooth, some background noise of course, but not the disaster one could have expected. Of course, it was still early in a way, and of course still no new POTUS, but so far.....?

*

Now it became arduous, numbers rose or declined very slowly, but since hours none of the remaining states could announce final numbers. Now, when one - maybe two - states could end the race, would decide about the next POTUS. But it not helped, again the magic wall, again that Biden would have more possibilities to win, but that the president had still his chances to win - how often I had heard this now? 2:40 pm, this would become a very long day!

*

Since hours no further state had been decided, dark outside again, so I had started to do other things again, not only watching TV for hours. Still some hours till midnight, the next night with only a few hours sleep, some dozing? It could be over so fast, one further state could bring the decision now - hadn't we this already at the very beginning, with Florida? How long was this ago? I had lost my feeling for time totally!

*

Well, now there he was, the liar in office had lied in a disgusting way - now it would become interesting, to see the GOP's reaction! What a farce, what a travesty, what an asshole he was, a very dangerous one. On the other hand, now democracy could show its strength, could show him his place, as a over-the-hill TV star in a fucked up reality show.

He appeared as a very desperate man, acted in a very ridiculous way, still with a chance to win the election! But obviously he himself no longer believed in it, but could this strategy be successful? Yes, of course, nothing was impossible in our nation anymore, not even that the Supreme Court would crown him! Living in a nation that had killed all morals.....

It would be interesting now to see, whether we, the American nation, would be able to protect our democracy or not. Positive to see was, that the counting continued, no matter what the one term president demanded. What I hoped for the moment was, that as soon as possible the next states would provide final numbers, that Biden would reach the two hundred seventy as soon as possible, this would pressure the criminal in office finally. Would this then be the beginning of the war, the president's son had proclaimed? Would depend on the GOP and the courts, would depend on the reaction of the American people.

*

Was this "speech", this hate speech full of lies, the starting signal for his base to get ready because he saw no longer a chance to win in another way? It seemed so, for the United States a critical phase had begun. So far everything developed very smooth, this words spoken in the White House could be a turning point. On the other hand were his accusations that ridiculous, that it would be hard to believe, that he could get enough support from the GOP and courts, to have a chance to win the election in this way - even not with this Supreme Court! But how often one had said this during

the last four years.....?

I thought, that it would be important now, that Biden would reach the necessary electoral votes to become president as soon as possible, then the end game could begin, hopefully not as a war like the liar's son wished. The next hours could be crucial, the next short night, the third in a row, or?

*

I started to get tired, of the numbers and all these possibilities for Biden still to win, but I got tired in reality also, and my head ached again, my eyes also. This fucking "speech" from the president, so far I had seen such shit only from countries like Belarus, but I never thought to hear it from a sitting American president, hoping for reelection.

So far so bad, but it was interesting to see, that the GOP stayed silent, of course his family and his "buddies" like the mad man from New York, but the GOP as such stayed silent. But not for long, the president had ordered Lindsey Graham to act, and Graham was an obedient puppy, of course on FOX, the only trustfully news source in the whole USA. But he stayed not alone, also Ted Cruz stood by his president, this so wonderful man - I got sick of the shit!

I took a shower, again dark outside, thought about to close my eyes somewhat, to doze for a while, to listen to the voices on TV, explaining the different ways Joe Biden still could win.....

*

Nothing happened, except that the first Senators joined the president - not very surprising that their names were Lindsey Graham and Ted Cruz. Stand by your man, yes, hopefully go under with him! It was already Friday of course, gaps closed slowly, but.....?

I was tired, my head ached, my eyes ached, I decided that it would be better to try to sleep for a while. It was way after midnight in Germany, and in the States Thursday found its end. I fell asleep immediately.....

*

Imagine, you would be still the young black man in the USA, November the fifth in the evening, watching TV. Your former President of the United States had talked to you several times in the last weeks, via social media, via speeches broadcast by TV, and in the last hours, your sitting president had held his "speech", and Lindsey Graham and Ted Cruz had spoken out at FOX in his favor, what would you feel?

It would be still arrogant in a very disgusting way to answer this question, but an election, that would decide about your future in a way, far beyond any normality, not decided right now, now under severe danger? The hope, maybe no longer been treated like a second class citizen, if even, not to be seen as a former slave anymore, or the certainty, that the next four years, at least, would become even worse than the last four years, maybe would mean the end of all your hopes and dreams?

But who was guilty in the sense of the president, Pennsylvania, cities like Philadelphia, the sound of Philadelphia, nigger sound! Yes, of course, this was a coincidence, this president did more for this lazy - Jared Kushner - "Blacks" than every other president ever! Of course!

Still easy, sitting in a foreign country, another continent even, thinking about such questions, like a funny intellectual game. But for this young black man, of course he stood as a metaphor or a symbol for all the other "minorities" and discriminated social groups, it was no funny intellectual game, the outcome of the election for him, was a deadly serious matter, now even more than before, now even more!

*

The boy loved the stars, this distant lights, this soft glow in Orion were new stars became born, or the soft glow in Andromeda, stars, millions of trillions of miles away. At first, he used his fathers binoculars, later he got his first own telescope. Well, it was not that easy.

It was not that small at all, one of these typical supermarket telescopes from China one could buy at that times, but they had one big disadvantage, very useless finder scopes! But without a useful finder scope, it was not so easy to find anything, especially with a reflecting telescope. So it came, that he saw the glow in Orion with his bare eyes, of course with the pair of binoculars, but he had problems to find the nebulae with his telescope! Several attempts, disappointing attempts, but finally he managed it, and it was wonderful then. Later he would have other telescopes, till he found the telescope that fitted perfectly, developed by a guy named John Dobson, famous also for his offers on the sidewalks of San Francisco.

Although the night sky is famous for being non-varying, varying objects were his interest. The change of the shades on the moon from one day to the next, the change of the position of the moons of Jupiter from one day to another, appearing and disappearing sun spots and more. He observed the sun for years, every possible day, every possible day a drawing, even with no or only one sun spot - during a minimum, as he later understood. But yet most fascinated him, that some stars changed their brightness. Some fast, some very slow, some erratic, some very regular, and he started to observe those stars. But it was not easy for him, sometimes he felt very good by doing so, sometimes very unhappy. Often he doubted about his doing, and again it was a time, things later very normal, not even invented.

He discovered a special type of stars as especially interesting, so-called carbon stars, and he did interesting things, but always he doubted about his doing. One time he tried three years to become clear about the position of a star, at this time positions of stars were not always very accurate, something was wrong. Later there was the Internet, half an hour later he had the answer! Yet, even with all these difficulties, he liked the nights outside, alone with the stars, in the silence of the night. And at this time winter was still a real winter, sometimes standing for hours in deep snow, accompanied by the hunter and his two dogs, but he liked it.

*

The old man in Germany was tired, had hoped for a fast end, had hoped for a strong statement, now it was Friday and nothing was decided. Not the worst possibility lay on the table, with every hour it looked better for Joe Biden, but.....

A strong statement looked different, the old man was disappointed, even if the accusations of the president sounded silly and as a result of being panicky. And his watchdogs like Graham and Cruz, bootlickers like "Rudy"? Even if assumed that Biden would become POTUS, that the transition would be peaceful, the old man had no good feeling. He had hoped for, to hear the American voice, but it was more like a whisper - Tracy Chapman?

But maybe this was not the problem now, he thought. Maybe it was important for the moment that Joe Biden would win, the rest later! Nevada and Arizona, Georgia and why not Pennsylvania - maybe it was good now, that in 2016 the now president had won many states with a very small margin? Maybe it was the only important matter at the moment that Joe Biden would get more than three hundred electoral votes? The endgame of the counting had begun, but not the endgame of the election and by far not the endgame of the fight for the American democracy. But now it would be important to win the counting, if not, everything else would be only hypothetical.....

Endgame!

I had fallen asleep, opened my eyes somewhat and saw Chris Cuomo and a younger guy, still dark outside. The younger guy at the famous magic wall, handwritten numbers? He did some math and explained Cuomo why Joe Biden was in lead in Georgia now - really!

I sat up and was astonished, really? Wow, would Biden win Georgia, Nevada, maybe Arizona, not to talk about Pennsylvania.....I was fully awakened immediately!

*

I had found some sleep, had not set my alarm clock, this was not the first time I woke up. I grabbed the remote control as already before, switch on the TV, I was still tired, sun rays through the window. The voice of Chris Cuomo, easy to recognize, and another one, explaining Cuomo why Biden would lead in Georgia now - what?

I forced my eyes to open up fully, looked at the TV screen, Cuomo and another younger man in front of the "magic wall" - the younger man wrote or had written numbers on the magic wall, did some subtractions or so, but he said: That's why Joe Biden leads in Georgia now - wow!

Should there be some dynamic in the process now? What all I had missed, while sleeping? I stood up, grabbed some clothes, took a deep sip tea and then a deep sip coffee and sat in front of the TV, was the race over now, just after 10:30 am in Germany, Friday?

*

Come on Philly, let's do it! Should this become a Happy Friday? Yes, a lot of trouble ahead of us, but.....

*

Wow, Philadelphia blue now! Nevada, Arizona, Georgia and Pennsylvania, all blue now! Okay, nothing fixed now, especially Arizona, but.....

*

Waiting for salvation, waiting till the last percentages had been count, waiting till Joe Biden had reached or overcame the two hundred seventy, waiting till Joe Biden would declare to be the elected president. The day took its course, but now we had a good chance that at the end of the day we would have a new POTUS, even if only elected so far.

It would be good, the sitting president and the GOP would have to react then. The weekend would come, then the next week, and I should start to work again then. I was a private eye, I had to work, and in fact I had a case. But I was somewhat flexible as a self-employed, and I had thought that everything would be finished earlier. So I had decided that at Tuesday and Wednesday, so I had planned, to concentrate on the election, to start my investigation then again - now it was Friday and I still sat in front of the TV, waiting that it would happen - one or two states more, my client became nervous because I always said, that I have had no final success so far. Maybe till evening, maybe the salvation would come, maybe I should start with my normal life again?

*

Well, it got dark outside again, only some percentages left and the position of Joe Biden became more and more solid with every new pile of votes counted. The race was over? In a way yes, but still some hypothetical chances for the sitting president, we had to wait till everything was cut and dried. The next short night? I had to wait, wait till CNN would give Biden two hundred seventy electoral votes or more, and much more important, till Joe Biden would hold his next speech, would declare oneself president elect.

Since nearly four days not more than watching TV, looking at the screen of the PC, no work? Of course, I had a job, a not easy full time job, but I had not to work the whole month, I had plenty time to sit in Germany watching CNN.

Unemployed? Not really, but kicked out by the virus, four weeks - at least - short-time work, to one hundred percent! One hundred percent, when it would be clear to one hundred percent that Biden would be the next POTUS? A matter of hours? It would become the next short night!

*

Joe Biden would hold a speech at prime time they reported, but what should he say? Still nothing decided finally, or what? Should it really be, that we would head into Saturday and still no elected president? Thanks Republicans, that you forced courts to forbid the counting of early votes before November the third! But this was their strategy from the beginning on, to cause as much disorder as possible, knowing since months that it would be not easy for them to win. But they had won, they had won in a very disturbing manner, Senate and House, only the liar in office had some smaller problems.

"Be patient Peter, it's only a matter of time till we will have a new POTUS, Joe Biden and his vice president Kamala Harris!"

*

Well, soon midnight again, Friday would be over, Saturday would begin. If someone had told me on Tuesday, that I would still sit on Friday night in front of the TV, waiting that Joe Biden would be declared the elected president, I would have said: "No way, on Friday I will walk around in the woods maybe, but never I will waste all my time in front of the TV. They predict a very sunny weather on Friday!" And now? Not the whole day, but many hours I had listened to the TV, had looked at the screen of the PC, had looked at the wonderful weather at the other side of the window! Another night with not much sleep? Tomorrow? I took a deep breath.....

*

I had been dozed off, opened my drowsy eyes, 4:30 am ET - it was Saturday! Saturday, had I missed it? A short check, TV always running, no! Still two hundred and fifty-three electoral votes for Biden, nothing had changed, at least not dramatically. I looked at the data from the states, Biden still in lead in the crucial states, no drastic changes, but Georgia! Now seven thousand votes, four thousand the last time, should be Georgia also be safe for Biden? I was not sure, should I close my eyes again, should I eat something, the last days I had eaten a lot of stupid stuff, especially too much sweet things, my stomach and my digestion told me this very clearly! I drank some tea, it would be bad to miss the moment when it would be official and irrevocable, when Joe Biden would speak out the magic words: I have won the election.....

*

I woke up at 10:30 am, Saturday - Saturday? Yes, Saturday! Saturday and still no elected president, some margins had changed, but this was all. The good? The margins with which Joe Biden led in the crucial states were very stable or increased - especially Georgia, no longer a thousand more or four thousand more, now seven thousand more, that was encouraging! Well, I had planned to follow the election very closely till it would be over, I thought it would have happened on Thursday. Then I planned to become more active in the sense to spent time outside, to become more active, at least as far as the situation would allow - second (light) lockdown in Germany. But now it was Saturday and it was foreseeable, the next day mostly at home, the TV running, I not wanted to miss the moment, when CNN would declare Joe Biden as the winner, when Joe Biden would declare to have won the election.

I bought some rolls at the bakery, boiled some eggs, a new pot of tea, some marmalade - it would become the next long day.....

*

11:25 am ET, new numbers and with this new numbers CNN predicted that Joe Biden would win the race, because would win in Pennsylvania!

Joseph Robinette „Joe“ Biden Jr., 46. President of the United States of America
Kamala Devi Harris, Vice President

And how redemptive it was, to see and hear Van Jones, at this moment he expressed with his feelings and words the feelings of many Americans! My feelings? Well, I was a fifty-five-year-old white man? I was a tough private dick, living in the toughest city of my tough nation.....

*

5:25 pm in Germany, dozing on my bed, at last some new numbers, as so often during the last days and hours - but this time! CNN predicted Joe Biden as the elected president, because they predicted now, that he would win Pennsylvania - it had happened!

I was confused, had it really happened? I heard Van Jones, overwhelmed by his feelings, sitting in Germany, outside it got dark again – I felt empty.....

I thought that I should spend some time outside, in the cold evening air - please American, now that the first step had been done, let it become a peaceful transition!

*

I was out on the streets - yeah, let's celebrate. It had become true, I had tears in my eyes. This day would be a day to cheer, nothing else! Of course, soon reality would be back again, and even it would happen, that we would have a peaceful transition - no, today was a day to celebrate, forget the rest, Peter!

I joined the crowds on the streets, I was always suspicious about "the crowd", Elias Canetti, but today was a special day. Some young folk celebrated near to me, I joined them, the old man with tears in his eyes.....

*

I had spent some time outside, had watched the stars, this beautiful lights. So far away, not noticing what happened here down on earth - four other years up? I was not interested in the "political analyses" now, now that it had happened. Yeah, it would not become easy for Biden and Harris, but there had been no alternative.....

I would lay back for the rest of the day, tomorrow I had some appointments, a somewhat busy day. From Monday one I should begin to arrange me with the current situation in Germany, for the rest of the month at home and a (partial) lockdown.

And now? My deepest wishes to you America, would be nice to be with you again - maybe at the end of 2021, or even earlier?

*

Imagine, you would be still the young black man in the USA, November the seventh in the afternoon, cheering on the streets. Your former President of the United States had talked to you several times in the last weeks, via social media, via speeches broadcast by TV, and now it had happened, Joe Biden had reached the necessary amount of electoral votes, what would you feel?

It would be still arrogant in a very disgusting way to answer this question, after an election, that had decided about your future in a way, far beyond any normality, now decided, still under danger? The

hope, maybe no longer been treated like a second class citizen, if even, not to be seen as a former slave anymore, or the certainty, that the next four years, at least, would become even worse than the last four years, maybe would mean the end of all your hopes and dreams? And now? The transition, all the existing problems, a strong GOP, maybe now stronger than before, still a McConnell, too high expectations.....?

Still easy, sitting in a foreign country, another continent even, thinking about such questions, like a funny intellectual game. But for this young black man, of course he stood as a metaphor or a symbol for all the other "minorities" and discriminated social groups, it was no funny intellectual game, the outcome of the election for him, and what would happen now, was a deadly serious matter, now even more than before, now even more!

*

The old man was happy, in a way he was proud, caught himself by feeling proud, nothing he had made to feel proud, but he felt proud! He felt relieved, a burden was gone, and yet, still sitting in Germany.....?

He would go to bed soon tonight - or maybe not? Joe Biden's speech was announced for 2:00 am German time, I should watch it live he thought, of course he wanted to watch the speech live! But now he took a deep breath and closed his eyes, the first step had been done, only the first step, but you had to begin with the first step - he felt proud!

The Day After

I said it before, that I was a private dick? I think so. I was the prototype of a private dick, at least if reading one of this classic hard-boiled stories, I saw me - with one exception!

You knew, these stories, at the beginning, when the protagonist became introduced, and he told you: I accepted any kind of case, with one exception, nothing related to relations, especially divorces. Well, I accepted any kind of case, without any exception!

And in fact, I had a client at the moment, suspicious whether his wife would cheat him or not, and I had to check it - disappointed of me? I had told you, that I lived in the toughest city in this tough nation? I think so!

I had to make a living, and we lived in rough times. Yes, of course, it seemed as this matter with the president could be over, but man, we still had this pandemic and the numbers exploded again, and we still had some not so cool problems, problems as a nation. The next four years? Well, maybe a disaster anyway.....

But it was Sunday, the case could wait, wait till tomorrow, today was a day to celebrate - or.....? At least I tried to be optimistic, Joe and Kamala had written history - Biden was the oldest so far and Kamala.....were there not some points that costed her her possibilities to become the nominee of the Democrats?

But today was a day to celebrate, it could not become worse, really? Still Biden's words from last evening in my ears, as he talked about America and the beacon. Maybe such thinking was one of the basis of the American reality? But maybe now we could longer pretend, to be a free nation, a nation where everyone got a fair chance, where everyone could become everything.....you had heard it before, or, this wonderful stories about the American Nightmare? I was a private dick and I celebrated today, tomorrow I would try again to find out, whether she cheated his man or not.....

*

It was Sunday and the American nation celebrated - yes? It was Sunday and parts of the American nation celebrated, some parts weren't that happy, even angry and pissed off.

Mixed messages everywhere, and again pathetic "politicians" like Moscow Mitch, Graham or Cruz seemed to have not realized that something had happened, they acted, as if a dangerous enemy would have to be hunted down, this gave no hope for the next four years!

Kamala Harris' and Joe Biden's speech in the night - a typical American show, a lot of red-white-blue and American flags? - History had been written!

How eroded was the American democracy in fact, this question would find most probable an answer within the next four years, maybe within the next months or even weeks. Only hearing words like: He (Joe Biden) is without any doubts the best man for the moment - hey America, you have not learned over the last four years, how fucking ridiculous it was, to always talk in superlative - America as beacon? That was absurd! And what, the American racism, a fucking health care system, millions of homeless, an undemocratic electoral system.....or what?

But today was Sunday and not only parts of America celebrated, also large parts of the world. Sure, it was good what had happened, but therewith none of the American problems had been solved. It was good to celebrate today. Tomorrow, Monday, would be early enough to face the truth.....

Back To Normality

It was no coincidence that I started my investigation on Monday again. I knew, from earlier investigation, that she was on Mondays for some time out of the house, she was a suburban housewife with a part-time job, to go shopping and for everything else. Two kids in school, not had to work on Mondays, her husband on work, time for other "matters" - she entered her car and I followed her.

We drove for some while, as far as I knew this area, not to the mall and therefore I was not surprised, that her car entered the parking of a motel - how classic! She knocked at the door of one of the rooms, a handsome young man opened, a surreptitious kiss and both entered the room, the door closed behind them - that it was, I had the pictures! I would wait till she would come out again, to see how long she would be in, maybe till he would come out, to have some better pictures of him, but the case was solved. I leant back and waited.....

*

I stood up late, had had a long and good sleep, and nothing to do! I would have to spend the day more or less at home, short-time work, all cafés, restaurant, bars closed. No cinema, no clubs, no theater or whatsoever. I could do some shopping, but living alone it was not necessary to buy much - I would spend the day home.

Maybe some TV, it was Monday, maybe Inspector Barnaby later, the same episodes for how many times now? The sun shined outside, but it was very cold - well, it was November and we had definitively over 10°, but I liked the summer sun with every year more, hated the cold, even if "winter" was since a long time anymore, what "winter" had meant in my youth - weeks of snow, temperatures below -20°, but this was long gone. But yet, I froze more today as then!

The election was over, and the US immediately in a lot of trouble - or was I too negative? Would it be possible to get rid of this president, in any not too much hurting way? Hurting the American nation! And the German nation? As always our problems looked small compared with the US, but they were there! Also our numbers rose, we had to be very careful, that the situation not ran out of control, in some aspects it even had already happened, tracing became more and more difficult, partially it had become impossible! And the daily politics?

Minister Scheuer headed directly into the next disaster, again fantastic plans, like the toll debacle, but hey, it was not his money! It was taxpayer money, it not hurt him, why not burning again a hundred million Euros or more? Yes, this was nerving, but it was no existential threat, and this was the big difference between the US and Germany.

So,..... Monday. Maybe time for doing things, I had no time so far.....

*

Waiting till she would come out again, I listened to the radio, the news. Biden would announce his corona task force today, Republicans blocked money for the transition team to delay or block their work, a tropical storm hit Florida, the majorities in Senate unclear because of the two races in Georgia.....who would have thought, that from now on everything would be easy and nice? Life was different, life was fucking in many ways. Had I to be interested in, why she cheated her husband, or was it enough to know that it was so? The door opened again, roughly an hour later, she stepped out, a last short kiss and she entered her car again, drove away. I waited, but because he not followed her, I went to the "reception".

"Can you tell me something about room eleven?"

Indian or Pakistani, I had no idea how to decide, but from that direction.....

"Sir, I....."

I took some notes out from my pants pocket and pushed some in his direction, six or so, he took them hastily.

"What I can do for you, sir?"

"Room eleven?"

"A young man lives there."

"So, he has the room not only for an hour or so?"

"No....."

"And she's, the woman who left recently, not the only one who "visits" him regularly?"

"Some regularly, some not."

"You know, that.....?"

"I hope I get not troubles now?"

He looked somewhat panicked now.

"No, at least I will make you no trouble. But it should be obvious that sooner or later this situation could cause some kind of trouble, or?"

"Yes, of course. You think I should be more careful in the future?"

"I think that you should get rid of him in the near future."

"He pays very good....."

"Enough to run into serious trouble?"

"No."

I pushed some more notes in his direction and turned to leave the place.

"Too kind, sir!"

On the road again, what were your thoughts? That I would be arrogant, a racist maybe? That I would make fun of minorities? Or was this the fucking truth of one of the facets of the American reality? Whatever, I had solved the case and I would inform my client later.

*

He thought about, whether he should see himself as a kind of sourpuss, Miesepeter in German language, because he saw so many uncertainties for the American future - and the German future? Well, at the end of year he would elect a new chancellor, in a way it was not important who would win, all the names on the table had one in common he knew, that they would have not the goal to destroy the German democracy.

But in the States? He saw the first attempts to make the transition period more difficult, to delay it. Yes, Biden started very fast, but was he and Kamala really a symbol for a new America, or only a new one to illustrate how important it was to be born in the right family, at least to be white?

Was this only the "German Angst", always seeing everything negative, or was it the "German Stärke", to be able to see both, the possibilities as well as the dangers of an development, the ability

to weighing up, not believing in trivial slogans?

He looked at his American flag, should he wave it and be besotted by Biden's and Harris' victory, or.....

Well, he was a German. He saw possibilities, but many limitations and a lot of danger for the next four years.

*

I sat in a diner, as my client entered the place and took the seat opposite to me.

"I come directly from work, I have received your SMS - it's true, or?"

"Yes, but maybe you should cool down first, you look very stressed at the moment - coffee?"

"Coffee?"

"They have also tea if you prefer tea?"

"Are you kidding me? I'm here to get the proof that my wife cheats me, who's interested in some fucking coffee?"

So far he had made always a very stable impression, but now he seemed very upset. I ordered some coffee and some eggs with bacon for him.

"Okay, before I give you the material you should come down somewhat. Yes, your wife cheats you, but.....you know, I'm no marriage counselor, but it's what it is, but also not more. You're very religious, I had the impression?"

"Yes, God give me the strength for everything."

"Then maybe God can give you the strength, also to handle this situation?"

"I think so.....you're right. But you also have to understand me. We have everything one can wish, a nice house in a very good neighborhood, I have a good paid job, my wife would not even have to work, but why not, it gives her independence. We have two kids, both are very good at school, was this necessary?"

"As said, I'm not a marriage counselor, but we have good ones in the city."

"Why you're knowing, you're married?"

"No, never, no kids. But in this city you can get everything, at least if you have enough money for it. You have the money, so you should have no problem therewith, to find a good marriage counselor."

"Yeah, that's true."

The eggs arrived, the coffee he already had, we had a longer conversation. I had a good feeling as we said goodbye, would they be able to rescue their marriage? Well, this was not my business, I had done my job. I looked at my clock, the night was still young? I sat in my car, drove towards my home, thinking about whether I should or not, more news, record numbers of infected in most of the states, again a thousand plus deaths every day, rising, Pfizer had a breakthrough, soon a vaccine available? Available for whom, who died who lived, a new president, history had been written, and I had done my job. I rode by my home, continued riding.....

No Work

I had no work, sat in my office and watched the time moving by. News was no good idea, the election was over, but that only meant that new trouble began. Moscow Mitch played games again - who had expected anything else? Yes Joe, it was time now to reunite the nation again, dumb only, when half of the nation was not interested in, when FOX was not interested in, the president and his homies of course, and Moscow Mitch, often more powerful as the president himself. Why we gave one person such a power, one of the construction faults of the American so-called democracy. It was a lousy day, high fog, no sun, dark early, a nice metaphor for the state of the American nation.

I could not understand why the team Biden fought not harder, started with lawsuits on their side, it became a matter of our all national security now, but I was only a private dick who had proven

recently, that a wife cheated her man - I needed a new case!

Well, it was not the best time for my business, not the best time for any business - apart from big pharma and Amazon maybe. Record highs in infections, make America great again, America always the first, the first in infections and deaths - we had any reason to be proud of ourselves. A few days, not to talk about weeks or even months, and we would head into the final COVID-19 disaster. But I blamed not the president, he was a swine and a totally insecure person - a very bad combination - and he had committed himself totally, for him it gave no return anymore. He had told that he could only lose by fraud, now he had lost! He had said that Biden would be the worst candidate ever and that it would be a big disgrace to lose to such a loser, now he had lost! He could not admit his defeat, never ever! But the GOP? And again, I blamed not that much Moscow Mitch, Graham or Cruz, they were ruthless swines, but the rest of the GOP? I needed a new case!

I pondered about, what could I do with the rest of the day - maybe sleeping would be not the worst? Maybe I should prepare me something to eat, or ordering something? It was hard to see this American nation, as it had become a slave of an insane man and the people in the background behind him. I saw a graveyard, a very special one. No people were buried there, nations became buried there, the Roman Empire for instance. I looked at a tombstone, United States of America, and read the epitaph: Greed, it was greed that killed her, plain and simple!

*

Okay, Hungary or Poland today and Germany in the past, Brazil of course and not to forget the UK, but why the United States? It was a meaningless question in any case, meaningless in the way to connect the question with any state. It was no question about being German or Hungarian, living today or in former times, no question about black or white, it was a question about the human nature, not more not less, plain and simple!

Was it a natural part of the human nature or something different? Should it gave you hope, that "his base" were mainly less educated white men? But even if yes, not only! Hitler found many interesting listeners among the German business leaders and among the German gentry - mostly not so bad educated white men! Hey, the correspondence between the States and Germany would be "white men"! Well, the problem would be solved, if there were no racist men with dark skin or even racist women!

It seemed as it would be not that easy to find an answer, and - well, so far as it was aware to me - nobody had ever found an answer to this question, at least none that would be strong enough to resist a deeper validation and questioning.

*

I had made me a salad with prawns - I was a single man over fifty, but that not meant that I not liked good food and that I would not be able to prepare it! I leant back and took a deep breath, in what a way this all would develop? Moscow Mitch said on TV: Don't be afraid - now it was time, to be very afraid! My phone rang, call forwarding from the office, a new case?

"Peter Maurer, private investigator, what can I do for you?"

*

I did not understand the Democrats, why they let the Republicans, the president, dominating the discourse? Why they acted not proud, Joe Biden would win three hundred and six electoral votes, won states with ten, twenty, thirty thousand votes in the lead? That was a fantastic success, even the Senate was still in the reach!

The political leaders from Europe and around the world had congratulated Joe Biden, even the president's buddy, Boris! Forget Pompeo, talk about this fantastic win! This the media should tell the Democrats and should express this strongly by themselves! Yes, no Florida, but thirty-six more

electoral votes as needed? - So what?

What I would wish me would be, a stronger signal from Europe, for example inviting Joe Biden to a (short) meeting, it would symbolize so much. Because without any doubts, would the situation in the States topple, also the EU and its members would have failed - especially after such a clear win of the Democrats!

*

"Yes, of course, we can talk about it the day after tomorrow in my office.....ten o'clock would be no problem."

Sounded as I would have a new case, it would be good to have a new case, it was not the best for me to have too many time for watching the news and reading newspapers. Kamala Harris talked about the ACA and the endangerment for it by the Supreme Court - yes, it would be good to have a new case, but one could not shut his eyes to the American reality of today, Biden had been elected, elected with an impressive lead, but anyway everything was far away from cut and dried, everything was still endangered, we had to be aware of it, while Joe Biden spoke now.....

A New Job

I sat in my office, the coffee was ready, hot water for a tea no problem - 9:30 am, the newspaper in front of me. An increase of thirty-six percent in deaths over the last fortnight - deaths, not cases! Soon we would surpass the next "milestone", a quarter million deaths, happy nation!

And what did our president? Golfing or being upset, we had no other problems than to pamper this ruthless fascist mass murderer - fucking GOP! I wished me Biden would handle the transformation, and we would hold all this criminals to an account then - how naive I was! I would risk guessing, that the prime criminal in office would get not sentenced in even one case, nor sweet Ivanka, always smiling Jared, Barr, McConnell and all the others, the whole bunch of murderers would get away with it, as always!

But it would be one, not to do anything, but in the same time they tried, to make it as difficult as possible for Biden to start - well, a fascist who tried to destroy our democracy, together with his henchmen and bootlickers, why they should act differently? But why acted the Democrats not differently, they had achieved a fantastic win and had all laws on their side? Why Joe Biden had been such relaxed as he had answered questions from journalists, had smiled and had said: They will.....they will.....

Would they? And what would be (ultimately) destroyed till then? When would the first from his base freak out? This was a situation that had to end, not in December, not in January, now! Joe Biden, would you be able to tell us, why you were so relaxed, or was this only the face you're showing us in public, but behind the scene.....? I had to confess, that I was by far not that relaxed - the doorbell rang. Maybe better for me, to get some company.

*

Two hundred and sixty-one, two hundred and sixty-one deaths in Germany yesterday - well, in the US nearly one thousand five hundred! The truth behind the German number, two hundred and sixty-one was the highest number since April the twenty-second!

Well, looking at the chaos in the United States, the American farce, difficult to look at, hardly to bear, Germany was a very stable democracy. The demonstration some days ago in Leipzig, against wearing a mask, people who denied the pandemic, and the riots and looting thereafter - by the corona deniers! And the police? Journalist became attacked, the police was not much motivated to help them! The police investigated now, especially against peaceful counter-demonstrators! Leipzig, Saxony, not for the first time the question had to be asked: Blind on the right eye, always seeing the

danger from the left, but on the right there were a lot of good people? Not seeing, that all these demonstrations had been infiltrated by the Nazis since a long time now? Yeah, compared with the States, Germany was a very stable democracy.

*

We both had a coffee, opposite to me sat a man in his late seventies, a man with vivid eyes, a man still in his best years.

"As I said Mr. Kenay, it will be very difficult for me to prove this. Especially as the police found no evidence therefor. Also, everything happened some days ago, it will be very difficult for me to find any evidence now. I hope I'm not too blunt?"

"But never she has committed suicide, somebody has murdered her. She was a very funny woman, especially now, now that everything will be fine again."

"Well, Biden has won, but the president is not much interested in, to leave the White House. The pandemic becomes bad again, very bad as it seems. Even with Biden we will have to face some very bad problems - can I be blunt again?"

"Yes, of course."

"Why the police not suspected you?"

"I visited our daughter. Margaret felt not so good, she stayed at home. I found her as I came back."

"You used.....?"

"Public transport, as always."

"I'm honest with you, I have no other case at the moment. If it's okay, then I would visit you at home, tomorrow?"

"Of course, tell me when you will come."

"Around 11 am. I wanna try to get an idea, of the place where it had happened."

"So, I have hired you now? You will prove that Margaret had been murdered?"

"I will decide it tomorrow, Mr. Kenay. After I have seen the crime scene, and after we have talked further on."

"I thank you for your efforts, Mr. Maurer."

"No need to thank me, Mr. Kenay."

*

Heilbronn was the city he was born in, well in the hospital there, but his parents, and therewith of course he, lived in a smaller town nearby, Bad Friedrichshall. But Heilbronn had some interesting aspects, only that it was very difficult for the boy at this time, to go to the city. Therefore he missed a lot, what would have had the potential, to become very important for him.

After WWII, Germany was divided in four parts, occupation zones, Heilbronn laid in the part controlled by the Americans. Therefore, from the beginning on, after WWII, it was normal that American soldiers were based in Heilbronn, but also in the decades thereafter. More, in Heilbronn, of course never confirmed by the American army, was a base for missiles with atomic warheads, the "Waldheide". Therefore, especially in the later decades, in the time of the "Friedensbewegung" (peace movement), there were tensions between the American soldiers and the German citizens, the relation between them was not easy all the times.

The boy had once contact with the soldiers, the annually German-American folk festival. He was there with his friend, not much he could remember later, burgers and hot dogs, not very familiar at this time, but anything more he could not remember. Later he liked it to visit sports events: Ice hockey, baseball, basketball, football, all this American sports one could attend in the town, a heritage of the American soldiers, now no longer in the city. And while watching, sometimes he thought about, what would have it meant for the boy, to have the possibility to get in contact with the soldiers? Discovering much faster interesting sports, always bored about soccer. Maybe much faster jazz music, other American music maybe, other than the common stuff on the radio.

Maybe.....it had not happened, it had not happened - but.....

*

I would visit the man tomorrow, but not so much because of the "crime scene", I not saw a murder. It seemed as his wife, Margaret, had committed suicide, the police had found no hints for a murder. Sure, would be a good starting point for a novel, the private dick would find out, that it was in fact a murder, and of course he would get the murderer.

I had my problem therewith, to send the man back home, disappointed. I thought, that it would be better to talk with him at home, his home, not in my office. And in fact, I had no other case, better than to sit around and watching the time dying. Maybe I could get in contact with the daughter, maybe they had other kids, in any case it would be not good for him to be alone, not in such a situation, not in such a mood - I knew it. I took the phone and dialed, a friend at the police, maybe I could get some background information.

A Visit

I sat in the living room, Mr. Kenay had prepared a coffee, also had bought some cookies.

"I hope you like cookies to the coffee?"

"Yes, thanks, I eat too many sweets, but they look very nice."

"I bought them at the bakery around the corner. Here you can still find traditional shops with handcrafted goods - Margaret loved it to bake at Christmas."

He fought with tears, I also. I had had a phone call with Yves, Yves Rodriguez, my friend by the police. Of course, he was not involved in this case, but he gathered information by his colleagues for me, with no good outcome. In short: The police had found no evidence for a crime, all pointed to a suicide. More, the police had found out, that she had suffered from depressions, but one aspect also puzzled the police - no suicide note! The relation between Mr. Kenay and his wife had been a very close one, married since over fifty years, very happy, everybody said the same. But why then, she had not written some last words for her man? But apart from this, not one slight hint that it had been no suicide. I sat in the living room, nipped at the coffee and enjoyed one of the good cookies and asked myself, what would be the best strategy, to say this to this nice old man.

"Yes, Christmas is near, but it seems as it will become no nice Christmas this year. All these uncertainties in Washington and the exploding numbers.....very difficult to say, what the situation at Christmas, and at the end of the year, will be."

"I became born as we freed Europe, my father died in France, fighting against the Nazis. I have seen presidents coming and going. I was in my best years as Nixon stepped back, a few years younger as Martin Luther King became murdered, a few years younger as John F. Kennedy became murdered. The last four years I have seen, that the Nazis in our nation became stronger and stronger. I have seen too much in my life, as that this could shock me. Soon we will have a new president, and he will fight this pandemic, and he will win. So many died at D-Day, but we were stronger. My mother was so happy to receive a letter from my father, telling her that he had survived the D-Day hell, two weeks later he became killed in France, on his way to Germany - I have seen too much, as that this situation could frighten me, and Margaret felt the same. Yes, if this racist, this Nazi, had won a second term? But he has not, and this was a big relief for both of us."

"I understand. Would we have not Biden as winner, then you would see the situation differently, but with Biden as winner, even with this GOP and the pandemic..... - this is your point, or?"

"Yes, four more years and to be fair with you, I would be not sure what I would have done. And the pandemic? In my age? We did the best to stay healthy, what else one could do? We looked forward, maybe a vaccine soon, maybe risk groups will become vaccinated at first, it looked not that bad at all - or? The Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962? We all thought that this could become the next world war, a nuclear holocaust, and yet, here we are - you understand?"

"Yes, I'm born in 1965, I have experienced the end of the Cold War, but never I have faced such a situation like today. And Margaret saw this the same way as you?"

"Yes!"

"She had depressions - sorry that I ask."

"I had depressions as well, many over the last four years. But hey, Joe Biden will be our new president in January, whatever they will destroy till then. The pandemic will most probably kill more people as in WWII died, but after WWII live went on, even after the Civil War. One day will be January the twentieth, and we will face also a lot of problems thereafter, but.....no reason to commit suicide, at least after all this life experiences."

"It happened in the sleeping room, or?" - Of course I knew this.

"Yes."

"Can we go?"

"Yes."

*

The American chaos continued, or were there signs that the "front" eroded? Graham, his new tone? Not totally different, but at least.....? But still no sign from Moscow Mitch, he was of course a key figure in that all. Still no talk between McConnell and Biden, would be important and of course an important sign. In the meanwhile the pandemic became more and more disastrous.

In Germany as well, as in the States more and more students had to isolate themselves, complete classes! The numbers in best stable on a high level or increasing in the different parts of the nation, no relaxation in sight. Well, the new partial lockdown since almost two weeks effective now, would mean, that from next week on we should see an effect - if the partial lockdown functions. At least one could have some hope, at least politicians and the society reacted, even with some deniers also in this country. But the vast majority supported the political decisions, a not so small number would even support stricter measures, very different to the US.

What would happen, should we see, that these measures would not be enough? An extended lockdown till Christmas and New Year, maybe schools again and retail? Not sure, whether the mood would not change then, at least it would be harder for many. Maybe the news in Germany should start every day with a report about the American reality - again refrigerated trucks on the parking of the hospitals!

I tried to find some things that I could do, using the time I had now, to do at least some useful things. The second of four weeks came to an end now, what was odder, sitting here, in German, seeing the numbers rising in my country as well, or looking around, seeing countries like France, Italy and Spain, seeing the situation and the developments in the United States? It would be good, if at least the American charade would end, it would be good for the mind, would give you the opportunity to ponder about other thing, after four years, every day became more exhausting now, to hearing the same nonsense again and again!

*

Back home again, sitting in front of the TV, watching the news, listening to the same nonsense every day, I had a new case!

Yes, everything pointed to a suicide - no, not everything! The missing suicide note, that they had made plans for the evening, when he would be home again - yeah, everything very weak, like you would say, I've the feeling that not everything with this election was okay, let's dig deeper, maybe we will find the fraud!

But there was this old man, sitting at home alone now. Later the evening his daughter and his son-in-law would take care of him, but I had the feeling that it would be not okay, simply to say to him: It was a suicide, live with it! He would not be able to live with the truth, if this was the truth - most probably it was.....

I had told him, that I would have a deeper look into the case, that I would have a conversation with the responsible police officer and the coroner – in fact, they had made an autopsy!* I would contact him after these conversations again, to talk about the next steps with him. I hoped, that this would give me some time, maybe this would help him. Money? I had called for my normal fee, but said, that I would make out a bill at the end of my investigations - he would never receive an invoice. After a short call with Yves, I knew the name of the responsible police officer, I called him.

".....that's cool that you will have time for me, to talk about the matter.....yes, drinks and food will be mine.....tomorrow in the afternoon.....3 pm would be nice for me.....yes, I think I will find the diner.....thank you again for your time."

The police, sometimes not to accept, when seeing videos on TV, sometimes the courteous friend from the next police station - nearly as the "normal" population! I had told him about the old man, and he agreed immediately to meet me and to talk with me during his break - very kind, a very kind person!

* Wrong idea! An autopsy will be always made after a suicide!

I Had A Case

We sat together in a diner, both with a coffee and a snack.

"Thanks for talking with me, I really appreciate it."

"No need to thank me, I met the man, Mr. Kenay, also. It has to be very hard for him."

"It is difficult for him, can we talk about some details and some questions I have?"

"I'm all ear."

I had still no real reason to question the suicide, but nevertheless, some questions had appeared.

"The weapon used, the old army revolver from his father - a gun, not the typical weapon for a woman to commit suicide?"

"Yes, I also know this saying. In fact, also women use guns, not so regularly, but enough. It also depends on, what is available."

"This is a question I have, I not wanted to ask Mr. Kenay this question: Okay, the revolver as a memento, as a reminiscence to his father, but ammunition, was the gun loaded?"

"Yes.....you saw the cabinet with the pictures of his father on it?"

"Yes, with the flowers and the medals?"

"Yes, there also the revolver lay - loaded!"

"Why loaded?"

"He said, that his mother gave him the gun in memory of his father, he never met him. He shot with the gun now and then, then he put the gun on the cabinet, as he arranged this place as a memento of his father. He said, that he was not aware of, that the weapon was loaded, also that he thought, his wife Margaret neither."

"Would there had been ammunition in the house?"

"Yes."

"Where was the ammunition?"

"In a locked up cupboard in the cellar, nobody had opened it for a longer time."

"So, his wife could have took the gun, with the intent to load it, realizing that the gun already was loaded?"

"Exactly."

"But there could have been someone else, seeing the weapon and used it?"

"Well, a burglar? Nothing has been stolen. We have no hint therefor, that his wife had been not alone. And the fingerprints?"

"Only hers, no others?"

"Not surprising that we found fingerprints from Mr. Kenay."

"Of course!"

"And then some partial fingerprints from Mrs. Kenay, overlaying Mr. Kenay's ones."
"She had the gun in hand after Mr. Kenay?"
"Yes."
"But maybe to clean the cabinet?"
"Maybe."
"His alibi?"
"Not to question. His wife died definitively at a time, when he was with his daughter."
"They live in this nice suburban town, nobody heard the shot?"
"Some heard the shot, but some in this neighborhood have even shooting ranges in their backyards - so....."
"The direct neighbors?"
"A couple was in town, the woman from the other side slept."
"So.....using a gun one had in reach, was nothing out of world, to use it for such a purpose?"
"That was also our impression."
"The autopsy?"
"The expected, she died because of the gunshot injury. She was dead instantly, no signs of a fight or so."
"Was she frail?"
"Well, now you hit the one point, that makes me stomach ache. She lay in bed, covered with the blanket, like she would sleep. Without any doubts, it happened in the bed. But that would mean, that she lay in the bed with the gun in her hand - do it that way and there's a good possibility to screw it up. The bullet hit her temple, it's not that easy to do this."
"She put the gun not into her mouth?"
"No, and even this would have been difficult, while laying in the bed."
"But it would have not been impossible for her - or? Where was the gun?"
"No, not impossible. And again, no signs for a fight, no sign of another person, no neighbor saw anything, it happened during daylight.....yes, the circumstances are strange, but all points to a suicide. We found nothing that would have permitted any further investigation."
"The gun?"
"On the bed, not in her hand, but again, not implausible."
"Would a conversation with the coroner help me along?"
"I don't think so."
"Dead-end road....."
"That was, what I felt."

*

I could not understand it, the numbers in the States exploded - yes also in Germany rising numbers! But in Germany there was this willingness to do something, to fight against this development, a loud anti-movement, but the vast majority supported the current measures. Next week would show, to what an extent the measures would have an impact, but in the States you simply had not to ask, because no such measures came into place there. Some states did the one or other, but this pandemic needed coordinated nationwide measures, and especially, this pandemic needed a consent regarding necessary basic measures, like wearing masks and social distancing - in the States widely nothing! The president had "better" and "more important" things to do, no time for dying Niggers, Latino scum and poor losers - and Joe Biden could say nice words about his corona task force, but January the twentieth.....

But what was even more disappointing? Still months till Biden would be POTUS, already the Dems started to damage themselves with discussions about socialism - at least the Dems should know what "socialism" was and what not, the differences between "socialism" and "communism"! Yes, even in Germany we had a private sector regarding health care, but every German had also, in any case, a health insurance. The "Green New Deal" was, as far as I knew it, very optimistic in what

could be achieved in a relatively short time, but it was a paper, a strategy paper, it would be like starting pay negotiations with a pay demand under one percent, the employers would like it! Sure, you would start with five percent, knowing that you would never get it! So, what most annoying was, was, that this harsh critique regarding health care for all or the Green New Deal came not from the conservatives, that would have been okay, the left-wing damaged oneself again in a perfect way – reminded you of the beginning of the Obama presidency.....

And hey, hadn't I said, that Germany and the States were very often not that different? For many years during her time in office, conservative chancellor Angela Merkel, we had a left majority in Germany, but a conservative chancellor - why? The "SPD" (socialists) always hated "Die Linke" (more left, with a communist part), therefore they could not form a coalition! Very often the biggest enemy of the left is the left.....

And in the States? If the Dems played the games of the conservatives longer, and it seemed so, if they still fell for the tricks of McConnell, and it seemed so, then they would lose in Georgia and without Senate they would be a toothless tiger - McConnell would ensure it, without any doubts! The Dems should be forward-looking, soon they would provide the next POTUS, they should use their diversity, should be proud of it, not being like the Republicans, but they appeared like a bunch of coward chickens - they had a lot in common with the once so proud SPD in Germany.....

Hey Dems, the swine in office was defeated, he would have no chance to stay, no riots, no millions on the streets who shouted voter fraud, the momentum was yours, could be yours, but you would have to catch and use this very special momentum!

*

Back in the office again, I was very churned, because of the conversation with Mr. Kenay yesterday, as well as because of my conversation with Andrew today. I switched on the TV, had a look at the latest numbers in the newspaper - thirty-eight percent increase in deaths over the last fortnight! Open-eyed we headed into the disaster, Republicans willing to sacrifice American people for the maintenance of power, people who mainly elected Democrats of course, and Democrats not capable to react in an appropriate way, with a strong, harsh and dominant counter reaction!

Why not boycott House and Senate till the president would concede, McConnell would start to act, till adequate measures would have been adopted? These were very special times, but it was more important to yammer about the president and his complete inability to concede his defeat, instead to begin to become the acting force, to act as the party of the POTUS, those of the winner POTUS, not those of the loser POTUS!

I had enough of this shit, threw the newspaper in the waste-basket, switch the TV off and looked at the number on the snippet on the desk - should I call the coroner? What I had to do was, to have a walk, already dark outside, the cold air would do me good. I pondered about it, but I could find no starting point for an investigation, it looked like a suicide, from whatever angle I looked at it. The coroner had found also no hint, Andrew had said. Nevertheless, I would call him tomorrow, not because I would not trust Andrew, it was that I could ensure me then, that I had done everything. But in the end the moment would come, when I had to tell him, that I had found nothing, that it was a suicide - it would break his heart.....

It started to drizzle, I liked the cold water on my skin, my face, the rain became stronger after a while, I loved it even more, the wetness of my clothes, the weightiness of it, wetter and wetter, how it stuck to my skin and I sat in a taxi and thought about, that the rain would wash away, all this garbage around me.....

This Was No Suicide!

I fetched the newspaper, looked at the TV screen, it was definitely too early to get up, also the coffee helped not much - I tried it with a shower. Today thirty-nine percent more deaths, yesterday it

had been thirty-eight, have heard the nonsense from Dr. Atlas, the next mass murderer surrounding the mass murderer on the golf course, I thought about to go to bed again, to darken the sleeping room.....

The shower had helped at least somewhat, but I was not in a good mood. I would call the coroner later, maybe he would agree also, to talk with me. After that conversation I would have no idea anymore what to do then - telling Mr. Kenay that it had been a suicide, killing him therewith? I should have a phone call with his daughter first, maybe we could talk with him together? But first the coroner.

I started to dial, as a news report on TV gathered my intention. First I ignored it, dying and murder was nothing special in this city, but then.....

*

Where was the Outcry!

I could not understand it, why the Americans accepted this behavior of the president, the administration, Dr. Atlas, Moscow Mitch, the GOP? The numbers in the States exploded, never reached any kind of low level before, for the States the third wave already, and they behaved like this would be not so grave, when every day counted!

Yes, also in Germany the numbers, also the number of deaths, rose, rose very fast, but since two weeks in a new partial lockdown, we could see this week what the result of it would be. And the responsible politicians had let no doubt about it, should it not work, stricter measures would become implemented. Everybody liked it? No, some disputed the virus as such, even now, others got tired of it all, some acted irresponsible, but the vast majority acted responsible and supported the measures. Could the mood change, would the lockdown continue till Christmas, or even longer? Obviously, but the States?

They never tried it, they never tried to get it under control, and the American people seemed not much interested in! I thought about what would happen in German, the media, newspapers, TV, on German streets - I thought about the demonstrations and the echo in the media regarding "Stuttgart 21", the plan for an underground railroad station in Stuttgart. They built the station now, but the people not accepted it without protest and the ruling conservative CDU paid a very high price for it! Since WWII the state of Baden-Württemberg had only conservative "Ministerpräsidenten" (governors) - till then. Since then, Baden-Württemberg had a governor from the Green Party, the first and so far only one in Germany, Winfried Kretschman, since 2011 now!

Civil disobedience, I heard nothing from the unions for instance? Where was the voice from the Dems? Where were critical reports in the media, real critical reports? This was all what was possible in such a situation, when every day counted? This was a total failure, the USA failed totally, the left failed, the so-called critical media failed, a nation failed! *I do not understand*..... who could understand this behavior of the American people, Ms. Ardern? Education, education, to realize, that there was a world outside and that this world offered many new impressions and insights - but as long as even people like Kamala Harris talked such nonsense like, that she would illustrate the American possibility, that every young girl could follow her, even more, becoming president one day - what a shit! Yes, daughter of a researcher and a professor - imagine, you would be a young African-American girl.....

And, why it was that important, that one of the astronauts would be the first "black astronaut" who would stay for a longer time on the ISS, not the first "black astronaut" as such of course, but the first "black astronaut" who.....hey, I have a color TV, I could see that one had a darker skin! America, a very, very long way in front of you.....

*

It not started very interesting - as said, dying and murder was nothing special in this city, as well as

in the nation. A young man had been found dead near the river, obviously a murder, obviously not the crime scene, maybe thrown out of a car, maybe the intention had been, to throw the dead body into the river, but it had been failed. The dead body showed traces of brutal violence, maybe even torture.....

I looked with one eye at the screen, with one eye I dialed, as long until I took note of the picture of the young man - it was the young man that I had photographed!

*

Imagine, you would be still the young black man in the USA, November the sixteenth, your president played golf like the pros in Augusta, while the numbers of infected people and people dying exploded. Your former President of the United States had talked about the situation in the United States recently, and the next vice president had told you, that you could achieve everything - it was the United States! What would you feel?

It would be still arrogant in a very disgusting way to answer this question - you're hope, maybe no longer been treated like a second class citizen, if even, not to be seen as a former slave anymore, or the fear, that the next four years, at least, would become even worse than the last four years, maybe would mean the end of all your hopes and dreams, even with Joe Biden and Kamala Harris? And now? The not happening transition, ten thousand or more deaths every week, and still systemic racism and all the rest?

Still easy, sitting in a foreign country, another continent even, thinking about such questions, like a funny intellectual game. But for this young black man, of course he stood as a metaphor or a symbol for all the other "minorities" and discriminated social groups, it was no funny intellectual game, the proceeding of the transition, the (not happening) fight against the pandemic, for him it was a deadly serious matter, now even more than before, now even more, and it got even more deadly, with every wasted day!

*

This was no suicide, definitively not, at least not in this case - I stopped dialing, the report had mentioned that so far the identity of the young man was unknown. I started to dial the number given in the report, for people who had any information - I had some!

*

The old man felt lonely and lost, this year a lot had changed and would change. His mother would stay longer in the retirement home, very long. But it was better, especially for his father. But it was a strange feeling.

What a broken country the States were, decades of moral decay, but still this American hubris, denounced by the inability to react adequately to the pandemic and its effects, he could not understand this, that there was not resistance.

The United States of America as a model for the rest of the world - wow, not really, or, not for him! The last four years highlighted the deep systemic crisis of the American system and society, and were a threat for the rest of the world. Some in the old man's nation said: What happens in the States, happens by us as well, within the next three or five years - really!

The old man could not imagine this, but Hungary and Poland, just now again threatening the existence of the EU? 2020, a year of change, he felt lost and lonely.....

*

I had given them all information I had, and they had been very interested in - I had an appointment for tomorrow morning now, at a police station on the other side of the city. Should I still phone the

coroner - I did, and had a second appointment for the afternoon, on my side of the city. And now? Well, the young man had been kind of callboy, was my former client and / or his wife a suspect now? Should I call him? There was a chance that my former client or his wife could be involved in this murder, but not more than any other wife or cheated husband - maybe he had also male customers? And it was not excluded, that the murder would lead in a total different direction - at the moment an involvement of my former client or his wife was nothing more than a vague possibility, well the temporal connection, but..... - I not phoned him, I would not interfere in the matters of the police. And apart from that, I had already enough to do tomorrow.

A Busy Day

Forty percent increase in deaths now, again one percentage more in a day - one could say: One percent, about what are you talking? Well, I talked about people, human beings, who died an unnecessary death!

But also in Europe they have the same problems, could be another objection - well, was there not a slight difference? I had seen Angela Merkel on TV, the German chancellor, she had a round table with her governors, and they took nationwide measures to fight the virus - hey, what a crazy idea, I had no time for such nonsense, I had to spend my time outside, on the golf course!

And Joe? Wow, he acted like a real statesman – and this was simply bitter sarcasm! "May" he said, the behavior of the president would "may" cause more death - we had no chance anymore, if even the new president was not able to, to say the bloody truth, that the behavior of this swine and the people around him caused death, and more death, with every day, with every hour! You had to speak out the simple truth first, you had to make a wholehearted cashing-up first, then you could start with the attempt to do better, to change things. But yes Joe, it was better not to tell the American people the plain truth, it was better to be the nice uncle, better than to be the harbinger of the troubling news - a police officer addressed me.....

"Mr. Maurer?"

"Yes."

"Sorry that you had to wait, but I had to straighten out something first."

"No problem, I have nothing else to do."

We walked to a kind of conference room, his name was Robert, and sat down with a cup of coffee.

"Your information helped us a lot. We could identify him now, the motel helped us a lot, also some aspects are much clearer now. Well, we still know not who did it, but we see a direction whereto it will lead maybe."

"It's good that I could help you. Some details for me?"

"Well, it's an ongoing investigation, but.....you're not unknown to some of my colleagues."

"I always tried to have a good relation to the police - for mutual benefit."

"I appreciate this - you have a case?"

"No, as I said on the phone yesterday. I did some investigation, and in the course of them I had an encounter with the victim."

"You said not that much about your investigation yesterday?"

"I shadowed a woman, who made use of his "offers"."

"A married woman?"

"Yes."

"A name or address?"

"In which way it maybe leads?"

"Cards on the table?"

"I have no secrets."

"We found some messages on his phone, very clear and violent threats - I guess you informed your client therefrom, that his wife cheated him, where they met?"

"Yes."

"When?"

"The timing would fit, if you mean that. But I have a problem?"

"I'm all ear?"

"He got tortured?"

"Well.....at least.....someone had had a lot of fun seeing him suffer very badly and very long - it was no fast and easy death."

"And that's the point, a bullet maybe, maybe even some bullets more, but that? I cannot believe that my former client would be able to that, seen from a practical standpoint."

"A cuckold?"

"As said, bullets yes, but.....?"

"But I can get a name and maybe even an address?"

"Yes, of course."

*

Becoming honest, not really simple and trivial, I knew it. But what maybe was not very good for a person, was a disaster for a nation, at least, if the self-deceit exceeded a certain level.

Hearing all day long, to be always the best, fantastic, a beacon for the rest of the world - not only one star from the movies or music business had went nuts because of it, whole nations could act in the same way. But even if there was a certain "output", "performance", making the behavior somehow understandable, it was annoying, but it became a farce, a joke, if there was nothing more than warm words - the richest nation ever, the oldest democracy.....oh come on! Yeah, sure, the United States were older than ancient Greek, the democracy of Athens!

Pride goes before a fall, the saying told you, hypocrisy also. Was this the fall, or at least the beginning of it? History would tell you.....

The "Querdenker", the "mavericks", the "open-minded thinkers", the "unconventional thinkers", infiltrated by the far-right, when denying wearing masks, social distancing, dreaming of the "X-Day", dreaming about the storming of the Reichstag in Berlin, how serious one should take them? Let us see, what would happen this Wednesday!

Lying as a part of the human nature? Sometimes it was better to lie, even if it was your own mother, sometimes one had to lie, already the Greeks, some thousands of years ago, knew this! But if lying became your common behavior, even lying to yourself, lying to yourself as a nation all the times, like Germany after the lost WWI, then it became dangerous. After the lost WWII the old were not very willing to become honest, but the young forced them to do so. Well, maybe it was also the kind of becoming defeated, totally, with the knowledge of millions of murdered in concentration camps and gas chambers - but needed it that all? History would tell you.....

Every day felt like a torment now, not to understand, not able to influence, only to watch, thinking to know, that this fucking story would have no happy ending. It had been such a long path now, two months more and a few days left now, then a new story would begin. I had tried to take a cutoff, but it functioned not totally and it was difficult to see, every day, people dying an unnecessary death.

*

I had had a toast and some pancakes in a diner, now I was on the way to the coroner as my phone rang. Well, I was sometimes somewhat old-fashioned - no hand-free kit in the car. Stopping at the side to being too late.....ignoring.....but the phone was stubborn. I parked the car on the right lane, two other lanes still available.....

"Mr. Maurer, private investigations, what can I do for you?"

"Not betraying your clients maybe!"

Yeah, I had not to guess, who was on the other side of the line.

"Hello Mr. Allen, sorry, but I have told the police, that I not see you as someone who would be able to commit such a murder - and that's the truth, I cannot see you as someone able to that. Also, you

would have had to act very fast and spontaneous, this murder appears not such spontaneous to me. Would he have been shot death on the parking of the motel for instance, then I would say you would have some problems, but so?"

"I have threatened him, I had found his number on my wife's phone, I fear that the police sees it in a slightly different way than you!"

"Now I see it also somewhat differently. You have an alibi?"

"I was together with my wife, the wife that has cheated me? A very good alibi!"

"Your children?"

"Holidays, they are with her grandma?"

"That sounds not that good. Give me a simple answer - you did it?"

"Of course not!"

"And your wife, what's the relation between you and your wife now?"

"We will try it again, we had a long conversation, that's why the kids are with their grandma, we need time for us."

"Everything good again?"

"Of course not, but God will give us the strength to deal with this situation. Our pastor will support us as well, we live in a intact neighborhood!"

That's why your wife cheated you.....

"And the police, do they pressure you?"

"What do you think? I have sent him threats, you told me where I can find him, and now he's dead?"

"Shall we meet tomorrow to talk things over, maybe I can help you?"

"I need no private investigator at the moment!"

"But maybe I can help you with my experiences? The pastor can help you in his way, but maybe I know more in regard to deal with the police?"

Silence for a moment.....

"Tomorrow in the morning? - But I have not hired you!"

"No, the visit is for free, I have caused this situation....."

Was I naive? Really, that was your opinion?

*

Imagine, you would be an employee in a hospital, ICU, say in the UK, Russia or the States? What would you feel?

This time it would be not arrogant to answer the question, this time it would be trivial!

I would not be able to bear it, no longer playing intellectual games. No funniness anymore, death every day. Would remind me every minute of my own death, would be a lie to say that I could deal with it. Funny, all this writing about suicide.....

*

I was at home again, the meeting with the coroner had been wasted time, as expected! But it had not been my intention to get some hints to start a spectacular case - as said, I needed this meeting to prove me, that I had tried everything possible.

And now? Well, in the morning I would meet Mr. Allen, and then we would see. Did I see him as a suspect? Well.....still not regarding such a murder. On the other hand it was no good matter, that he had threatened the victim - I would decide after my conversation with him tomorrow.

I switched on the TV and grabbed the newspaper from the morning, nothing new, neither in the newspaper nor in TV. A dangerous president - why not bombing Iran in the remaining days? - and a much more dangerous GOP! We would need a brutally honest discussion about the American reality, not the American Dream, the American Lies, the American Hoax, about the American reality! About our political system, about.....but with this president and his vice president? And of course I talked about Joe Biden and Kamala Harris, but especially about the Democratic

Party.....

*

The old man felt insecure and nervous - more than a little what happened, appeared very naive and puzzling to him - did he ponder too much?

In The House Of God

"I really would prefer it, would your wife be with us."

"I said, that she feels unwell. She sends her apologies."

"I would like to hear this from her."

"I think that you're really arrogant, considered that you're here to apologize."

"Really, that's why I'm here?"

"Of course!"

If I wouldn't have known it better, I would have thought myself in one of this stupid TV shows like "Desperate Housewives", but at least I had the impression that this would be reality.

"I fear I will disappoint you - why you think that I have to apologize, for what?"

"You denounced me? Is this not enough for a person like you, to apologize?"

I took a deep breath, sitting in this kitschy suburban living room - should I ask him whom he had elected? I thought, his wife in any case Joe.

"I told the police only what I know, we talk about a murder, a very brutal murder. Maybe his "lifestyle" was nothing for you, your wife liked it, but nevertheless he was a person, no animal or an object!"

Or, maybe he was only a low life for you, scum, vermin? Had heard that people in this nice suburban.....

"Also this murder is worth to get solved - you told me, that you have not committed the crime?"

"Of course not, but I have a reputation to lose. A person like you, with such a job, you maybe like it to have a shady reputation, but in my circles.....I'm an important member of this community. I had never trouble with the police, two parking tickets that was all - okay, I drove somewhat too fast in one case. Can you imagine what it means to me, that the police was here in my house? Can you imagine what it would mean, would it become public that they were here to question me because of a murder case, a male slut!"

A "male slut" your wife.....

"Okay, I can understand you in a way, but they only questioned you - at least for now. And we should be honest, you have called and threatened him - or?"

"Yes, this was a mistake, normally I can control myself."

"And if not, could you become a murderer?"

"Of course not!"

"Really? Never though about, to kill somebody? - Whatever, the fact is, that there's a direct connection between him and you, and that you knew about his existence already, as you hired me. Sure, the police cannot ignore this. On the other hand, as far as I see it, and as my talk with the police indicates, you're not a real suspect. Very often such guys have connections to drugs, maybe he was even addicted. For me, all points out in such a direction....."

He seemed to relax somewhat.

"Do you think that the police would be able to make me a lot of trouble?"

"You did it?"

"No."

"Then you should be relaxed. The police not arrested you, they have nothing - okay, you threatened him, but in such a situation.....jealousy.....?"

"I was not jealous, I had to help my wife, that was my impetus. She has made a mistake, but we all

make mistakes from time to time. It's over now, now is the time to forgive her, time to give her her next chance. This house is a house of God, He gives everybody a second chance."

I had the impulse to ask for the restroom, to puke.....

"And you think that you can rescue your marriage?"

"With the help of God and the support of good friends - yes! Of course, some of the most honorable parishioners know her misconduct, but they all will help us find back to our wonderful marriage we had before."

Yeah, that was why she had betrayed you.....

"Okay, Mr. Allen. I think you should be not too concerned. It may well be, that you will see the police never again, at least not because of this matter. If the police comes back, you can contact me any time."

"Thanks Mr. Maurer, thanks for your kind offer. Yes, also I think that I could give the police sufficient answers - I will see you to the door....."

"Thanks, too kind....."

*

There was a time, by this time his parents slept upstairs, as common, but he downstairs. More, he slept next to the living room, the room where the TV was, you normally had only one TV at this time. He was mostly bored about the TV program, at prime time, together with his parents - one had only a very few channels at this time! But later in the night.....

So, sometimes he waited till his parents slept, he switched on the TV, he could not turn up the volume much, his parents slept directly above, but he discovered a totally new world. Movies he not understood, movies that fascinated him, movies that puzzled him, movies that arouse him.

Movies was the first art form, together with music, he discovered - live music late at night in TV! Literature and paintings needed a longer time for instance - how old he was? Well, not finally sure, but before he finished school and began an apprenticeship. He ended school - later he would go to school again, would even go to university, but this was very much later - and began his (first) apprenticeship with fifteen. So, I would say, it was the time between twelve or thirteen and fifteen maybe.

*

Again I sat together with somebody, late afternoon now, a much more friendly person, but a much more burdensome conversation.

"It's very kind, that you took time for me."

"It's very kind, that my father is not irrelevant to you."

"Well, but I have no idea what to do now. There's no real hint that would prompt, that it was no suicide. Sure, you can always question everything, but.....I cannot tell him that it was a suicide."

"As you called me, now that we sit together, in the meantime I had an idea - but....."

"Any idea is something, I have none at all!"

"It would be somewhat strange?"

"I think that I can tell you a lot of strange stories, I'm a private dick?"

"You had to lie."

"It's not very long ago, that I lied for the last time, that I pretend something - I'm a private dick?"

"You had to lie to my father?"

"I cannot tell him the truth?"

"You had to play-act?"

"Well, now it might will become difficult.....what kind of character?"

"A private investigator?"

"Should be possible."

"Tell my father that you have found some inconsistencies, that you have to investigate them, it will

be not easy, it will take time, you will keep him informed, it will need even more time - could you give him the feeling, that it maybe was no suicide?"

"For how long?"

"I have no idea, but at least it will give us some time?"

"I think I could do it.....?"

"I will pay you of course, how much?"

"I will only pretend that I do something, in fact I will do nothing - pay me, whatever you think will be okay."

"Therefor, that my father's heart will not break? Sorry, I have not that much money....."

Talking With A Wife

Stood up, had not slept really, too many thoughts blocked my mind - a world of lies, good lies and bad lies, which lie told you, what was a good one, what a bad one?

I switch on the TV, to lazy to fetch the newspaper, my favorite news channel - with the numbers on the right side. The first number I saw was, two hundred fifty thousand, to be exact, two hundred fifty thousand six hundred forty-eight, two hundred fifty thousand six hundred forty-eight dead people in the US now, the next milestone - Hurray! I thought about, if I should spend some time on the golf course, I could not play, why I should be interested in this boring sport, but for a certain reason it seemed to be interesting to spend as much time as possible on the golf course, reflecting about the soon coming vaccines.

After a shower and a hot tea I thought about, what to do today. I had to contact Mr. Kenay, but not necessarily today, maybe tomorrow. I wanted to have a conversation with Mrs. Allen, but not necessarily today, maybe tomorrow. An increase in deaths over fifty percent now, nearly two thousand died yesterday alone - what an apathetic swine you had to be, to be a Republican? Yes, some Republicans, but.....and the Democrats? What we did was wrong, but if nobody kept you responsible.....?

*

Three hundred and five, three hundred and five people died in Germany yesterday because of COVID-19. The so far deadliest day, several months ago, was three hundred and fifteen - would we be able to crack this number?

The demonstrations became more and more violent, yesterday in Berlin, would the mood change in Germany? Not at the moment, at the moment a small minority got louder and louder, more and more radical, because the majority of the Germans not followed them, even rejected their conspiracies vehemently.

The numbers of cases had reached a plateau, at least it seemed so, but on a not acceptable level. In a few days Angela Merkel would "invite" to the next discussion about the measures - it was not to see that the measures could be eased, but no restaurants open at Christmas, no private Christmas celebrations? Maybe restaurants to a certain degree, but no bars and so? Soon we would know, soon we would see what the "German mood" would be, if.....

*

I passed the house, daddy's car stood not in the driveway, daddy was at work. But I had definitively no intention to talk with daddy, mommy was my aim. I drove back and parked my car in front of the carefully trimmed lawn - I asked myself whether daddy had done this job, one of the kiddies maybe, or a Latino, allowed to enter this perfect neighborhood till he had finished his job, to drive back home afterwards, to the neighborhood he belonged to. Was I caught in clichés? I said not, that all suburbans would be the same, but this one seemed to fulfill all the clichés one could have. I reached

the front door and rang the bell, had already seen mommy behind the curtain, I had to wait for a short moment till the door opened somewhat.

"Hello Mr. Maurer, unfortunately my husband is not at home."

"Yes, at work I assume, his car is not parked. But that's no problem."

"That's fine, I can not ask you to come in."

"Of course not, but maybe you can give me a hint, where I could do some shopping here in this area?"

"I do not understand you?"

"You understand me, I understand you. I would like to buy some fruits."

"If you follow this road till the nice yellow house? Turn left and it's not long and there's a nice grocery?"

"I think I will find it - have a nice day, Mrs. Allen."

"You also, Mr. Maurer."

In fact, it was easy to find the grocery. I bought me a coffee to go, enjoyed the nice area and waited.

*

Soon a vaccine, fine! Proved that it would be safe, really? I was an anti-vaxxer? No, but it was pure logic!

Testing a vaccine for three months, no side effects, what did this tell you? That this vaccine showed no side effects during a time span of three months, not more! And after half a year, after a year?

Sure, it would be good to have a vaccine as fast as possible, but long term effects were long term effect, they needed a long time to get discovered. A lot could go wrong, sometimes it was better to wait somewhat longer.....a lot of nice ideas one could have, a simple solution? No!

We would vaccinate risk groups first, take a deep breath.....would be a disaster, if something would go wrong. And the messages from China and especially Russia were not really good, to give a feeling of safety. Would I do it, could I get a vaccination? To be honest, I was undecided, would depend on the circumstances.

Well, reality wasn't easy, at any time.

*

I had not to wait too long, a second coffee just begun, some fresh tangerines and bananas in the car, she arrived with her smaller "woman's car". She got out of the car, ignored me and entered the shop - I followed her.

"Can we met undisturbed somewhere?"

I was not sure which cereals I should buy, neither she.

"This is difficult, I'm known in this neighborhood."

Well, the parishioners cared for each other.....

"Maybe in a motel?"

"I don't think that this is funny!"

She moved on, now she examined oranges.

"I decided for the tangerines, this one."

"Really, I think the oranges are the better choice."

"I think it would be good, to talk with you."

"For whom? For me or you?"

"For me definitely, but I think also for you."

"Not now. I have to prepare the meal till my husband comes home from work."

"When?"

"Today is Thursday, tomorrow he goes to the fitness club and thereafter together with some friends to their regular bar."

"I lay my business card to the tangerines - do you really think that the oranges are better?"

"In any case."

"Then I take them."

Well, with my second coffee, some tangerines and oranges, of course the bananas, I sat in my car again, from the nice suburban town back to the ugly city center. Well, I lived not downtown, downtown nobody lived, but not far away, but in the wrong direction, starting from there. At least some thought so - I liked it where I lived.

*

Georgia turned blue, some things couldn't be! It was a question of honor to change this, the state of Georgia knew what had to be. It was a dark moment, as in 1967 the Supreme Court forced Georgia to allow "interracial" marriage - some things contradicted the human existence!

Why not two presidents, Georgia had once three governors, so why not two presidents? And come on, one of them had no time for anything anymore, except to watch TV and to twitter.

It would make no difference, Georgia red or blue, but it would make a big difference! The demography changed, like in Texas for instance, democracy was a matter of white men - oh Georgia, how fucking racist the Democratic Party once had been!

Georgia was unimportant for the result, but important as a symbol. This time Georgia, who knew, Texas in four years? The enemy was clearly visible, black Nigger slaves and Latino scum! It had become a question of survival now, for the white supremacy, and Georgia was the symbol for this decay.

The States in war, a cultural war, Clash of Civilizations, warred on US ground, forced by a white rich minority. Georgia was a symbol, no wars were dirtier and more brutal, than wars about symbols.

*

"Mr. Kenay, it's me, Mr. Maurer. I had a conversation with the responsible police officer now, as well as with the coroner. I pondered also about some aspects. I have found no grave aspect that would point to a crime, but I'm not really satisfied therewith, simply to say, that it had been a suicide. If it's okay for you, I would visit you again, I would have some questions and would like to do some investigation in the house?"

He agreed, he sounded.....happy? We would meet in the morning, I would need a good story. I would start with the bed, it was in fact strange that she had lain in the bed, also that she had used a gun - she have had alternatives, he sleep in the bed now again? Yes, I would have some questions.....

*

A stolen election, a manipulated election, betray, the Dems had said it for four years, and now the Republicans did the same! Had said it often enough, this yammering because of the won popular vote but the lost electoral college - change it or shut up! Four years long the Dems not accepted it, that the swine in office had been legally elected - why not, we Germans had elected Hitler in a democratic election, Poland, Hungary? But the USA, this beacon of democracy? Well, maybe not that bright as thought, at least not brighter as the rest of the world?

Does the Dems were maybe not totally innocent, looking at this development, not to accept a president as elected in a fair process? All we saw now maybe only a revenge? And he, far over seventy million Americans had elected him, no blue wave, maybe not even Senate? I was not able to avoid seeing a good deal in guilt on the side of the Democrats, they never had been able to accept that "he" became president and not "she" - this could be not right! But it was the result of your political system, no yammering, change it!

All what happened now was the result of decades and centuries. Systemic racism, systemic inequality, systemic disadvantage – it was systemic, everything was systemic, but that would mean to question the system - or? It was much more than a president who not wanted to leave office, even more than a corrupt GOP, failing Dems, it was the questioning of the "American System".

But Joe and Kamala, they saw the beacon, saw millions of new jobs, everything not that bad, we would handle it, we were the United States, we killed our people every day, but.....we were great - why one should be concerned? And you should not listen too much to those figures, those stick-in-the-mud, like Sanders, always complaining, or the guys - women? - from the BLM movement. Maybe soon no ice in Greenland and at the North Pole anymore, but who cared, let us concentrate on the important matters, a president four years in office after an unfair election and now not willing to leave - hey Dems, why not bringing it to Supreme Court?

*

I got no phone call, maybe she had had no opportunity? Maybe she was not interested in? But it had been a long day anyway, enough for today, tomorrow would be a new day, with more death, with a fucking president and an unbelievably corrupt GOP.

*

Yes Olaf, it was nice to hear your words, but I hope that you and Angela act behind the curtain, as well as the EU.

An Old Widower And A Young Wife

I rang the doorbell, it had been no cool morning. Sixty-three percent increase in deaths during the last fourteen days, how much tomorrow, a hundred percent?

Georgia had certified Biden as the final winner, Michigan now the largest battleground - it all appeared like a comedy, would it be possible for SNL to top "Rudy's" comedy show, that was the best lawyer the president could hire? But people died because of that, every minute and day they died, and the murderers acted driven by pure sarcasm and mocked the dead and their loved ones. Mr. Kenay opened the door and I stepped in, he had prepared a coffee, we sat down in the living room, I had bought some cookies.

"You said, that you see some inconsistencies?"

"Yes, I would have some questions to you, to support my perceive or to undermine it. Can we start?"

"Of course."

"The revolver, would somebody decide to commit suicide in this household, would this be the only opportunity? Knives in the kitchen I would think of, others.....?"

"I'm not sure, that's no easy question for me, we have to take various medicines, maybe they could kill you, but I'm not sure."

"Can I have a look later what pills you have?"

"Sure."

"Your wife's pills are still there?"

"Yes, of course. I have altered nothing."

"The pills would be important in that way, that it would be much more likely that, should your wife would have decided to commit suicide, that she would have used pills, rather than a gun. Swallowing a large amount of pills and laying down in bed afterwards, that would fit better to a suicide."

"I think that I understand."

"By the way, you shot with the gun from time to time, but your wife?"

"Never, and also I used it not since a longer time now."

"With other guns?"

"No, my father's gun is the only gun we own."

"But still there's a very big problem. I think we can exclude an accident - or?"

"Yes, I think so."

"Then, if no suicide and no accident, then we need a second person. Did you find any hints, that there was a second person in the house?"

"No, I have told this also the police. They also looked around, no window broken or a door damaged. Nothing is stolen, not fight had happened, no disarrangement."

"Can I see the bed again?"

"Of course."

We walked into the bedroom, all looked exactly the same as the last time.

"You not use the bed now?"

"No, of course not. I have a bed-settee. Not much that suggests that it was no suicide.....?"

He looked at me, did he started to accept it, or was I on the way to screw it up?

"Can we go back to the living room?"

"Yes, of course. The cookies you bought are very fine."

"Thanks."

We sat down, I looked at him, and I decided that I had to start to lie.....

*

Sorry!

Sorry Ms. Grant, but I could not resist:

*Anyone can start again
Not through love but through revenge
Through the fire, we're born again
Peace by vengeance brings the end
(High By The Beach; Lana Del Rey)*

I hesitated, but it's too nice! Maybe an idea for the president - High by the beach!

With every day the USA headed more towards the disaster, not because of the destructive president, nor the all accepting Dems, but because of COVID-19.

The USA seemed like a nation to me, threatened by various deadly enemies, not being able to start with real resistance - a nation that accepted the slaughtering of their people by their own people, like a flock of sheep, only that also the wolves sheep were. Still wondering: Where was the (real) outcry?

*

"I had a phone conversation with your daughter, I needed some information. She told me about, that your wife sometimes contacted her."

"Yes, sometimes we both phoned her - we're old, but we both use also some of the modern ways to communicate. We both have a smartphone, even a tablet."

"And you both use SMS and other possibilities....."

"Yes, my wife liked it to write e-mails."

"Yes, I know, because your daughter received an e-mail that evening, as you were with her. She saw it only, after you were on your way home, your wife asked her to tell you that you should buy

something."

"We were short of green tea I have seen, she loved it to drink a cup of green tea in the evening."

"Your daughter was not sure anymore, about what it was, she has deleted the e-mail, because it was outdated as she saw it. But what's important is, should your wife have had the intention to commit suicide at this evening, and then she wrote your daughter an e-mail, no hint about her intention, only asking for new green tea? This not fits, as the gun not fits. That's what I'm talking about."

"Will it be ever possible to prove it, that it was no suicide?"

"It will be difficult in any case, but we can try it."

"It would cost me a lot of money?"

"Would I try it full-time, yes. But I could have an eye on it, sometimes things need some time. Maybe I have to come back and have to talk with you again, do something, like listing the drugs this time. At the moment I'm not busy, also my business functions not that good at the moment. I would inform you from time to time - would this be okay for you?"

"Sure, you wanna list the drugs now."

"Yes, would be important."

It was afternoon as I left him, the first I did was to phone his daughter. Then I sat down for a lunch and received an SMS – 5 pm, a place outside my neighborhood?. I wrote also an SMS - be aware of, that your husband controls your phone! Then I gave her the address of a nice place.

*

The numbers in the States exploded, and they really exploded! Only a few days this development would continue, then it would be very difficult to bend the curve again. Germany had obviously reached a high plateau, no increase anymore, but also no decrease, the first goal was achieved, the measures seemed to have an effect. But of course, this what not enough, longer, maybe stricter, measures? Sunday would give an answer - the States?

In Germany there was a reaction, measures took place, looking at the States was heartbreaking. All this talking about a vaccine - what a fucking shit was this! Yes, maybe soon a vaccine, but it would need months to vaccinate enough people, but it was only a matter of days, that the situation in the States would be out of control! It was totally disturbing to see what the important news were, why still listening to the president's shit, totally mad "Rudy", why not starting with actions, why not pressuring the Republicans, why not naming them every new day, for instance in Senate and House, what they were, ruthless mass murderers with the blood of tens of thousands of innocent Americans on their hands - in the Bundestag the delegates would have no problem therewith!

I could not understand.....

*

"Really a nice place."

"You not tell me, that you normally have your dinner at such a place?"

"No."

"Have you ever had dinner in a place with such many Latinos in - I mean as customers, not behind the counter or the kitchen?"

"No, but is it not also corrupt in a way, to go to such places, not being a part of their community?"

"You mean?"

"Where do you live?"

"Two blocks from here."

"Oh....."

"Give me your address, we all know what this means. You don't like my address?"

"Well, you're a private detective, you should have a reputation, for whom you're working?"

"You mean, who hires a private investigator with such an address?"

"Yes."

"Your husband for instance, that he proves that his wife cheats him, that she spends every week some time with a young man in a motel to have sex with her - do you like your chicken?"

"Yes, it's not bad. You're married?"

"No, I never said to another person that I would love her or him forever."

"And now, I did it? And I betrayed my husband, now I'm a.....what I'm now for you?"

"I'm not sure so far. Tell me, why you betrayed your husband?"

"I married young, it was a matter of course to do so, I raised up with the knowledge to marry and to have children."

"And now you regret it?"

"Well, it's not that bad to live in a suburban neighborhood, I like it."

She looked around, happy not to live here.

"And your husband? Very religious?"

"I'm religious too - you not believe in God!"

"Well, you committed a sin, a carnal sin, sure that God still loves you?"

"The love of God is endless, I regretted it."

"And now everything is good again?"

"It seems so."

"And why you're here? Why you not simply ignored me and have told your husband that I bothered you at home?"

"Do you really think that my husband could be a murderer?"

"You would like it?"

"It's late, I have a long way back. Thanks for the meal, maybe we can meet again?"

"Once a week in a motel?"

"You not really think, that I would have an affair with you?"

"No, I thought that you became the loving wife again, that you would never betray your husband again?"

"I have to go now, bye Peter. - Such a place has it's charm....."

I waited till she was outside, then I had a look into the open kitchen - the chief came to my table.

"And, what do you think?"

"I hope she will not become a regular customer."

"No, I will not come in with her again."

"She's a white arrogant cow, sorry to say this. I do not need such people here."

"Yeah, would you think that she would be able to commit a murder?"

"Everybody is able to commit a murder. I'm sure that she would sell her grandmother with a smile, and she would have no problem therewith, to let somebody commit a murder."

Free Fallin'

Yeah, not only a song about love and betray, a feeling that I had, Saturday, no appointments today, a time to come down, only to realize, that you were falling, falling into a deep black hole. But not I fell in particular, the whole nation fell, it seemed like as the nation was captured in a deadly vortex, but it would have been so easy.....

The president needed it, to stay as the dominating topic, why doing him this favor? Biden was the new president, forget the idiot in office! Of course, every news show should give him his five minutes, but should spend the rest of the time to talk about the virus and our new president Joe Biden and his vice president Kamala Harris, what they did, they would be the future. Georgia was fixed now, Michigan would follow - why even now always falling for the president's tricks?

Some thought that Biden's election was a hoax? Okay, how many thought that the sitting president's election was a hoax? If the Dems were not able to bear this, it would be better to surrender, because

the next four years would become very hard years, at least if no longer trying to play nice.

I had decided to walk around, the streets empty, a car from time to time, sometimes another pedestrian - I put on my mask and entered a bakery. After some hesitation I decided for a piece of nice pastry with poppy and a coffee to go and sat down in a near park.

*

Full Moon Fever

*She's a good girl, loves her mama
Loves Jesus and America, too
She's a good girl, crazy 'bout Elvis
Loves horses and her boyfriend, too
(Free Fallin', Tom Petty)*

Maybe the girl should not sit at home, with her broken heart? Maybe the girl should stand up, to kick the boy in his nuts?

*

I was no specialist for history, but as far as I could see it, our nation had been, from the beginning on, a divided nation, at least if "our nation" was not defined as "white and European based", maybe with the addition "rich". But this had been so long no substantial problem, as long as the white ruling class could be sure about, that their claim to power was safe. But this had changed more and more, this time Georgia, in four years maybe even Texas? The ultimate fight had begun, the white ruling class fought for their survival.

I looked around, a Latino neighborhood I lived in, I had no problem therewith, they had no problem therewith, but we talked not about living with some neighbors, we talked about ruling a nation. Already the - white European based - Founding Fathers had "known", that a direct democracy was not good for this nation. Had they felt, that one day women would have the right to vote, even slaves? Georgia illustrated very good that it was no good idea, to give everybody a vote, this had to be regulated. It was okay that people from around the world immigrated to the US, it was not okay, that they developed the arrogance to think, that they should be participated in ruling the nation. This was absolutely not okay!

An old man and his wife, who had - most probably - committed suicide. A man who loved it to talk about God, and his cheating wife. Was all very trivial, suicide, the couple had some marital problems, but this was all? Was it no suicide, maybe the nice old man had murdered his wife, and fooled everyone now? Was the husband the murderer or the wife or did they do it together? Many possibilities, knew Joe Biden more than he said? What happened behind the curtain? But whatever, now every day nearly two thousand Americans died.....I could not understand it. Was this one of these movies, a lot of people died, a lot of suffering and death, but in the end everybody was happy - a war movie with the Duke? But the dying in the nation was real, the suffering was real, one of this SF movies? Travelling back in time, changing the future, everything good now - but, the previous suffering? Now it would not happen, or it had happened but.....?

What, if I rape a young girl and murder her, then I travel back in time and I do it not again? I'm a rapist now and a murderer? Or not? Everything would be good with Joe Biden and Kamala Harris, with a vaccine, in 2021, all what happens now would be unimportant than, erased in a way, we all would smile and would enjoy the setting sun.....

The Thanksgiving Madness

It had become Monday, I had spent most of Sunday in my bed or in front of the TV, no news, mainly sitcoms. But today was Monday, time to become more active again, to work on the cases - cases?

That America screwed it up, that the numbers exploded, but hey, let's start with the thanksgiving travel! Or the transition, not happening till now, it became with every day a more stupid farce - the behavior of the GOP became more and more an embarrassment, a reason to be upset and angry, Americans died every day an unnecessary death!

I would contact Mr. Kenay from time to time, would visit him from time to time, but how long this charade could function? I was not sure about it, maybe he would accept from a certain moment on, that it could give no final answer? At least that was my hope, but not more than a hope. And the murder case, the young man? He was a hypocrite, and she not less, but that not made them murderers. It was a matter of the police, not of me – I should try to get other thoughts.

*

All signs pointed to a longer lockdown in Germany, maybe even more severe measures? No increase, but no decline either, no reason to relax in any case. Wednesday evening we would know more.

In the USA Michigan now the major battleground, but maybe in some hours everything would be over. In fact, so far the "system" in the USA functioned, the juridical system appeared to be stable, seemed to express clearly that all the allegations were only silly maneuvers - but that made the behavior of the GOP only more embarrassing!

It was interesting to see, who fought side by side with the president, Giuliani and Jr.? It was interesting to see, how ridiculous this all was, and yet it took away with every day and every hour the lives of American people.

Germany seemed - as so often - on top of everything, tensed, but far away from being chaotic - how long? Most probably a continuation of the lockdown till December the twentieth, would be a possibility, a vaccine?

At the moment it seemed, that the task now was, to hang on till January, then we would have the worst behind us. A false feeling? We would see.

*

A country in madness, we should stay at home and wear masks, but we had nothing better to do than to travel and to look forward to the Thanksgiving Day celebrations - hey, we had no exploding numbers, or? Okay, as a single with no close ties to anyone.....yes, for me it was easy to say, but maybe some more responsible acting in the States would do us good? But hey, we not cared for homeless veterans, why we should.....the president with his ultimate selfishness was a very fine illustration of this nation.

I walked around, maybe today the decision in Michigan would be made? Could this be the beginning of the ultimate end of this stupid farce? It strained your mind, crushed your mood, the American people had decided, but this administration gave you still no space to breath, your thoughts were captured by all this. Something had to happen!

*

Michigan confirmed the result, the next step forward? Georgia fixed, Michigan fixed, what now - Pennsylvania? How long would the GOP still need to get their asses up, now it became idiotic once for all!

*

I came back home, the news? Joe Biden announced the first members of his team and Michigan certified the election, could it happen now? I sat down and thought about, how relieving it would be, could Joe Biden begin with the transformation. It would do the nation good, it would do me good, it was exhausting. The last four years had been exhausting, the last months, but the last weeks had been the most exhausting time.

It was time to end this farce, it was time to get back some kind of normality, only the normal racism, the normal social and juridical injustice, the normal amount of lies, while the daily dying continued and increased.

*

Was this the moment of a new chance, in Germany minutes after midnight? In my head I had finished the day, thought to relax for a moment, go to bed, but then? Be not too optimistic, be a German, was this the right way? At least it seemed that this would become the crucial week - hope for the States, while thousands died every week? At least the hope, that some regulations and measures, some meaningful action, would take place now. But a lot of time had become wasted, and every more day hurt, and still so long till January.....

But maybe a day, simply to be happy, to see the light at the end of the tunnel.....

*

Wow, right now I thought about, what to do with the rest of the day, not really listening to the voice on TV, not realizing immediately, that this could become a very important day. The last days all the court action of the president and his best ever lawyer "Rudy" failed finally and all developed more and more into a ridiculous farce, a farce it had been right from the beginning on. Today some names from Joe Biden, very interesting names. Later Michigan certified the election result, and as if this was not enough, now the GSA gave green light to begin with the transition process - what a day!

I was not the most convivial guy, and definitively I had to shave, but I thought that this should be a reason to do some socializing.....

The Famous Silver Lining On The Horizon

There it was, this so famous silver lining on the horizon, maybe even more? Biden went straight on, name after name, it seemed as he would have known it, had he done everything right? His strategy, was it the best in the end, had he been clever enough to know how the political, and juridical, system would function, especially in Washington, it seemed so! But then, still this GOP, still no words from McConnell, still the question about the two Senators from Georgia - the scandals in Florida, the pandemic?

I had decided to do nothing today, I sat in my office and waited for a new case, a real case, but none appeared. More and more vaccines popped up, one could become optimistic wouldn't there had been the question, who will get them. And maybe one could even ask about possible long time side effects. But how relieving it was to know, that an administration Biden would distribute the vaccine now, not the current administration. It seemed, as everything would head towards a good outcome now - the phone rang!

*

The Biden-Effect?

I was astonished, sitting in Germany, hearing the news from the States - had I underestimated Joe Biden and his team?

Everything felt so different than in the last days, suddenly the president had become a side issue, everybody talked about Biden and his team - I liked it very much. But maybe one should also not underestimate the president, or could it be, that they were in fact such jerks, as what they appeared to be?

But still no words from Moscow Mitch, as long as he stayed silent it was not over, were there secret talks between him and Joe Biden? It was to hope, it had to be - and in the meanwhile the USA headed with every day more, more and more towards the corona disaster. In Germany, they would extend the lockdown tomorrow, at least would be everything else a very surprise! Maybe at Christmas and New Year.....?

It was a feeling like between Christmas and New Year, this special time, something had not ended really, something had not begun really, an intermediate stage, an intermediate realm, a somewhat surreal time, with very real dying.

It was good now, to hear the news from the states. Joe Biden's picks, what would they change, the nuclear deal, Paris.....suddenly everybody looked ahead, the past should become forgotten, like in Germany after the lost WWII. But in Germany the gas chambers still existed, the millions of murdered people were still dead, and would be dead forever - one could begin a new chapter, but the previous had been written to last forever, for eternity.

*

"No, I do not think that it would be a good idea to meet.....the police investigates.....no, I'm not interested in burdensome information regarding your husband.....as said, it's a matter of the police, I can give you the number of the responsible police officer.....no, I'm not in my office.....maybe tomorrow.....okay.....bye Mrs. Allen."

I would be not in my office tomorrow!

*

Imagine, you would be.....yeah, whom one should be? Maybe arrogant at the moment even to pose such a question, sitting in Germany, playing intellectual games? A moment of being in the state of weightlessness.....

*

After a moment I decided, that I would get no new case anymore today, that I could leave the office, I activated the call forwarding, grabbed my stuff, as the doorbell rang - okay, why not a new case! I put my stuff aside and opened the door, what I regretted immediately!

"Hello, Peter. I'm used to, that men always lie - can I come in?"

"Not with pleasure....."

I stepped aside, so that she could enter the office. She saw my stuff.

"You were about to go?"

"Yes, I have an important appointment tomorrow."

"Unfortunately you would be not in your office tomorrow, good that I could meet you already today."

"Very fine, unfortunately I have no coffee left."

"A tea would be also good."

I started to brew some tea, she wore the same conservative clothes as always, today a pretty long pleated skirt, red, a white blouse, a red woolen little jacket, flesh-colored stockings and black shoes with petite heels, a necklace and a bracelet made of pearls, a not cheap looking, delicate, red-golden

watch, a nice looking ring with a red stone in the middle and some clear ones around, of course the wedding ring - in a way she looked very vintage, and not that bad at all. But the person inside the clothes was different, was this the Mrs. Allen that drove once a week to a motel.....?

"A green tea I would guess?"

"If you have?"

"I would have a very fine Sencha here in the office, or would you prefer a Chinese one?"

"Japanese green tea is always no bad choice."

I prepared a small cast-iron tea pot, of course from Japan, of green tea for both of us. She watched me doing it, and it seemed that she liked it to see, that I used a second glass pot to brew the tea, that I used a timer to do it exactly.

"You know to prepare such a tea in the right manner, my husband would be not able to do it."

I poured some tea in her tea cup.

"You have style, very fine porcelain."

"Wedgwood."

"You're surprising me more and more."

She took a nip of the tea, I also.....

"So, your husband is the murderer?"

"I not said this!"

She said this in a very sardonically manner.

"You implied it."

"What I know is, that he has no alibi, no alibi for a longer time."

"Enough time to torture a man to death?"

"Maybe he kept him imprisoned and tortured him for some time, and killed him not at once?"

"Sounds as you would know more?"

"Speculations."

"You wanna get rid of your husband?"

"Maybe I could find a better one?"

"Unfortunately your lover is dead."

"Gosh, he was a good lover, a very good lover by the way! But he was no man to marry!"

"That's comforting, because I'm definitely no good lover, not to mention a very good lover."

*

The old man felt a feeling of hope, could it be, could it really be, that the president, the figures around him, but especially also his base, would quit that "unspectacular"? But so far still this "feeling" of having won on the side of the conservatives, his base. What would happen, would McConnell name Joe Biden president, without "elected", for the first time? Would the old president leave the White House and the new would move in? Would the new president be inaugurated? The old German was a German, always doubting, always seeing the negative possibilities, no, he would never become a "real" American.....

A New Decade Begins?

"America is back!", Joe Biden said, and yes, he seemed not to be wrong. The president more and more in the background, more and more the focus on Joe Biden, his team and their actions - it was a very good feeling. But still a long time till January, a too long time, too long, if every day would count, way over two thousand deaths(!) yesterday, not far away to set a new sad milestone. The president let no doubt about, that he was finally no longer interested in to govern, to fight against the pandemic, but this was okay in a way, maybe even desirable, but the GOP, the Congress? And then this Thanksgiving Day madness, we had to fight against the pandemic, not to help the virus to spread!

I thought about when it would be a good moment, to have a phone call with Mr. Kenay, not too fast, an investigation was an investigation, but on the other hand I should not wait too long - not today, maybe tomorrow - Mrs. Allen?

*

Four years or so Joe Biden, eight years or so Kamala Harris - a nice mind game. A start for them, not harder one could think of, four years of devastation, the pandemic, the economy down, Wall Street up, still all the former problems like systemic racism - but it was a new beginning! But what was puzzling?

In Germany numbers rose also, three weeks a "lockdown light", today the government would announce the measures for the rest of the year, and no one expected to hear something else, than that the measures would stay in effect, would get even stricter. In the States a chaos in the various states, and their behavior during Thanksgiving was not very clever. Biden-Harris? Not in office, and even if, it would be very difficult for them after this lost months, to counteract to this.

*

I sat in front of the TV, Biden held a speech: We can find a cure for cancer - what! Come on Joe, our nation suffered, and we needed at least some realism - or? Wouldn't it be enough to begin with, to fight against the pandemic, to fight against systemic racism, to fight against poverty, to fight for health care for all - Joe?

Oh yes, our nation could become the leader of the world again, to tell the world how democracy functions - with a totally unfair electoral system! To tell the world how climate protection functions - while we not stopped fracking! Hey Joe, yes, not doubt about, that you were better than the previous president, but this was no longer the Obama era, today the people gathered for answers, no nice speeches, answers, actions, change in the nation - please Joe, do not do the same mistakes as Obama and Clinton, now we would need a president who acts and delivers, nice and hypocrite speeches we had heard for a much too long time, from democratic presidents!

Still no idea regarding Mrs. Allen.....

*

Joe Biden, while waiting for the press conference with Angela Merkel, was on its way to heal cancer - oh Joe Biden, why always this American babbling? You **not** had to heal cancer, you had to heal the American nation, would this be not enough? Speeches like this created the fear, that this administration would do the same mistakes as previous administrations - Germany?

Did we take the necessary steps? We had decided for the "Energiewede", the "energy transition". We had a strong Green Party, next year we would elect a new chancellor - Angela Merkel would not candidate again. So far we had handled the pandemic relatively good, not best, but good. We had a functioning civil society, but most of all?

Angela Merkel not announced to find a cure for cancer!

Time To Take A Deep Breath!

Thanksgiving Day, a day to celebrate, turkey, cranberries and stuffing and whatever - I sat at home, looked at the numbers, two thousand three hundred thirteen people had to die yesterday, let's celebrate!

I was depressed, we acted like all would be not so bad at all, but our numbers rose dramatically, soon we would have a new all-time high in deaths, the president began to destroy as much as possible in the remaining time, Evangelists showed once more that they not respected life, even not

that of their own people - I had bought me a piece of turkey, rice and salad.

The office was closed today, no call forwarding, I would not call Mr. Kenay today, of course not today - should I disturb the Allens? They would sit together at a table, mommy had invested hours to prepare the turkey and all the other stuff, let us thank God for his generosity, that he had made us white in this proud white nation - my turkey tasted good!

From tomorrow on I had to become more active again, I needed something to do, something real. But today was Thanksgiving Day, today was no time for working, unless you had bad luck, working in an ICU, in a hospital or retirement home, the bad luck to see the daily dying in reality, not as rising numbers or graph. Those you could ignore or sugarcoat, not the dead bodies that piled up in the refrigerated trucks on the parking lots.....

*

Four hundred and ten deaths in Germany yesterday, a new - very sad - all-time high! And not only by a few, so far - mid April - three hundred and fifteen had been the highest number - a hundred more yesterday? Would equal one thousand six hundred and forty deaths in the States, the German numbers no longer much lower than in the States!

The "lockdown light" had not really functioned, now extended, in some details intensified - would this be enough effort now, till December the twentieth, to celebrate Christmas and New Year then? Or would become the situation in Germany normal now, as difficult as in other nations, no longer the land of bliss?

I would spend my time at home, looking at the numbers, why we were not able to act rational? We were humans, had this to be the answer?

*

Well, long lines in front of the food banks, but hey, why surprised, why reporting about it? Because it.....because what! You only had to go to the right neighborhood in my city, and not only in this city, nobody knew exactly how many homeless lived there, on the streets or in homeless shelters, not only since the pandemic, or the last four years, already in my youth it had been a test of courage to go there, how many blocks you dare to enter that quarter? Yes, that had been the question, not, in what way it would be possible to help those people. And today, no longer a boy? What had changed, nothing at all, other boys played the "game" today, and still nobody asked the question. Maybe that was in a way simple thinking, but even the Democrats were not capable to, to act bold, do not scare away your possible voters! And the Republicans? What one should expect from a bunch, that had no problems therewith, that every day hundreds of Americans died an unnecessary death? I saw a manor house on a hill, those in it had not many problems with all this, they looked down on them who suffered and died, why they should be interested in their "fate"? Since the beginning this nation had been no real nation, from the beginning on some lived like vampires, sucking out the blood of the nation, even became slaveholders in the South, or brutal capitalists in the North. This nation was in war with oneself, from the beginning on, and it was to fear, that this war would continue, continue over the next four years - why it should end?

Our nation was a crooked nation, and I was an old white man, walking through the nightly streets, who had done the right, had helped that Joe Biden became elected and knew, that.....maybe when the Dems would get the two Senators from Georgia? Well, the Dems were the Dems, they would find a way to screw it up, maybe they should become as ruthless as the Republicans? At least more aggressive, but hey, we had Joe, who deeply believed in compromises - with Moscow Mitch? I poured some brandy in my hot coffee, I liked this combination, and looked around, sitting on a bench in a park at night, at Thanksgiving Day - I needed a case, I needed something to do!

*

It was easy, fucking easy to look at the States, shaking your head, knowing that this nation would have no chance. Or should one believe in a miracle? I was a German, not an American, I faced the hard reality and knew, that the USA headed towards an awful disaster, all pointed thereto, that it would not last long and three hundred thousand, and then four hundred thousand, Americans would have died, most of them unnecessarily, and nobody knew, how many it would be in the end. An awful lot, more than during the Civil War had died? Now nothing seemed impossible anymore! Yes, it was nice to do this, a president who would do his best, to do as much damage as possible till Joe Biden's inauguration, yes, the United States were on a rough path, and.....how much better it was, to live not in the States!

Yesterday decisions on new corona measures in Germany, after the previously decided measures not had shown the necessary effect, new measures: We let everything as we had it, some light stricter rules, but nothing that would hurt, especially we tell the people not, that all indicates that, Christmas this year will be very much restricted, we can do this on December the fifteenth! No long-time strategy, no clear rules, why not acting like in summer? Because we talked about Christmas and New Year now? Good, that at least we in Germany had bold politicians who spoke out the hard truth clearly and frank: We had to accept to the most probable likelihood, that Christmas and New Year would be no celebration this year as we were used to. In fact, it was only a question about, how many maybe could meet, but not much in any case. Well, I was used standing in the kitchen at Christmas and New Year, maybe therefore I had no problem therewith.....

But I had to confess, that I was disappointed, so far I had been optimistic, optimistic for Germany, not for the States, but now? Yesterday we had had more deaths than ever, not even the States had reached this level again? I had said it often enough, in the end were Germany and the US not that much different.....

A New World Appeared

Yes, it was easy to plan to do something, to change something, but in reality, especially if it needed the action of a third party. I sat in my office, headache, and waited for a new case - unfortunately no case came. Okay, I was not that naive, I did advertising, even now, but I could not force someone to come in or at least to pick up the phone - I had brewed a nice tea and a strong coffee.

Yesterday the deaths number had decreased strongly, no twelve hundred anymore, also a small decline in cases, should the States make it better than the Europeans, where they had more and more problems?

The president had answered questions, wow, had he really said, that he would leave the White House, would the electoral college make Biden president? Wow, that was more than I ever would have expected, of course he babbled about a rigged election, but he would leave?

All this sounded too good - or? The president I was not sure, but what I had learned so far was, that a day was not convincing, and the effects from Thanksgiving we would not see today or tomorrow, but in two weeks. I looked at the two cups on my desk as the doorbell rang - a new case finally? Well, the last time.....I stood up, walked to the door, looked through the spy hole - Mrs. Allen, smiling, waving with her hand.....

*

At the end we had managed it, proportionally we had more deaths in Germany as in the States yesterday! And not by a few, very distinct, but it was statistic in the end?

It should be no deny of the facts, but it could be a statistic fluctuation, the next days would show more. But even that it had happen was disappointing, not so long ago we had under ten deaths a day as the States had nearly or even over a thousand deaths a day! What had happened?

The Germans not better than "this" Americans - could this be? Some said it was because of the young, some said it was because of the immigrants and people from foreign states, who were not to

be able to behave as responsible as the Germans - talked I about the States or Germany?
Whatever, we had had months to prepare for a second wave, the experts had warned about it, but not much had happened, the reality over the summer had been so fine, too fine maybe! Could it be that we had to pay the price therefore now? The politicians had acted a few days ago, okay, but maybe it would have been better, to expand the measures straight away at least till January? It was no easy time, and at least we had no such president, no such electoral system, no mile long lines in front of food banks.....

*

I hesitated to open, but then I thought that it would be maybe better to do so, maybe to say some clear words to her.....

"Come in, feel as at home!"

"Thanks, Peter."

We took a seat at my desk, I behind, she in front.

"You cannot decide?"

She pointed on the two cups on my desk.

"I like both."

"Yes, it's good to be not too much restricted."

She decided for a tea.

"Like to have a husband and a lover?"

"I think it's better that you're not married. You would be awfully jealous."

"Maybe I simply think, that vows should be tying, not only mere chatter."

"Gosh, it's really better that you're not married!"

"You're religious, or?"

"Yes."

"Yeah, that what I like on people like you, standing in front of the church parish and preach about moral values and afterwards fucking with everyone."

"Wow, you're a real moralizer, Peter. You would be a good priest!"

"No, I'm too open, I too often say what I think."

"Would you answer me a question?"

"Maybe?"

"Would I find porn on your PC?"

"And if?"

"What about women rights and #MeToo?"

"Says the woman who likes it to be a suburban housewife, to live in her suburban world, with a nice man and two beautiful kids. It's nearly like "The Brady Bunch" - oh, she never would have betrayed her husband."

"You dreamed about fucking Marcia?"

"No, I was more for Laurie."

"Yeah, the classic beauty, like Michelle. I would guess that you have some pictures of Susan and Michelle on your PC?"

"You're very interested in my PC?"

"I would guess that unmarried old man have filed interesting things on their hard drives?"

"Never on the hard drive, always use external alternatives for that. You never know who's watching you, while driving to the motel."

"That's what I mean, you spied out my secret, maybe now it's my turn?"

"You told the police what you have told me the last time?"

"No, why I should?"

"Maybe because it would be an important information for them, should your husband in fact have no alibi?"

"Why you not told them?"

"I will do if you not do it."

I grabbed the phone.....

"I will do later. We had an interesting conversation so far....."

"We had a stupid conversation so far, and I see no reason why we should continue with it."

*

Would Germany screw it up now, some indicators were not the best? Christmas, yes Christmas, but maybe it would be better to act responsible - Thanksgiving in the US, Christmas in Germany, we could not see a danger, as long as we were not affected directly - climate change?

Today's numbers and developments had been disappointing, nothing to be proud of, nothing that gave optimism for the next weeks and months.

*

"You not like it, that I question your image as private investigator, maybe that of the strong man with a big gun?"

"I have no real big guns, but I think this you already have known. To give somebody a wrong alibi, especially if we talk about homicide, is not a trivial offense. But even without an alibi, your husband has not to be the murderer."

"And why he told me then, that I have to give him a wrong alibi?"

"Why you did it?"

"I'm his wife, you know, in good and bad times. And apart from that, he pressed me, he said he would make my misconduct public, would destroy my good name in the whole neighborhood, shouldn't I do it."

"And would your husband convicted of murder, what would also mean that his motive, jealousy obviously, would become automatically public - what would this do with your "good name in the neighborhood"?"

"Now you see my problem, it seems as that I would be the loser in any case, the woman. Unfortunately we no longer live in the 50s and you're no real man."

"Because?"

"I would seduce you, and you would do me a favor therefore."

"Killing your husband?"

"I've said nothing about murder, only about a favor."

"The black widow, first she had an affair, but was not clever enough, that her husband could not find her lover's number on her phone. It was easy then, for her husband, to get the information, where she met with him. And now her lover is dead and her husband.....you know what's not functioning?"

"What?"

"Your man is a ruthless torturer? Come on, who shall believe this?"

"And the other story, does this make sense?"

"Tell me about this story."

"I betray my husband, he finds the phone number, because I not think that he would examine my phone. He hires a private detective, gets the information where I meet with my lover - and then? Just at this moment my lover gets murdered by someone else, and my husband forces me to give him a wrong alibi - strange coincidences, or?"

"And now you're doing your best, that I act - why not the police, it would be much easier?"

"I lie every night in bed beside him? Okay, I'm an adulteress, but he maybe a murderer, most likely a murderer, a murderer who dominates me? Can you imagine how I feel every night?"

"It's so easy, go to the police and it's over."

"But this would destroy everything, maybe he's no murderer?"

"You wanna hire me?"

"I would have problems to pay you?"

"You're not poor, or?"

"I have no own money."

"Your husband said, that you would have a part-time job, that this would give you independence?"

"My husband says a lot. Yes, I work a bit, since the kids are older now, but my husband is the one who controls all our finances. Yes, I have some money for me, but he controls, what I do with it."

"Give me some time to think about it."

"But you phone me - or?"

"I will."

I still needed some time till she left the office - I was not really interested in to work for her, not because of the money. I had to think about it, as the phone rang, Mr. Kenay's daughter.

"Damn, that I had not considered!"

Lies

Still a very low death rate yesterday, but on TV they had said, that during the holidays not every state reported their numbers, that could explain a lot. Instead, experts now talked about, that we would soon reach the number of three thousand and more deaths a day, yes, as long as the president found his time to play golf.....

With every day the behavior of the GOP and Moscow Mitch became more disgusting, not even a financial support for those who needed - why not a tax cut for the super rich, why they should pay for the poor and ill, the GOP would support this idea in any case. But in fact, I had other problems this morning. Apart from headache and a fucking mood, the problems with Mrs. Allen, I had screwed it up, to lie to Mr. Kenay. I was like the president, I had lied and everybody knew that I had lied, I only had no fanatic "base" who believed in everything that I said.

I had told Mr. Kenay that his wife had emailed his daughter, Mr. Kenay looked through the emails of his wife, not in bad faith, he wished to know what his wife had written before it had happened, he could not find any email from that particular evening! But maybe that would be my chance? His daughter had tried, to play the innocent, had said that she could not explain this, but that she had received an email, maybe I could help? Now I sat again in Mr. Kenay's living room, he had made coffee as usual and I had bought cookies as usual.

*

Did I make a mistake yesterday? Germany not that bad as I thought? Still the US worse than Germany? Everything okay with Germany?

I had heard in the news, that the numbers in the States were only that low because not all states reported their numbers over the holidays - so, everything okay in Germany?

Yesterday the next all-time high in deaths, no, nothing was okay in Germany. The numbers in the States rose - okay, from a high level on. The basic level in Germany had been much lower, but our death toll exploded! Ten times the deaths as four weeks ago, that was no fact to be proud about. But.....

Germany had reacted nationwide, the surge in cases had been stopped, it could be predicted, that also the rise in deaths would come to an end soon, but all in all, the last four weeks the German nation had been no example for other countries, by far not!

*

"I cannot explain it full-on, but it's interesting that there's no email at all from this evening. Maybe your wife deleted them all?"

"But that would indicate a suicide, not that much it would point to a crime, or?"

"Yes and no. Are there emails from the other days? The police had taken your wife's mobile devices?"

"Yes, her smartphone as well as the tablet. They told me that they have found nothing, that was why I paid her devices no attention so far. Her latest email is from three days before her death."

"Her latest phone call, if you know?"

"From the morning, when it happened, she phoned with her doctor."

"You know why?"

"Yes, a routine check, I was at home at this time, we had talked about it."

"You said, that she liked writing emails, how often she did it normally?"

"Often, often with her girlfriends. She met regularly with some other women, they often communicated in their group via email."

"Can you give me some names and phone numbers?"

"Why?"

"It would be very interesting to know, when she has written her last email to her girlfriends - maybe the email to your daughter is not the only missing one."

"You mean that it could be, that somebody has deleted her emails from the last days?"

"That's what I wanna try to find out."

"You would tell me, would you not believe in a crime?"

"In any case, but maybe we have the next part that will not fit."

"Now you have to do more for me, how much I have to pay you?"

"Let us see what my investigation will yield. To be honest, I have no other case at the moment, better as to sit the whole day at home in any case."

"Thanks, you give me hope."

"Sometimes hope is the only what has left."

Had I saved the situation, had I managed it, to cover up my lie with new lies? It was not easy to do it. And Mrs. Allen? Not today, today I needed a day without her. I looked at the list in my hand, of course I would do my homework. I had in fact no case, nothing to do, and then I should not make the next mistake, maybe one of his wife's girlfriends would talk with him, and she would tell him that I did not have contacted her, that I was not interested in - possible - emails. Once such mistake was enough, I would spend the next morning phoning around.

The Beauty Of A Sunday Morning

It was Sunday in the morning, the night had been star-bright, it was freezing outside. In my youth it had been much colder at the end of November, but I had become old and soft. It was nearly 11 am, I thought it should be a good time, church service should be over, lunch should not have begun, I started with the first name on the list - it functioned. It was Mrs. Curtis, a kind of "leader of the pack".

"Are you sure?.....Absolutely?.....That's strange, thanks for this information, Mrs. Curtis." I was not only slightly puzzled.

*

One book that should become significant for him was "Moderne Bibliothek Des Wissens"; Band. 1, Natur ("Library of Knowledge"; Vol. 1, Nature). This was the only volume his parents owned from this series, but it should be one of the most important books of his youth. Nearly seven hundred pages, the first fifty were the most important pages for him, the others also interesting, but "Weltall und Astronomie" ("Universe and Astronomy") were the most interesting ones for him. He read every word, he copied whole passages, wrote a kind of summary, traced illustrations, was fascinated

by the photographs. Well, it was a time, when it would still last decades, till for instance something later called "The Internet" would become invented.

One paragraph among all this fascinating paragraphs however should become most influencing for his future life - "Veränderliche Sterne" (Variable Stars)! No longer than two pages, with pictures, they wrote at the end that this field of astronomy still offered amateur astronomers the possibility, to contribute in science. In the beginning his efforts not yielded much, and not everything functioned very well, but even after many decades, observing variable stars were still a major part of his life. He had improved, much better means were available now than in his youth, he still liked it to see the stars varying in brightness, sitting outside, in the cold and silent night.

*

It was this feeling, could it be? No, you said to yourself, never ever! What kind of story it would be, would a suicide suddenly become a murder, of course only because the private dick was stubborn and had this special feeling, because he investigated even if the police was sure about, that it had been a suicide, because he had lied to "his client", to Mr. Kenay. No, that would be too much!

But on the other hand was the information, that Mrs. Kenay had send an email to Mrs. Curtis and the other women a day before her death, an email regarding the next meeting, Wednesday the next week at Mrs. Kenay's home, a very puzzling information. If this email was no longer there, then obviously emails had got deleted, and not only emails maybe written the relevant evening, even emails written before - a trace? But there was a problem - self-fulfilling prophecy!

CSI, Gil Grissom? Or should I refer to ancient Greek philosophy? Whatever, it was very dangerous to start a case in that way, to say that it could have been a murder and then to try to find evidence therefore - you would find them, at least enough "facts" that would cause doubt on, that it had been a suicide. Like a president defeated, with no evidence that the election had been rigged, could cause doubt in that way, that he would constantly claim baseless accusations. There had been.....I have heard.....there's evidence, that.....I have seen a clip on the Internet.....I think that this election is a fraud and I'm still president! Proofs, hard evidence? No, but all these questions and supposed oddities, could it maybe be, that.....could it be that it could be maybe in fact had been no suicide but instead a murder.....? I was on a very dangerous path, but the deleted emails? I got an SMS: I missed your today's phone call badly! Cordially, Deborah. - I not! Annoyed, Peter.

Humiliating

Now the president even accused the FBI to have rigged the election, the Secret Service also, weren't they lead by him appointed officials? But still the president wasn't the problem, he would never coincide, he would still tell his great-grandchildren that this election had been stolen from him - the crazy uncle who narrated his crazy stories at Christmas, no reason to be worried. But the GOP? The conservative senators and representatives, the conservative governors and majors, what about them? With every day, every hour, it became a bigger disgrace, this behavior from the right side of the aisle - the USA, the biggest banana republic on earth ever! We liked it, to be always the biggest ever!

*

The Swedish special path had not functioned, the Swiss as well. France, Italy and Spain in serious problems again, also many East European nations - the UK of course. Asia, and Africa? Where the numbers from Africa reliable? Could it be, that African nations did it better than the advanced European nations, that the former colonies did it better?

In Germany, the numbers seemed to simmer down again, but it was Monday, numbers from the weekend were always difficult to use. But what meant that, with record numbers at the end of last

weeks?

Baden-Württemberg, the state I lived in, had announced now, that an ease of the measures were only thinkable between December the twenty-third and December the twenty-seventh, not at New Year's Day. Reopening restaurants - no words about that. In summer, one of the best performing nations, Germany had become within weeks a very average nation, nothing to be proud of!

And the world as such? "Bibi" and his American friend tried again to start a war with Iran - not much time was left to do so. The American nation, you had to hate them and you had to love them, and of course no bad word from a German in direction of Israel, everything else would be antisemitic.

*

I thought about, how I should deal with the information that Mrs. Kenay had emailed her group, and that this email obviously had got deleted. Different possibilities regarding the "why", the same with the bed, the gun and others - analytics? Unknowns - x, y, z..... - and a formula, your task, determination of the unknowns. Feasible? Depended on the structure of the formula and the number of unknowns.

Had a formula too many unknowns, but too little information, then the problem was not solvable, maybe not at all, maybe more than one solution would be possible, sometimes even many or an infinite number of solutions. My formula had too many unknowns, or too little information, whatever, I could not solve the problem, at least not at the moment, I needed further information, valuable information. Maybe I had to step back, had to try a different angle, had to begin anew. Of course, this was theoretic in a way, I could not simply forget what I knew, but I could pretend I would.

*

People died, and it would be so easy to rescue their lives - it only would demand, that the generality would act responsible and would accept some restrictions for a limited time, it would demand that politicians would act together for a higher aim, not having in mind, that next year elections would take place, especially the election for the next Bundestag (parliament) and the next chancellor.

A higher aim, an idea, a vision, something that would need more than a term in office, even more than a lifetime. Climate change, what a depressing example - not even capable to act clearly and strict, with the knowing that vaccines would be available soon, that it would be only a matter of months, and everybody could have its normal life back. But hey, why waiting months, if it endangered you not as much as others, others who died mainly, it was disgusting.

*

I ask you politely, to give me the time I need to make a decision. If you cannot wait that long, then please have a look for another private investigator. Otherwise, please wait till I have made my decision, I reach out to you as soon as possible. Greetings, Peter Paul Maurer, Private Investigator. I sent the SMS, and to my surprise I got no SMS in response from her.

A New Beginning?

I had to reconsider some matters, my relation to Mr. Kenay as well as those to Mrs. Allen - both seemed not very healthy. Mr. Kenay was my fault, maybe I should not have lied to him? But there had been no alternatives, so no alternative than continuing with the charade? Mrs. Allen, I would press her, either she would tell the police that the alibi was faked or I would do it - was this a good plan?

Had Joe Biden a good plan? Many women he nominated, but would this be enough? We had had an

African American president, but it had not helped, or in a way after all? It had caused, that neglected and suppressed basic problems had come to light, like a video eight and a half minutes long, were no longer to neglect or to suppress, or would Joe be capable to whitewash them again? The Dems were not known therefore to hit hot topics.

Okay, I would ponder about the emails, I would not let Mr. Kenay alone. I would send Mrs. Allen an SMS, to meet her at a diner, at a public place, to end this up. This was my plan.

*

White Christmas, would we have snow at Christmas? Okay, it was December the first and not the twenty-fourth, but I could not remember snow in December. Normally, the last years, we had for two or three days snow, often more snow slush, in February! But in December? But, it had snowed last night, and the world outside was covered in white!

*

I had had a phone call with Mr. Kenay, to meet him again tomorrow, I would buy the cookies. I had told him about the email, that it would be important for me to inspect the tablet of his wife. Furthermore, that I had got the information, that the pills they had at home would have easily sufficed to kill a person, especially a combination of the sleeping pills and the painkillers, an information one could find on the Internet. It would be good to talk about this as well.

*

Imagine, yes, imagine you would be - the situation in the States? I would run crazy, would become outraged, about the GOP, but as well as about the Dems.

It was not easy, sitting in a foreign country, another continent even, thinking about such questions, only like a funny intellectual game. But for the people in the States it was no funny intellectual game, the development(s) in the States, for them, it was a deadly serious matter.

*

"No, either you tell the police or I will do!"

We sat in a diner, this time not near to my home.

"I would deny it!"

"Why?"

"I said it the last time, no police."

"I thought that your husband has forgiven you?"

"He told you that?"

"Yes."

"I said to you that I like the living in my suburban world, and this is true. I would not like it, to live in your neighborhood and that's not racist meant, it's too loud for me, too messy. I like our nicely cut lawns. But that not means that I like everything, I'm not that religious to be honest."

"But every Sunday in church, of course."

"Yes."

"With daddy and the kids."

"Yes."

"You're related with Melania?"

"I don't know what this should mean?"

"I hate women like you or her. Yes, he's a swine in a way, but hey, it's nice to have money and to play First Lady. She would do everything, and I would guess she did everything, to become privileged. Who hinders you to file for divorce? You could move to another neighborhood? Well,

maybe you would need a full-time job then, maybe not every Sunday church time and later a nice lunch with the perfect family. Maybe no lawn, and if, maybe you had to mow the lawn by yourself then, not your Latino gardener. Yes, some hypocrisy, but it's for a worthy cause, your convenience."

"You're complacent! You're a man, you're living alone - look at you, you did not shave today, but that's okay, you're a man. I have to be perfect all the time, camera ready all the time because every pair of eyes looks at me like a camera, examines me to find the slightest mistake. You're complacent!"

"Okay, assumed I would have a deeper look in what your husband did during the time in question, the time he was not with you and your lover got killed, you really think I would find out that he's the murderer, or do you simply hope that I find out something that you could use against him?"

"Honestly?"

"I would welcome it."

"Both would be okay for me, at least if the "other" were something substantial."

"That was honest. You're not very happy with him, at least not nowadays."

"No, but my problem is, that a divorce would let me nothing, and....."

".....you're used to a certain standard."

"Yes. I would prefer it, still to live in a suburban area, after my divorce."

"And the more dirt you would have, the better."

"Yes."

"You planned this? I have some problems?"

"I "planned" nothing. I had found out in what a way I could.....change my life-style somewhat. I hate the sex with my husband, it's for getting pregnant, no interests in my feelings or needs. But suddenly, he's under pressure now because he was not at home, but obviously, he cannot say where he was - funny, or? No, I do not think that he's a murderer, but I would like it, to know what he did. Obviously something that he was not even willing to tell the police - interesting, or?"

"And what would be my profit?"

"Would depend on the result. Could I divorce and it would be his fault, then I would have enough money to pay you."

"And if not, if your husband's "misconduct" is not very severe, than it's all to my expense?"

"Maybe we could find another arrangement then?"

"No way!"

Like In Mist

"And?"

"No, no emails from the last three days before the evening as it happened are to find, nowhere. If you delete an email you still can find it in the folder for deleted mails for a certain time, I think you know this, you have to delete the email again, to get rid of it finally. But what really puzzles me is, I cannot find in any folder any email from the last three days before it happened, not even an incoming email? It seems, as that someone was very interested in, that all this email could be found no longer. Important, we definitively know that she has written at least two emails in this time, but nothing is to find anymore. That's strange."

"And what does this mean?"

"I'm not sure what I should make out of it, but this is the most puzzling aspect for me so far. I mean, the gun no pills - maybe it had been a spontaneous impulse to commit suicide, the gun was there, maybe not aware that also the drugs could kill her? Okay, the bed? Maybe she thought, that this is the best place to do it, but why erasing all the emails, all from three days? Even if there had been an....."difficult" mail, it would have been enough to delete this mail - but three whole days? This looks more like, someone not knew exactly which email to delete, therefore this person deleted all emails, maybe no time to search?"

"And therefore it would be no suicide?"

"It leads thereto, that a third person is involved, and this person is a phantom. I do not say, that this person has to be a murderer, but it would be interesting to talk with this person in any case. Just for the record, you have not deleted any emails from your wife and you have no idea who maybe deleted the emails from your wife?"

"No and no."

*

Only some remains of white, as usual, but still a daily number of deaths, higher than the highest day during the first wave, this was the situation we faced. We would ease the measures over Christmas, knowing that it would have a negative impact, but, so the message from the politicians, the people would not accept strict measures during the Christmas holidays - but they would accept more dead people afterwards? All this in a country with lesser measures than (most) of the other European countries? In a political talk the question had been asked: Should we learn from Asian nations? Why, we were Germany, we did it 2008 best, we will do it 2020 best – really? Best for the economy?

*

Over two thousand six hundred deaths yesterday, reality was back, three thousand soon, maybe even four thousand a day, the experts had predicted, and so far, the predictions of the experts had been excellent, too excellent maybe.

Even Barr said now, that there had been no betray, and still the GOP and most of the conservative senators silent, Moscow Mitch. More and more deaths threats, and still the GOP and most of the conservative senators silent, Moscow Mitch. For what we had to wait, the first dead person, the first murder? And then, still the GOP and most of the conservative senators would be silent, Moscow Mitch? It was absolutely disgusting to see, what a life the GOP was worth, a bunch of scruples monsters.

*

It was depressing to follow the fight in the USA, sitting far away. Would it be possible, it would be possible to enter a plane to fly to the USA? In a way yes, but in the end no. The ESTA application, what would be the reason for my travel? Vacation would not be possible, business? That I would wish to travel to L.A., Santa Monica Pier and other places, to stand there, screaming: WHY!

Why all this shit happens, why you kill your people open-eyed, fully aware of what happens, why you accept this farce from the GOP - maybe L.A. would be the wrong city, maybe the States the wrong nation, living in a nation, who would have been able to make it that much better?

*

"The problem is, that even knowing that it was a murder not means, that you can solve the case in any case."

"You want to tell me, that the circumstances of the death of my wife maybe will never be clarified?"

"Yes, but maybe tomorrow. I once had a case, long I, as well as the police, had no real hint, than somebody heard something, it was a fluke."

"So, we have to hope for a fluke?"

"No, but we have to be patient. It's like fishing, you have to be patient."

Sometimes You Did Something That You Should Not Have Done

Sometimes you knew, that you should not do something, but you did it anyway - and age and "experience" did not help in any case. I was not really sure why I did it, the fear to have nothing to do, simple curiosity, the hope to find a dirty secret, to unmask the religious pretender? A mix of it all, most probably.

A new record high in deaths yesterday, no, we had not hit the three thousand, but it would be only a matter of time, tomorrow maybe? I thought about what a foreigner would think, looking at the states? The United States, the most failed nation on earth, not even capable to, to get rid of an obviously mad president. Ivanka, maybe a lawsuit? Barr, maybe dismissed? I would like it that this whole bunch would end behind bars, that they would get bankrupt ultimately. Hatred was my motive? Not really!

It was, looking at the world, all this Fuehrers, dictators, mass murderers like Stalin, Mao or Hitler? In the end they failed. Should this give you satisfaction? Well, if it was satisfying, that till then always millions of innocent people had to die? And our wannabe Fuehrer? Well, no millions, only hundreds of thousands so far, could this be satisfying? Yes, I would like it to see, that this whole bunch would go under at the end, with all hands.

*

A new record high in deaths in the states, they could not handle it, already in the third wave, never able even to flatten the first wave! And all this farce around the president? What a fucking nation!

We had four hundred and eighty-seven deaths in Germany yesterday, never we had so much dying at one day so far, proud German nation! We had managed it in the last weeks to stop the increase in cases, even a slow decline, in around two weeks this should have an effect on the number of deaths. So, not good, but on a good way? Well, with some more consequence we would have been able to achieve real progress, but hey, soon was Christmas! Okay, people had to die who would not die if we were more consistent, but.....several outbreaks with many deaths in retirement homes, we knew how to protect the vulnerable in Germany!

*

I dialed the number, knowing that it was not good, but.....

"It's me, Peter, can you talk?.....Yes.....I would like to meet you.....No, I came to a decision.....Yes I will investigate, but I have some conditions....."

We would meet later in the diner where we had met the last time.

*

It was interesting to see, that human beings weren't able to act responsible. In a way it could be easy to deal with the pandemic, but this would have required a working together, nationally and internationally. Because it did not even function nationally, you had not to consider an international cooperation. In a way it was fascinating, in a way disappointing and shaming, knowing that you also was not more than one of this fucking humans.

*

"You have....."conditions"?"

"Yes."

"Tell me more."

"I will start with some investigations, but I decide what I will do with the outcome."

"And I? I pay you and you don't deliver - with my lover I had a better arrangement. I paid him, a fair price, and he delivered, he delivered good and in a very satisfying manner."

"Ah, yes, that's what I did not understand the last time, but maybe I could not understand you?"

"I cannot follow you?"

"You had some problems to pay me, but you never had problems to pay your lover?"

"Well, what he provided was worth every nickel. And didn't I offer you more than money?"

"I'm interested in money, the rest you can keep. My normal rate and a surcharge of fifty percentages - non-negotiable."

"Well, can you imagine that my perfect and diligent husband no longer allows me own money, after my little affair? I think that I have told you this already?"

"Bad luck for you, the rest is not interesting for me."

I started to stand up, as her hand touched mine.

"You allow me a question?"

"Go for it!"

"Do you think I'm an attractive woman? Maybe my clothes are too conservative for you? My lover always told me that I would have a wonderful body, and I'm sure about that he meant it really."

I sat down again, why I did not walk away?

"Never with a client, would be a stupid idea."

"So, I'm your client?"

She wore one of this satin blouses, light and.....

"I think this is the better solution."

The Current State

Well, I had no idea whether this would act or not, neither Mr. Keny nor Mrs. Allen, but I had decided in those ways.

Mr. Keny, why three days of deleted, erased, emails? Was it okay, that the question appeared in my mind, would it be possible that Mr. Kenay had killed his wife? That he had fooled the police, that he now fooled me, that he had managed it in some way, so that it seemed as that all had happened during the time, he was with his daughter - and his daughter, she was his only alibi? I had to think in such a way, I was a private dick, I tried to solve cases, I was used to, that people lied to me.

Mrs. Allen, was she maybe the woman that told the truth? And her "advances"? Well, she was in a way a very beautiful woman, in a very natural way, and her character? I had not enough information at the moment to come to a conclusion, but maybe it would be really interesting to find out, if the alibi was in fact wrong, what he had made in the problematic time.

What made it difficult for me to concentrate on the "cases" was, I watched too much news. Now they predicted that the USA would see more than half a million of deaths, more than in WWII and nearly the number those who had to die during the Civil War. This developed not only into a national tragedy, this developed into the national tragedy, on the same level with the Civil War or slavery.

The GOP still silent, the president still on his way to destroy as much as possible, Biden still in his wait and see attitude, still not one of our national problems solved, not even addressed, this was the current state of the States.

*

A time in abeyance, much had happened in the last few weeks, but still so much was unclear. Living from day to day, from week to week, from month to month, life had a strange rhythm nowadays. So much information every day, so much happened every day, was it real, that nowadays much more information penetrated the mind every day than before, or was it only an illusion while getting older, like time would move faster with every year?

Unprecedented - for me the word of the year, even beating everything connected to COVID-19. Yeah, a very strange and crazy time, a historic time, interesting to experience this time - but also exhaustive and demanding.

*

I would begin with the investigation regarding Mr. Allen tomorrow, I had two options to begin with. First, I could assume that he was the murderer, then I should try to find a connection between the murder and Mr. Allen. Or, I could forget the murder and could try to find out what Mr. Allen's little secret was, what he had done apart from the murder. Obviously, the second option was the better one. Mrs. Allen was friendly enough to "offer" me a list with places, where I could try my luck - she was a very loving wife. Tomorrow I would start with it, the rest of the day I would do nothing, maybe watching the pictures from the mile long lines in front of the food banks.....

Peter Paul Maurer, Private Investigator

I was Peter Paul Maurer, Private Investigator, and I sat in my car, bored, waiting. Well, this was a part of my job, therefore it was okay. I pondered about, whether it could be, that an old man would murder his wife, most probably with the knowledge of his daughter - yes, of course. I pondered about, whether a woman like Mrs. Allen could feel attracted by a man like me - most probably not. I pondered about, whether a man like Mr. Allen could be a hypocrite, living a double life - in any case! Well, the action began.

Mrs. Allen's list, not very useful. No unexpected places, to check them all would need a lot of time with the most probable outcome: Nothing! I had asked her, when he had fixed times leaving his cozy little home, the more regular the better. From this list I decided to start with: Every Saturday evening after dinner, meeting with the pastor and other important members of the community to discuss important community topics. That sounded interesting for me, so I waited near the Allen's house, to follow him. For me good was that it was December, snow had fallen, the whole day dull weather, it was very dark already - I had not to fear that Mr. Allen would recognize my car, I followed him.

*

No number decreased, not really, all stagnated, but this was by far not enough. Soon Christmas and then? Now even nightly curfews in some cities, should this change something? The politicians could not act consistent, now they would have to leave their nice comfort zones, now they would have to act bold, but we Germans liked it harmonic.

*

It was no very long drive, we reached the pastor's house, no bad house and I started again to wait - well, I was a private dick. Some others came, one left the house, maybe no participant of the meeting, in any case, I saw only men. What I knew was, that they had not learned the new corona rules. Too many people from different households together in one room - at least I assumed that all would sit in one room, most probably without masks. But why not, God would watch over them. From the street I could see nothing, either they met in a room in the backside or down in the basement, but this was not relevant. Also, I had no intention to try to see the backside of the house, not today at least. It was the time to approach, I tried to get a feeling for my aim, it was not essential that something special would happen tonight. So I sat in my car, waited and pondered again.....

*

Saxon Switzerland, the counties near to five hundred or even over five hundred new infections per one hundred thousand citizens – Saxon Switzerland? Wasn't this the region in Germany where most of the real true German "patriots" lived? Where they liked singing the first stanza, where they knew, that Adolf had been not that bad at all? Where they knew that the virus was a hoax, that all was a conspiracy, that masks not helped? Wow, what would they say, next year, after the next federal election, about the next chancellor? All a fraud, only legal votes should count.....oh Germany, sometimes you appeared like the little United States.....

*

We reached the home sweet home again, three and a half hours later. It was Saturday, the murder had not happened on a Saturday, why then I had observed him on Saturday? Maybe he was a hypocrite, but he did not convey the impression to be an idiot. At least he was clever enough, I assumed, whatever he had done on the crucial evening and night - if not had tortured someone and had murdered him later - he would do it not again, at least not for some time, I needed an idea. Was this all I did, sitting around in a car? Of course not! I knew some people who had "connections" to some scenes like gays, drugs or prostitution, everything such a deeply religious and honorable man like Mr. Allen never ever would do - I looked forward to, what this would yield.

*

The old man felt.....he even could not really say how he felt. Baffled, confused, clueless, puzzled, perplexed maybe, there had been a time the Russians and the Warsaw Pact had been the bad and the NATO and the Americans had been the good - well, not for everybody, but for many. And today, maybe critical towards the USA in former times, Central America, today unsure, frightened, hopeful, repelled, attracted - he thought about, should it be possible again, to travel throughout the world, after corona, his next long travel, the USA, maybe Africa, Central Africa, would make more sense? He felt like he would lose the contact, the States would slip away, others came in focus, the world was larger than Germany and the USA, Portugal and maybe the UK. But anyway, this all was only theoretical, at least as far as it was not possible to travel oversea again.

*

At home again, a cup of hot tea, some cookies, soon Christmas, I was not in the best mood. All could be not that worse, but it seemed that we would do everything, that everything got as bad as possible. Thanksgiving started to show results, soon Christmas. The GOP and fucking McConnell still silent, even after the freak show in Michigan. For some nothing was too shameful, what kind of people still run after this embarrassing monster show? It was devastating, what kind of image of the United States we presented foreign countries, as if this filthy bunch and these hillbillies represented the USA in complete - whereby, a certain part of the USA they presented in any case.....

Lazing On A Sunny Afternoon

Well, it was not sunny, in fact, the weather was terrible, but it was afternoon and I lazed around, listening to The Kings - my strategy from now on was to wait.

I waited for December the fourteenth, hopeful, that maybe at least this topic would find an end then. At least in that way, that even Moscow Mitch would have to react then, would have to speak with Joe Biden, the next President of the United States, then. Would we see then reactions, violent reactions, from the president's base - I had liked it, as he had quarreled with a reporter and had said to him, that he would be the president, and he could not talk in that way with the President of the

United States. At this moment I would have liked it, to be this reporter: You were never my president, Mr. President. And by the way, soon you will be no longer president. And by the way, they impeached you. And by the way, you're a one term loser. And by the way, the courts are waiting for you and your family. And by the way, you're a swine that kills every day hundreds of Americans. Therefore, you swine have to tell me nothing!

I waited to get a notice from one of my informants, but you had to be patient - I had made a hit list, gay scene was my favorite. Not PC enough? Well, I assumed that Mrs. Allen would like it.....

I waited to get an inspiration, the Kenay case, but all I did was to wait. I watched TV now, no, no news, it was Sunday. Browns vs. Titans, still second quarter and 24 - 7! It had been a very entertaining game so far, it should become a very nice late afternoon and evening.

*

Next touchdown, Browns now with 31 - a lot of action! A lot of action also in Germany, politics started to react, and I felt that this was good so. Bavaria announced to tighten the measures at least till January the fifth, also on Christmas - Bavaria, the religious hot spot of Germany! But also nationwide it became more and more foreseeable, that the measures would not get weakened over the Christmas holidays - politics started to react in Germany.

A Time Of Transformation?

Less and less a talking about the president, more and more a talking about Biden and his team - Dr. Fauci now his advisor! But was this true, or was it only true in my world, but not in the world of electors of the Republicans, the vast majority of them not accepted Biden as winner? Well, I had accepted that the sitting president had won, because of the arrogance and the fucking campaign of Hillary, but I had never accepted him as "my president".

We were a divided nation, a deeply divided nation, what an absurd thought, that now all would love Joe and Kamala, many would simply hate them. Two senators would decide a lot, the Dems had to concentrate on this, otherwise also Joe Biden would become a slave of Moscow Mitch and this decayed GOP - he would have enough problems to deal with the Dems, the Centrists and the Progressives, and he had to satisfy all demands. We African Americans have elected you, now we demand for offices - was this a good idea? Okay, I was the white guy, for me, it was easy talking, but shouldn't we try to overcome this talking about: He has black skin, she has white skin, now we have a white person, now we need a black person, one had blond hair, now we need someone with black hair.....I knew that this was in a way fucking stupid talking, but maybe not that stupid at all?

Barr would step back, what a freak show! Giuliani had corona now, what a freak show! - We Republicans are proud of, that especially low educated people are electing us, let's assure, that we have also in the future a lot of low educated people!

I sat at home, had a walk previously, had bought something from the baker. Shopping was nothing funny anymore, I hated it to wear a mask for a longer time, I started to sweat under it, around the mouth and nose. In a hospital or ICU? I would not be capable to do this work, not for a single day, and not only because of the mask. The phone made a sound, it was one of my informants!

*

The highest number of deaths at a Sunday ever we had had yesterday, and not only by a few! A hundred percent more than during the first wave, the double, was there not the idea, that we would have reached a plateau now, that the "lockdown light" had not resulted in a decrease, but at least that the measures had stopped the increase? The map of Germany became redder and redder, but the reality was more complex. The North much better than the South, the West better than the East,

some places a disaster, some places performed still now not that bad at all - I lived in the southwest.

*

"Yes, of course we can meet."

Well, not gay but maybe not that far away? Okay, I had to be honest, I liked it when dudes like him, always having a sneery word for gay people or women who had decided for an abortion, were gay oneself at the end, or with a girlfriend, and they had paid for the abortion.

I would meet my informant later, but she had no direct information for me, but she knew another woman who had them, and she would go along with me to her.

*

Impatience, I became impatient, or was it better to say "eager"? Eager for, that the days would go by, the days till the electoral college, the days till inauguration day, the days till vaccination. But so much was in abeyance, what would happen in the States, after the electoral college, the inauguration, what would happen in the world, vaccinating hundreds of millions of people, billions of people, with different vaccines, was definitively not without risks.

It all could have a happy ending, was this too much, that I wished? At least so far it all had not become a total disaster - well, the numbers in the USA? Sadness, sadness like a white blanket over a colorful landscape - at least it was no black blanket.....

*

"Ginger!"

"Peter!"

"Where we can meet with her?"

"She's in my car."

We had met on a parking lot of a now closed mall, it was late at night, very cold and not really cozy.

"Can we go having a coffee?"

"It would be not good for her, would somebody see her with you."

"You found her very fast?"

"She tries to back out, I know her for a while now. She was a little star and has a lot of background knowledge about a very special aspect of her business branch."

"Would be."

"Everything with violence and such shit."

"You mean she offered role plays and maybe made porn movies with rape and suchlike - you said, that she was a kind of star."

"Yes, I can recommend you also some movies with her. Rape, humiliation, torture, all this shit we Americans like and are famous for in the world of porn."

"Okay, but these are movies, like Russian rape movies or all this freaky Japanese stuff. Or do we talk about all this that you allegedly can find in the Dark Net?"

"Allegedly?"

"Well, if you're interested in a snuff movie, why searching in the Dark Net? You can find executions from ISIS and such stuff in the Clear Net, and sometimes fiction is even more extreme than reality."

"But what's extremer than reality "live"?"

"I'm getting cold, can we at least buy a coffee and maybe a snack at a drive-thru? We could drive to me?"

"You have to know something first - she has corona and is not in a good shape."

I drove with my car and bought some coffees and something to eat, then we sat together in Ginger's SUV, windows down, airing on, all wearing N95 masks. She was really not in a good shape,

mentally.

*

A thousand flowers could bloom - yeah, Beth, but.....it's winter, and it's not the time for flowers - next summer? *Give me a reason to be.....*no, some things will never ever happen.

*

"And you're confident that he's the man?"

"Yes, you don't forget such fellas when they have done with you what he has done with me - whereby....."

"You've said that he was only for some time your client?"

"It was nice at the beginning for him, but then he was more interested in, to combine it with another vulgar lecherousness he has. He likes dominating others, he likes it to hurt them. He hates women, so why not hurting women, of course not his own wife. Then he's a racist, he hates niggers and this filthy Latinos, why not combining all this and hurting black and Latino women, and not like me."

"Not like you?"

"Well, in the normal movies it's more like a job, even if it gets really rough. Also with normal customers."

"And what's the escalation?"

"That it's finally unimportant what happens with the woman, not only mentally but also physically."

"Would you have some proof for that? That he did this with you or the other women?"

"What do you expect? Pictures or secretly made videos?"

"You could make a testimony?"

"Look at me, I'm a wreck. All this shit, the drugs and now this fucking virus? I fear you have to hurry very much then?"

I looked at Ginger.

"Wouldn't it be better for her in a hospital?"

And I knew that it had been a stupid, an arrogant, question.

"You still know in what a country you're living, who governed this nation for the last years, that the virus and all the other is not much in focus of at least many of our politicians?"

I looked at her again.

"How old are you?"

"Twenty-four."

I was shocked.

"And for how long you're in this "business"?"

"You like pictures and videos from girls with no tits and smooth pussies?"

I had to leave the car, I needed to breathe the cold winter air, I had to be alone, far away from this fucking world.....

*

Sadness, sad about that it could be so different. Sadness, sad about that we humans could not act differently. Sadness, sad about that we humans would know - theoretically - how to make it in a different - better - way. Sadness, sad about that we humans could not change fundamentally.

A last song, a few minutes, maybe some minutes more, and life would be over - it could be so easy!

But, after that last song the next waits, and the next, and the next.....strange, on what a life can depend on.....

*

I was back home again, I had bought me an expensive bottle of overproof Jamaica rum, I was in a fucking mood and the bottle was the token.

Tea, mostly tea I drank at home, maybe a coffee from time to time, maybe a hot chocolate, but never alcohol. I had no alcohol at home, never, and I knew why.

From time to time, once a week, I visited a bar - since a very long time now no longer, since corona. One or two cocktails, very seldom three, but then I had spent a long time there. It sounded maybe strange, but I was not really used to alcohol and maybe this was good so.

It was good in that sense, that I would not need much of the bottle, it would go very fast, and this was good so.....

Fall From Grace

I did not look at the clock as I woke up, I felt fucking, my only interest was something to drink - and to find the way to the restroom.

*

I had a fucking day, was tired the whole day, no motivation to do anything.

*

The next time I woke up it was dark outside, I had lost the whole day and I felt still fucking. With a lot of trouble I brewed me a coffee, decided to get to bed as fast as possible again. At least, I thought, I had not vomited in my bed or something like this, but this was my only relief - the answering machine blinked, the phone told me that I had received messages as well, but the only thing I needed now, was sleep.

*

Got up late, the afternoon in bed again, dark outside since a longer time, bought some bananas, needed some fruit, most I would need more sleep, hot tea, dead day.....

Waiting Till The Day Would Come

After a long and hot shower I felt better, better, but not good. I had slept at night, somewhat, I still felt the alcohol, it was Wednesday and I hoped for, that it would become Monday. Would Monday become the game changer? Could Moscow Mitch and the GOP still stay silent after the electoral college, they were committed to lies, even after the refusal of the Supreme Court it would be difficult for them to speak out the truth. What should they say? Yesterday all was a scam, but today we all know now, that Joe is the legitimate upcoming president? And even when they would do so, then everything would be okay? The president occupied by golfing and fighting against the election hoax, he had no time for such unimportant matters like dying niggers and dying Latino scum - so-called Native Americans? All this would be forgotten then? I tried to keep at least some of my dignity, shaved, new clothes, time to think about how to continue.

*

Better, but not good, the best description for the day. Tired and headache, slept a lot - did I miss much? I had not the feeling, in the States discussions about a new stimulus bill, good that it was not urgent and that nobody had to suffer. In Germany it became more and more obvious, that after

Christmas we would have again a hard lockdown - why "after Christmas", wouldn't it better, regarding the high death number, to act as fast as possible? And it became obvious that January the tenth would be not the last day of lockdown. At least they reacted in Germany.

And Germany did what they always did, like in 2008, spending a lot of money. Not all functioned perfectly, for instance the support of artists, but the economy, and also "normal" worker, in terms of short-time working benefit for instance, got support, another 3.5 billion Euros at last - it would be not the last money they would spend.

*

What could I do with the information I had got the other day, on Monday, the night before last? Mr. Allen liked it to treat women like shit - welcome to America, our porn industry could help you! But he coupled it with his racism, and it was no longer a play he was interested in, he wanted the real stuff now, wanted to humiliate and to hurt a nigger bitch or a Latino slut in the real hard way, not the faked stuff. Already before he had fantasized about, how wonderful it would have been, living in former times, as plantation owner in the Deep South, Georgia maybe, where they knew how to treat filthy elements. How fantastic it had been, always a nigger bitch available to fuck her, to rape her, to punish her - heaven on earth, no limits. But there were some problems.

The young woman I had talked to, I did not know her name, her real name, and one of her "artist's names" I did not want to use - I had done some "research". It was not difficult to find some of her "movies", the first time that I saw her? It was interesting to make such experiences, such shit she said at the end, yes, to be treated like a piece of shit. The "audience" liked such videos, a billion dollar market. I did not search for one of her "early" videos.....

Sure, what she knew would be enough for Mrs. Allen, but would it be enough for me? I had asked for possibilities to get further information about the places that he frequented now, where the "real stuff" happened, to do some investigation. But her only comment was: Forget it, it's like with this real special pages in the dark net. Either you can provide something or you need a recommendation. I asked her if she could be my recommendation, but she only laughed! First, she was on her way to try to leave this all behind her, but then? What would I do at such a place, showing the others that I would be one of them, raping a woman or girl, hurting her or more? Is this all real I asked, but Ginger answered me: Could you conceive it, before you heard it, that Australian special forces would kill innocent civilians as an initiation ritual?

*

The death rate in the States? A disaster! And yet, in Europe? Not only one European nation had higher death rates as the States, in fact, Europe was the corona hot spot at this time! The Balkans especially, but also - surprisingly? - Sweden for instance. Sweden with more deaths per capita than the United States, all these nations with separate ways, better knowledge as the scientists, failed totally now, if not already like the UK.

And yet, it all could have been that easy, also in Germany. Already in the 70s scientist warned about, that should the world continue in this way, a climatic catastrophe would be inevitable - the world laughed and continued. And now? Wearing masks, social distancing, disinfection - it could have been that easy!

*

I could accuse Mr. Allen in front of his wife, for his wife definitively enough, but for the court? Maybe the divorce would be no problem, but would this be enough? Mr. Allen, maybe the murderer now yet again? He was no idiot, maybe he hired somebody for the murder? Divorce was not enough, I wanted more, much more!

*

The vaccination began, more and more nations would join during the next days and weeks - was there an alternative? Not really, or? No, there was a risk, but sometimes you had to take a risk, only you had to talk honestly about the risks, and being transparent. The first warnings from the UK? Positive, it would come to complications, of course it would come to complications, but it was important to what an extent and that the public would be informed all the time. The next level of the pandemic had begun.

*

I called Mrs. Allen, told her that I would have got interesting information, but that it would be too early to tell her, but that I would have the feeling, that she could have her divorce. She was delighted and presented the prospect of a nice bounty.

Finally

Now we had finally reached the next milestone, over three thousand deaths yesterday, and also today we were on a "good" way.....

It was difficult to have a sober mind, I should plan my next steps, but it was difficult. I had called Mrs. Allen, had asked her whether her husband was more at home since the murder and the investigation, she affirmed it. He was no idiot, he was careful, it would not be very effective to tail him, I had to find another way, but I could not concentrate.....

*

Record height in deaths, but why immediately reacting? Maybe after Christmas? Hey, we still had better numbers as the United States, at least as long as the pandemic escalated there in such a way.

*

Monday, maybe Monday? But why this should change something, the GOP was trapped in its mendacity and hypocrisy, no way out - or would the day come, and we would hear the honorable Mr. Cruz saying: I said it right from the beginning on, this man is a notorious liar!

*

Tired, the election, but nothing had changed, maybe it all had become even more depressing. The United States not more than a banana republic today, the laughingstock of the world. It hurt, as it hurt to see all this dying people, this unnecessarily dying people in so many countries.....

In Between

No three thousand deaths today, seventy-seven less, not really a reason to be satisfied. Also, one could not be satisfied with the lasting Punch-and-Judy show the GOP offered the delighted audience. And then the hilarious Texas' lawsuit, the behavior of House Republicans. But in the end, it was Friday, soon it would be Monday, the Supreme Court would announce its decision soon, why not simply waiting some hours and days?

I had to find a way to investigate in the Allen case, but also in the Kenay case, I had to find a way to

deal with all this. I felt better today, much better today, but both cases wouldn't be easy to solve. I called Ginger, I needed a new meeting.

*

A new "milestone", now we had exceeded the six hundred, equivalent to over two thousand four hundred deaths in the United States, not a long time ago unthinkable, now reality. The number in my county on an all-time high, but nevertheless nowhere near to be the most affected county, hadn't they talked about that the lockdown light had not lowered the numbers but at least had effected a plateau? Looking at the deep red Germany, there was no plateau to see.

Curfews now, but shops still open, most probably till Christmas - why not! - made this still any sense? Where was the "German Konsequenz"? Made the impression of a hard lockdown in January, February.....

*

Again in Ginger's SUV.....

"I don't know what you expect, some kind of "Eyes Wide Shut" or "Hostel"?"

"I have no real idea, but there has to be a place where it happens?"

"Yes, but it's not a kind of estate where they meet every Friday, nor is it a place like in "Hostel". This would be silly - both! It would be silly to meet at the same place all the time, even twice it would be silly. All happens at a place, announced only shortly before the "event"."

"But do some meet concurrently, or is it only for one person and his victim?"

"Both. If you're accepted, you maybe can meet with others. Most of them like it when others watching them, or they like it to talk shop."

"Mr. Allen?"

"I'm not sure."

"My idea is, to nail him down, to connect him with this scene, to see him in court and maybe not only him."

"Dream on! Can you imagine that it's a not small effort to offer such a "service"?"

"Yes."

"So, it's expensive?"

"Yes."

"So, it's only something for those who can afford such an "offer". You would get in trouble with a lot of wealthy and well-known people, compared with them is Mr. Allen only a mediocrity."

"So, I would have to work undercover, maybe for a longer time, to get in contact with this scene? Would be difficult....."

"Especially, you would have to commit crimes. It would be not enough to treat a woman like me like shit, but you had to start with such a behavior - and forget it, I'm no longer interested in this shit. It would be not enough that we would pretend something, I would have to work again, otherwise they would not believe it, and I will never ever do this shit again, also not for you!"

I thought about to say something like: But maybe for the other women? But what a dirtiness this would be? Most probably this would be her end - should she still have a chance, also today she looked not better, the virus made it not better.

"I have some savings, you should go to the hospital."

"And then? I'm still a druggie, they would kill me in the hospital."

And if not in the hospital.....?

"Ginger?"

"Don't be a dreamer, Peter. Every day thousands are dying and nobody seems to be really upset about it. Why somebody should care for her?"

*

The old man was unsure about, how he should react. Wouldn't he had spent time in the States, his verdict was definite - the United States of America, a fucking nation of uneducated hillbillies! But he had. Okay, even priorly his view on the USA had been not one dimensional, but his time in the States, especially Los Angeles, especially Downtown West, Westlake, Koreatown.....had changed a lot.

Would the Supreme Court now end this farce? Would the electoral college end this farce on Monday? This nation could not wait till January, every day destroyed that much. The old man felt a lot of pain and his heart broke.....

*

I was at home again, I was in a fucking mood! This seemed not a good way, in movies and novels this was always such easy - or should I be the cynic private dick, scarifying her to get my man? Maybe I was sarcastic, but I was not a cynic, maybe soon, if this farce continued. People died a fucking death, alone on ventilators, but the GOP had nothing better to do than to file absurd lawsuits. What a disgusting swine one had to be to act in such a way - we loved such guys in our western and crime movies, serial killers and such psychos. At least more than the victims.....

*

Was this the moment now? Just now in the news, the Supreme Court had rejected the Texas lawsuit, but in what a way! Three - three! - judges had been appointed by the liar and racist in office! Barrett and Kavanaugh, what a defeat this was! What now, also the Supreme Court was rigged now, also your own judges were part of the conspiracy now? What a shame it was for one hundred and twenty-six House Republicans, they were ashamed of nothing anymore! Ted Cruz? Step back! I was too hopeful, too euphoric? I hoped not! Already Saturday in Germany, then Sunday, then Monday, then Tuesday.....

*

My mood changed within a second, the Supreme Court had rejected the lawsuit from Texas, but in what a way! I could not believe it, at the beginning of the week one sentence, now four or so - Texas, hey, you have no case! But now I was somewhat depressed, normally I would be heading to the bar now, but they were closed again - lockdown. My expensive rum I had poured out - no alcohol at home! So I pondered about which tea - a special Japanese green tea maybe? Or a very fine Darjeeling? Why not a strong Assam? I had a wonderful oolong tea with orange - peel and blossoms? I could not decide, I was in a too good mood - too good maybe? Soon Monday, then it was finally over - maybe? It had to be! And yet, also today three thousand Americans would die, it had to end now! And yet, I was involved in two cases with two men who were maybe murderers, one at least a swine - and the women in the play, the daughter? Should I watch a porn movie now, were a woman got treated like a piece of shit and she assured you at the end, that she had enjoyed it? Should I search for her "early" movies to come down? It had to be, it had to be, at least on Monday!

Say Goodbye To Texas! - Be Aggressive!

Yes, I agreed, maybe this would be a good solution, together with all this other red idiot states - but.....Texas wasn't that red anymore, Georgia? On the other hand, you would have a nice king or dictator, Fueher, whatever, who would longer be interested in this idiot? Saturday, Sunday, Monday.....some patience then Moscow Mitch and the GOP would have to show their colors, it

would become a very interesting Monday.....

I had decided, I had to become more aggressive, no longer trying to do it the "professional" way - I would pay a visit to the Allens, tomorrow, on Sunday, on noon, lunchtime, I would crash their Sunday wonder world, it was time to become ugly.....

BE AGGRESSIVE
B-E AGGRESSIVE
I said, BE AGGRESSIVE
B-E AGGRESSIVE
B-E A-G-G-R-E-S-S-I-V-E
(Jealous Girl; Elizabeth Grant)

*

The next possible turning point on Monday, Saturday evening in Germany. What would happen after the electoral college? I had no idea! But, if nothing happened, then this would be the final decay, the USA then finally a banana republic, the GOP no longer a democratic party, a fascist party then, a party trying to destroy the American democracy. Since a longer time I hoped that the GOP would split, and maybe it would be good for the Democrats also. That would be no problem in Germany, with popular vote and a multi party system. The "Green Party" formed (somewhat) in that way, as well as the "AfD" on the other side of the political spectrum. But in the USA? Monday, soon it would be Monday, the next crucial day for the States.

*

What to do with Mr. Kenay - maybe I should concentrate on the daughter? I had the feeling that this would be no bad idea, but first, tomorrow, Mr. Allen. It would depend on the reaction of Mr. Allen what I could do in the Kenay case, and when. The Allen case had priority, but the Kenay case should not be forgotten.

*

Waiting and hoping that maybe soon at least a certain kind of normalization would begin, it would help a lot - I talked not about the virus, that virus. Problems to find clear thoughts, the try to find distraction by doing other things.....

Being A Spoil-Sport Makes Fun!

My car stopped exactly in front of the perfect lawn, I walked to the front door, rang the bell and was in a perfect mood - Mrs. Allen opened the door after I had to wait for a moment.

"Peter...Mr. Maurer, you here?"

"Yes, I thought that this would be the perfect moment for a visit."

"Sorry, but we have started with lunch, could you come later again? Why are you here?"

"I would have some news, but also some questions."

"Darling, who's at the door?" Mr. Allen from the background.

"It's Mr. Maurer, but he will come later again."

Mr. Allen appeared at the door.

"Hello Mr. Maurer, we're just having lunch, you want to join us? My wife is a superb cook."

"I think that Mr. Maurer not wants to disturb us - or Mr. Maurer?"

She looked at me, but Mr. Allen was faster.

"But Mr. Maurer would not disturb us - or you would be interested in, to disturb us?"

He looked at me, I looked at Mrs. Allen - she made no relaxed impression- then at him again.

"To be honest, I fear that I will spoil the Sunday feeling - you were in church already?"

"Of course, in the morning. Can I ask you, what you scheme?"

"Well, I plan to destroy your hypocritical ideal world."

To my surprise Mrs. Allen was faster.

"Fine, we're sitting at the lunch table, together with our kids - you're thinking that this is funny, you're thinking that this is adequate?"

"How "adequate" is it to beat and hurt women, especially African American and Latino women to satisfy your racist and sexual "needs", if not more?"

*

Sunday, one day left, listened to internet radio - Houndstooth Radio, a station from L.A., early morning in Los Angeles, late afternoon or early evening in Germany.

*

We sat in the living room, the kids in their rooms, the lunch abruptly over.

"Okay Mr. Maurer, I'm not sure what this farce should mean, but I fear you're in serious trouble now."

"Because you will call your lawyer now?"

"Why, should I have to?"

"Because you're in serious trouble? Your marriage is dead, the court is waiting for you, I would guess also jail."

"You're a clown, about what you're talking? There was something with a male whore who is dead now, you're somewhat confused?"

"Oh, yes, the murder case. But I think that Mrs. Allen likes it to hear, that your passion is to have sex especially with African American and Latino women, but sex is not enough for you. You have to humiliate, to beat and to hurt these women, and not only as a role-play, you like it very hard and candid, you like it when the screams are real - ah, yes, and there is this murder case where someone tortured the lover of your wife to death....."

He grinned, she looked shocked, not knowing what would be the best reaction now. I thought it would be okay to help her somewhat, I looked at her.

".....maybe it would be good to call your lawyer now, or to search for one? I cannot imagine that you're interested in, to be longer married to this monster?"

Her eyes wide open, she looked at her husband, again at me.....

"Darling, maybe it's better that you leave Mr. Maurer and me alone for a while? You could wait in your bedroom, I think I have to tell Mr. Maurer some interesting news."

She stood and went upstairs, Mr. Allen fixated me now, he no longer grinned.

*

Maybe jazz later? Yesterday I listened to a good jazz station from Finland, as well as one from Chile? The world was very near today, no longer one needed a multi-band radio anymore, trying to listen to noisy music from foreign countries - alone eighty-three stations from Los Angeles (city or county?) this internet portal offered me.....

*

"Let us start to speak plainly to one another - you're wired?"

"I record this conversation."

"What do you expect, do you think that I'm an idiot? I can tell you that you're dead, stone-dead. Do

not try to play with the big kids, at least being such a teeny-weeny."

"Is this a plea of guilt?"

"For what? That you have destroyed my marriage – well, maybe. That I have fucked with black and Latino women and that I have some special interests? You know nothing and you have nothing, otherwise the police would be here and not you, and you're only a temporary problem."

"You threaten me?"

"I'm not sure what my wife is doing at the moment, I will make a call after you left and this will be your end."

"Should I fear for my life now?"

"Come on, I talk about my lawyer - of course." Now he grinned again.

"Yes, I think you're too clever for me, maybe this should be a job for the police."

"I think so. You know where the door is?"

"Yes, but I think it would be good to come with me."

"Why?"

"I think that the police wants to show you their search warrant first, before they start with the search. Oh, and I think they will arrest you, details from your nice police officer from your local police station....."

*

Jimi Hendrix, a not so known song to me, they hear in Los Angeles now, 17:35 Uhr in Germany.

*

Home again, I felt good, things would take its course now, I had initiated whatever would follow now, I had been the active part, I felt good. I sat down, switched on the TV, had spent some time at the police station, Mr. Allen would spend some more time there - his lawyer? It was no longer my matter, it was a matter of the police now, the district attorney, people like that. Mrs. Allen? Well, if this was no reason for a divorce - my "bounty"? Who cared, I felt good, Mr. Kenay? Not today, today had been a good day, I felt good. Saints vs. Eagles, why not?

*

Maybe I should switch to SomaFM, San Francisco.....?

Monday, Bloody Monday!

I was in an excellent mood this morning, Monday, had stood up very early, at least for me, was on my way to the baker, to buy some fresh rolls, to have breakfast, what I normally not did. Today the electoral college would announce their verdict, today would be the day when McConnell and the GOP had to speak out, when we would surpass the next milestone - three hundred thousand. Somewhat cloudy, but also sunshine, but icy anyway, I had my thick jacket on, a car slowed down next to me, some bangs, pain in my breast and stomach, a deep blackness started to swallow me - hey Lizzy, where was this tunnel lined with yellow lights.....?

*

Now it had happened, the vaccinations had begun, Joe Biden would win the electoral college soon, California would be by far enough now, and the States surpassed the next "milestone", three hundred thousand deaths, just now - would now the time begin that the country would start to concentrate on the pandemic, or would this situation become expanded till January? The next days

would give you an answer, no time for many words, history would speak it out.

*

The old man thought about, now with the votes from California, over three hundred now, "Imagine, you would be....." - but it made absolutely no sense today!

Hello Heaven!

I opened my eyes, and hey, no, I did not ponder about whether I would be in heaven or not - why the hell I should be in heaven? First, I did not believe in heaven, secondly and not less important, would heaven exist I would wake up in hell. But in the end the point was, I was no idiot - whereby.....

I had taken Mr. Allen very seriously, he was not an idiot, he was no windbag, he was a very dangerous man, and the surrounding people not less dangerous. He had become arrested, Sunday, of course he had to wait till Monday, but then his chances that his lawyer would do his job were not that bad. I hoped that it would give Mrs. Allen enough time to decide what to do, to take the kids, maybe to her mother or so. At least if the pastor was not faster, or other "honorable" members of the community. I had planned to call her later, after the baker, after the breakfast, but breakfast became cancelled - why the fuck I laid in a hospital?

As I said, I was no idiot, I had been aware of, that his threats maybe were no bluff. I was always prepared, had enough stuff at home to protect me, dressing in the morning I thought: Well, not that fast if even? Two blocks to the baker and home again? But then I decided that I would be maybe a good opportunity to try my new bulletproof vest, a real high-tech one, light, not so thick, but nevertheless very protective - good contacts, not available in normal shops! So, I had it on, but why then I laid in hospital now? I was somewhat pissed off as a nice-looking nurse entered the room.

"You are awakened, Mr. Maurer, that's perfect. How do you feel?"

"I'm hungry, I would like to have a drink and to go home thereafter."

"Well, a meal and something non-alcoholic will be no problem, the rest.....somebody waits for you, a man from the police, he said that he would be a close friend?"

At the first moment I thought she would say that Mrs. Allen would sit outside, but obviously, it was Yves, Yves Rodriquez.

"Okay, then something to eat and a hot tea. And let Yves in."

She left the room, also from behind she looked pretty, I was a single man, an old single man, and Yves entered the room.

"Thank goodness Peter, you had a lot of luck - how you feel?"

"Sorry, but I'm no jerk, I wore one of this fucking high-tech bulletproof vests, and now I'm lying in a hospital, my chest hurts, my belly hurts - okay the arm and the upper leg.....why?"

"You had a fucking lot of luck, Peter. Your arm and upper leg are only flesh wounds, especially the upper leg could have been very dangerous - no bullet hit your head! And the chest and belly? Be happy that you have worn this high-tech vest, cat-and-mouse game as usually - better vests, better ammunition. They used the best ammunition on can get for handguns today, only your high-tech vest saved your life - and a lucky coincidence."

"What?"

"Eye witnesses have stated that the car stopped after the first bursts, two gunmen most probably, most probably to do it the save way and to shoot you in the head for the final. But in the same moment a police car came round the block, luck for you that they decided to let it be, to disappear."

"Wow, they were faster and more eager than I thought. Maybe there's even more - Mr. Allen?"

"Still in custody, the attack on you was not unimportant for this decision. The police has seized many data mediums from Mr. Allen. I know no details, but as far as I know a first review has revealed interesting data."

"Mrs. Allen?"

"I have no information about her."

"You know, how long I have to be here?"

"No, no good information. At least some days I would say?"

"I fear the same."

*

McConnell congratulated Joe Biden? Well, a major step had been done today, now not only the states he lost were corrupt, all the courts there, all the staff there, mayors and governors, the Supreme Court of course, now also Mitch McConnell! The whole nation was corrupt because against the sitting president.

But McConnell congratulation was also important for January sixth, this was a possible signal that maybe no games would be held at this day – it was enough now. And as always, I did not expect from the president to accept the election, this was not relevant, but the GOP had to move on. But also as always, this would not solve a major problem of the USA, the way the USA handled elections, especially the presidential election, that the USA had a two-party system and no popular vote.

The USA would need in any case a reform of the election system, but maybe this was not the right moment for such a discussion. The USA would need immediately a bipartisan movement to fight the pandemic. Yes, also in Germany bad numbers, and we acted definitively too late, but we acted now and the action was harsh. From tomorrow on all shops - except food retailers - were closed again, for instance. No firework was allowed to sell this year, measures till January tenth, but all said, at least till the end of January, even longer, maybe some reliefs in February, but only if under fifty again. This sounded like a longer hard lockdown this time, especially for parts of the economy like restaurants - one good lockdown and overlapping vaccinations, this seemed to be the strategy in Germany these days.

And the States? An appearance of Joe Biden and Mitch McConnell together would be good, I had some new hope that till the end of the year the situation in the States would ease, at least politically, at least as much as possible. Maybe it would happen that the president would celebrate Christmas in Florida and would not return, it would be a good day for the States. A late Christmas gift, an early New Year's Day wonder.

*

The police visited me, they had some questions.

"No, unfortunately I have not seen much, I was deep in thoughts. What I can say is that a dark, most probably black, SUV slowed down at the road, but I saw this only from the corner of my eye, the rest happened very fast."

"You see a connection of this incident and your visit to Mr. Allen?"

"Of course, I see no one else who would be interested in to see me dead - especially in such a way."

"You've told us everything you know about Mr. Allen's interests and activities?"

"Of course, I'm interested in that you nail him down. Mrs. Allen?"

"Some friends from her community are supporting her."

"That settles me down."

"Then a good recovery, maybe we will have further questions - Mr. Maurer!"

"Anytime."

I had to stay in the hospital, at least till the end of the week, non of my injuries were very grave, but all together? My body needed some time to recover and to rest, I had had in fact some luck.

They had used fucking ammunition, bullets made of a special alloy, bullets that penetrated an object with high speed and fragmented than, much more damage would have been easily possible.

Especially my arm and the upper leg, both bullets hit only slightly, went through the flesh easily, they don't burst in the arm or upper leg. The rest of my body had been protected by the bulletproof vest, nevertheless I had some severe hematomas and badly hurting spots - the doctor had talked about a trauma or a shock.....

Mrs. Allen, I had to think on Mrs. Allen. Why she had not used the moment to get away? Maybe it had been not possible for her - had she used me only? The word was "only". Of course, she had used me, but only? Or better, had she fooled me? Had Mr. Kenay, his daughter, fooled me, or did I start with conspiracy theories now?

I needed some rest, my body needed some rest, I was no longer this young guy. I was this old guy now, and for this old guy, the body of this old guy, this incident had meant a lot of stress.

A Sad Day

Pinned down in hospital, I had to be patient, I had to try to relax. At least the news from Washington, after the electoral college, could make you somewhat hopeful - would McConnell be able to call his republican colleagues to order? Moscow Mitch, a new role for him, or only somewhat tame because of the elections in Georgia in January? Well, maybe a president Biden was easier to accept to him, than a president Obama? Well, also Joe was a Democrat, but at least his skin had a better color? Or should we become naive, like Democrats often tended to, and expect that Moscow Mitch would change now, forgetting the Obama years and especially the last four years? I thought about the woman who sang so beautifully about change.....but some never seemed to change, and not necessarily the good things.

*

Three thousand deaths - two thousand nine hundred and fifty-seven - yesterday, Tuesday, in the United States, again - devastating! In Germany? A jump, from six hundred last week to nine hundred and ten yesterday, equivalent to three thousand six hundred and forty in the States - hurray, we had made Germany great again!

Would this had been inevitable, it would be acceptable, but since weeks it had been obvious, that we had to go back to stricter measures. Angela Merkel - I had never elected her - found clear words, but some "Ministerpräsidenten" (governors) thought that it would be "better" - for whom? - to gift the people a nice and cozy Christmas with nice shopping and large celebrations - hey, there was a virus, the virus not celebrated Christmas! And by the way, Muslims and Jews had to live with the restrictions, but not the Christians?

Well, I never thought that it could happen, that one day in Germany would die more people than in the US - violà, we had done it, Germany, "Vorsprung durch Technik" (Audi - advantage through technology)! A sorrowful day for Germany and a day to be ashamed!

*

I had tried to call Mrs. Allen, but I could not get her, only the voice mailbox answered. But I thought that it would be too dangerous to leave a note there, who knew who would be able to listen to my message, the same with an SMS. I thought, should it be possible to her, that she would call me back, seeing that I had tried to get her several times - I got no return call. Was I a fool, wasting my time on her? She had tried to get a new life, but not that much different, in no case losing any amenity. But maybe my first goal should be now to get new strength, also regarding Mr. Kenay. And then, it was not spoken, whether they would try it again or not. The police had a precise opinion, a police officer was there to protect me. It came me to mind, that it maybe would be good to ask them what they planned, should I can leave the hospital. The doctor had hinted, that it could

be that I could leave the hospital on Friday maybe, today was Wednesday.

Graver

"You really think that this would be necessary?"

"Yes, we're convinced that they want to see you dead, and they are no amateurs."

"Who are "they"?"

"They" are not a homogenous group. Mr. Allen was at least involved in two dangerous groups, it makes it not easier for us that this groups overlapped more or less, also with other groups. It's difficult for us at the moment to separate all this, but maybe this is not so essential for you and the fact, that your life is endangered."

"Okay, racism is involved, maybe even fascism. Religious fundamentalism is involved, fantasies of power together with abnormal sexual behavior - more?"

"As said. For you it's important at the moment, to stay alive."

"Mr. Allen talked about wealthy and powerful people? I have heard nothing about arrests or so?"

"Soon, and this is private information, soon we will start a major campaign with many house searches, warrants and arrests. And, and that's why I'm here, we would like it to see you alive thereafter."

"You think that you will need me later?"

"At least it would not look good, would we have to explain the public, why we were not capable to protect the man, with whom all this started."

"Fine to know. So I can leave the hospital tomorrow therefor, that you bring me to a secret place, could I get some information?"

"Not at the moment."

"Have you seen "Bullitt"?"

"You're a coward - cool Mustang, or?"

"The Charger was cooler."

*

Better numbers in Germany today, "only" seven hundred and twenty-nine deaths yesterday, the high number the day before that, also due to the fact that one state had reported on Tuesday the numbers for two days, Monday and Tuesday. Now everything okay again? The USA with over three thousand six hundred deaths, a new record high, so everything good again in Germany?

No, we had had the possibility to do much better. It's a shame what happens at the moment, and it was also a failure of the people, who destroyed any possibility that the lockdown light could function, especially in states like Saxony. No masks, no distancing, maybe less AfD but more using your brains? But also the Pietists in my state, Baden-Württemberg, were not better. It was a shame, but again the insight, Germany was not that much different than the United States.

Hide And Seek

The police fetched me in the hospital, underground parking, SUV with shaded panes, we drove around, finally to the outskirts and came to a halt in a garage.

"Wait till the door is down, this will be your home for the next.....weeks? We will see."

We walked from the garage into the house, no bad house, a female police officer awaited us, plain-clothed.

"This is officer Winger, she will be one of the officers who will protect you."

"Hello Ms. Winger, you're playing the wife of the house?"

"More or less. I will do some shopping from time to time, will be visible from time to time, will be

mainly your guard through daytime. Relay via the garage, of course."

"Fine."

I turned to ask a question.

"For weeks?"

"Well, we fear that it will be a matter of weeks, in no case of days."

"You mean I have to sit around here for weeks?"

"It's corona time?"

"I have another case?"

"Bad luck, but we're not interested in, that you get killed."

"And how long? Weeks? And then, then it's okay?"

"At the moment we cannot estimate to what extent this all will develop. In some days we can tell you more, I fear you have to be patient during the next days."

I looked at Ms. Winger again.

"You have a first name?"

"Casey, Mrs."

"Okay Casey, shall I cook or you?"

"I could, but if you wanna cook.....?"

"Let's see what we have!"

*

Two nations, so different and yet so identical. But what was the matching element, the element that could be found in both nations? Humans, humans and their behavior? Maybe - obviously? - not in such an extreme manifestation in Germany than in the US, but in any case also present in Germany. In Germany, some achievements like health care for all or the absence of "news providers" like Fox News softened the effects. Also, a much healthier middle class, no homelessness in the sense of the USA, no slavery in Germany (different situations in the colonies!), no white class that feared to lose the control, such fears not totally absent in Germany, but much weaker than in the USA.

Corona was more or less out of control in both nations now, the first hospitals swamped in Germany, no longer able to treat patients from abroad, the first time a triage in German hospitals now. But then again drastic differences, Germany again in a hard lockdown, and a vast majority of Germans supported the measures, what a difference, when looking at the States. Today Mike Pence got vaccinated, he held a speech, Dr. Fauci could address the nation as well. The president was silent, forgot his twitter nonsense, he was not visible. Soon the next step, January sixth, when Congress would certify the election, hopefully without too much "Kindergarten"!

But this was the major difference, Germany had hesitated too long, but had acted then. In two or three weeks the situation in Germany should ease, not in the US, as long as they do not start with nationwide measures, as long as Joe Biden would not be in office - three thousand deaths a day, nearly thirty thousand a week, around a hundred thousand a month - still a month till inauguration! This was hardly to bear, and hardly to understand that the American people accepted this, the German people would not.

*

Well, I had cooked and had a nice dinner, pasta with beef and vegetables as main course, together with Casey. We sat together thereafter, watched TV like a married couple, till her relay came. Casey transformed in Arnold, and I watched TV together with Arnold, like a married couple - it was scary in a way, for me, as a lifelong single man.....

I had still not managed it to get in contact with Mrs. Allen, I had still no idea what to think about the Kenay case - was there a case, or not? I was still angry about the situation in the United States, I had no motivation to be trapped in this house, not for weeks at least. I had to find a solution!

Idleness

Sitting around, not to be sure about something, not able to do something to get security, I hated it. Okay, the police trusted me and I had got the information, that they made everything ready for tomorrow. Sunday, a nice day for making searches and detentions - it would happen at several places in the city, but also in the whole county. They even not excluded it, that it would went statewide, maybe would even leave our state. I had asked them to have an eye on Mrs. Allen, she was no suspect so far, but the police insured me, that she would have to answer some questions on the police station on Monday. Maybe this would give me the opportunity to get in contact with her, at least via phone.

I was not sure about what to do, I felt like in a cage, I disliked it. Watching TV was boring or annoying, sitcoms or the news, one could have the feeling that we would be capable to nothing anymore - no bill in Washington, not to distribute the vaccine now, not even to wear a fucking mask! But it could be not that dramatic, our president had time to golf, his friend Putin threatened us, but why not - I was pissed of to live in this nation and hearing Arnold lying at CNN, that the States would be the oldest democracy on earth, the most powerful nation ever - hey, Arnold? Okay, from Austria, but have you ever heard something about Ancient Greece, the democracy in Athens? And powerful? I had the feeling that China.....in any case they were more clever than we. The American delusion of grandeur, in this aspect, nobody could mess with the United States!

Okay, at least he talked about gerrymandering and such topics, but he was not the big shot in the GOP, never was, his words nice but not powerful - hasta la vista, baby. I decided to keep my feet still for the moment, but not for long. It would be interesting to see what tomorrow would yield, whether I could get in contact with Mrs. Allen on Monday, should I call Mr. Kenay? They had forbidden that I call somebody, especially with a mobile device. Okay, today I would smile and cook something for Casey and me, maybe also tomorrow and on Monday, but then I had to get active again, I could not sit in this house for weeks, that would make no sense!

*

The German map, redder than ever, on the way to fail? Of course too early to expect any impact from the hard lockdown, not during the next ten or fourteen days. Being patient was called for - January, February, longer? Soon the vaccination in Germany would begin, but it would take months, I was tired!

Steve McQueen

I felt like Steve McQueen in "The Thomas Crown Affair", hoping that Sunday would come to an end - house searches, warrants, arrests? It was four o'clock, the news still boring, I had cooked lunch, a salad with fish, not for Casey and me today, Casey had no work day today, for Andrew and me. Now we had two vaccines, a new attack from Russia, the president talked about martial law to get a second term, still no support for them who needed support, the GOP in Washington played still dirty games, nothing new, the same as in the last weeks.

Why TV on Sundays was so boring - yes, streaming, yes, movies on DVDs, music, but I was too edgy and impatient. I walked around in the backyard of the house somewhat, it was cold and wet, cloudy, I did not like it. Mitt gave an interview, now he had transformed into a darling of news stations like CNN, no longer the fucking conservative member of "The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints", LeBaron-Familie, some hundreds of millions of dollars hard-earned money, against same-sex marriage, pro strict abortion laws, the nice guy from Utah - I had to puke!

*

Four hundred and seventeen deaths yesterday, Saturday, double as much as a week ago, and that had been a record. Nowhere near as many deaths we had ever on a Saturday as yesterday, we had reacted way too late!

But what really disappointing was, all experts had predicted a second wave, more severe as the first wave it could become, all summer they had warned, but everything had been so fine in Germany during the summer, why listening to the experts, these sourpusses. But what even more disappointing was, that right at the beginning they had talked about the Spanish Flu, a hundred years ago, that there had been a first wave, but that they had not been able to prevent a second wave then, more devastating than the first wave. Well, why learning from history, even a hundred years later, with much better knowledge and opportunities, we had not been able to act more irresponsible than a hundred years ago?

In the States the acting of the president more and more crazy, the people surrounding him more and more crazy, but maybe this was a good sign? Fewer and fewer people were willing to join the president directly, only the totally nuts folk? How would Facebook react and Twitter, would he be no longer the president? Thirty days left till Joe Biden would become president, not that it was acceptable what happened now, but the real catastrophe had not happened, at least not till now. A good sign, a good sign for the future? It could become a good, an instructive, time, would the USA accept, how fragile and unnecessarily complicated their political institutions and structures were, when they would draw consequences.

Germany as a beacon in this time? Well, all had been on the table at the beginning, we had all the knowledge and means to act clever, but now, at the end, the situation in Germany was not much different as in the US, parts of Germany even more affected by the virus now, than the US - Germany, the shiny beacon for the world.....

A positive thought at the end? Joe Biden did at least everything to give change a chance. His picks in fact very divers, even progressive sometimes. Of course, many known names, even from the Obama administration, but in such a situation maybe not the worst decision. All in all, the signal was obvious, from my inauguration on, a new time will begin. Maybe not totally new, but much will change. Would be good, thirty days were left.

*

It changed quickly and dramatically, my mood - breaking news! The police liked it normally to "visit" their "clients" in the morning, the early morning, to surprise them, but not this time. This time they had chosen the early evening, I had no idea why, maybe I could get the information later - I listened to the anchor's words.

Several house searches all over the city, especially in some nice outskirts, also some arrests - some well-known addresses and names, this did me good! My "missus" for the evening came to me, with his phone in his hands.

"For you."

I got the information that from now on, after the police campaign had been in the news now, my police protection had got intensified, outside would be more officers from now on, also one more for inside would arrive later. I asked whether it would be possible for me, to have a phone call with Mrs. Allen tomorrow or not, maybe, we will see what will be possible, was the answer I got. No information about the action of the last hours as such I could get, not at the moment. I grabbed some chips, it was Sunday, game day, football.

Mrs. Allen

They managed it, it became possible to me, to phone with Mrs. Allen. She was at the police station to testify, not alone, a lawyer was with her to "support" her. I had got a burner phone for single use,

I did not call her, I called a police officer, he went to Mrs. Allen, asked her whether she would like to talk with me or not. Of course, this was agreed with the police officer who made the interrogation, her lawyer was not amused, but she took the phone.

"Allen?"

"It's me, Peter. I know that your lawyer sits beside you, answer with yes or no."

"Okay."

"Is the speaker on, can your lawyer hear us?"

"No. He asked for, but I did not want."

"You filled for divorce?"

"No."

"Are they keep you off from doing it?"

"Yes."

"You're on a police station, you could ask for help?"

"I'm not alone."

"Your kids?"

"Yes."

"Are you at home?"

"Yes."

"But not alone I fear. They control you?"

"Yes."

"I will help you, but I'm tied up for some days."

"You're at home?"

"This is no topic for this conversation. Your man, as well as many others, will not get out very soon. I have not forgotten you, but now we have to end this conversation."

"Okay, bye Peter."

"Yes, bye."

*

Oops, I have made a mistake yesterday, do not compare the numbers from Saturday with the numbers from Sundays - only the numbers from Sunday with other Sundays, sorry Germany! Two hundred twenty-nine is the correct number, only slightly higher than a week ago, still the highest number so far, but hey, only slightly!

From today on curfew from 9 pm on in my county, for the first time since the pandemic began, we had never that many cases and deaths, by far not. In two or three weeks it should get better again, only the dead and the persons with long-term effects this will not help, should this ashame us?

The private freedom to wear no mask, to act irresponsible, to kill others, the anarchy of private freedom, to respect only your own interests - the United States of American, a beacon for the world, Germany will follow you willingly.

*

Was I naive or crazy? Not really, I addressed my driver.

"We can dispose the phone now and drive back, was nice to do a little sightseeing in this part of the city."

Hell Unleashed

It was evening, I watched TV together with Casey, Arnold was in the kitchen. Casey looked at her watch.

"Tim should arrive every moment, I think he will like it when we surprise him with your mousse au

chocolat. For me a sweet end of my shift, for him a sweet start - well, Arnold? He has still some hours."

"And you really will leave me alone with this two guys?"

"There are more outside, maybe also some girls?"

"Yes, very attractive in their protective gear."

"But I'm sexy in my bullet-proof vest?"

"Looks definitively better when you wear it, than I."

A car arrived in the garage, from outside this house looked normal, but inside it had some specials. We looked at the screen at the wall, a man left his SUV, greeted in the camera and entered the living room. The garage had a direct entry to the living room, in a way the complete main floor was the living room. Separated was the kitchen, no open kitchen, a very special kitchen. A door to the living room, a door to the garden in the back, both doors very heavy doors - one could use the kitchen as shelter in the case of danger. Also one of the kitchen cabinets provided no food, but very nice weapons! Tim had entered the living room.

"Hi Tim!"

"Hi Casey - Peter!"

"Hi Tim!"

"The wife and the kid are alright? Tim is married and has a wonderful daughter Peter, seven-month-old."

"Congratulations, Tim."

"Thanks, all are doing well."

Arnold's head had appeared, they welcomed each other.

"Can I bring.....?"

"One moment, Arnold. And I think Peter should do it, Peter?"

"Yes."

I stood up to walk to the kitchen, Tim looked somewhat.....not really surprised.....

"You will stay, Casey?"

"Only for some time. Peter has prepared a mousse au chocolat, he has said that he's famous for it. We have some fruit and I thought it would be a nice idea, that we sit together for a moment and enjoy the dessert?"

He looked somewhat irritated, not sure how to react.....

"All okay, Tim?"

"Yes Casey, of course."

I hesitated for a second then I turned towards the kitchen, in the corner of my eye I saw Tim reaching for his gun.....

*

Two days till Christmas - Christmas, a contemplative time? If ever, then I would have said, this year. But was it this what moved us? I was not religious, but many said that they were. I would have liked believing this, but I had my doubts about it - or maybe the problem was, that they knew another bible than I?

*

I would be too late, definitively, I had also a gun with me, I had insisted that I would like to have also one, but he would be faster - Arnold had disappeared in the kitchen again, he would be no help, I looked at Casey.

Casey had jumped up, her gun in her hand - wow, she was fucking fast, we all wore bullet-proof vests? Tim had squatted down to get a stable position, it would be difficult for Casey to shoot him in one of his legs, especially because our vests protected also the lower body. Safe would be only to target the legs. She pulled the trigger, faster than Tim, the bullet hit him, he was immediately dead,

his eyes frozen. She had shot a family father in the head, she had salvaged my life and had made a little girl to a semi-orphan. I looked at her, not knowing how I should react, Arnold appeared with a long gun in hand, for the fraction of a second all was silent, frozen, but then it began.....

*

A grave Joe Biden I had heard, today, Tuesday, a nightmare, no honeymoon - if the GOP not accepted this president, then fuck off! Two senators from Georgia, some days we had still to wait, I hoped that America would realize, how near they were to the abyss.

*

The house we were in was located in the outskirts of the city, in a nice housing area with individual houses. One could see only doors and fences or walls from the street, surrounding the whole estates, also standing on the properties, you could not see one of the other houses, all was nicely separated - for our purpose ideal. Of course, a lot of surveillance, not only outside, especially in the house every room was under observation - every room! So, in the monitoring center they had seen what had happened, and there were officers outside, they had also the possibility to see what had happened inside the house.

The living room had a large glass front, behind the glass the garden, the pool of course, and three more police officers in full protective gear, heavily armed. It was dark outside, they could see us, but we could not see them. For a very short moment I thought about, what the protocols would be now, would we wait till the center would send more forces and an ambulance, would we have to do it? The three men outside would not come in, they would safeguard the outside - or? But after a very short moment all this was of no interest anymore, we all three saw it, the monitor on the wall.

*

It were especially the African Americans, the niggers, the former slaves, that the president saw as guilty of his defeat. A city like Philadelphia, the city, of course not the suburbs, the blacks had cheated, of course the whites had been honest. What sense this all made, except to illustrate deep racism?

*

We had not seen it immediately, now it was too late, a third man left the SUV with which Tim had arrived, the first man penetrated the room already, Tim had smuggled them in, in his car, where they had been? Tim was a traitor, had been.....

We had no real time to react, obviously the shot had been a kind of signal, the first man was in the living room, he did not wait, the others followed, all in full protective gear, with fucking looking assault weapons, he opened fire immediately, it was not important for him whom he would kill, for him it was important to kill, to kill us all, he also would have killed Tim.

We had to separate, Casey tried to escape to her left side, towards the entrance, a small hallway, a cabinet there, her only chance. This was a special house, all looked normal, but nothing was normal, inside the cabinet of course weapons, but the cabinet only looked like wooden, in fact it was solid steel, but she did not reach the cabinet to use it as shelter. I could not see much, but she got hit, her body fall, more I could not see.

I tried to escape to my left, saw Arnold disappearing in the kitchen, from there he had a good position to fight back or to escape into the garden. The garden, this was also my aim. Sure, Casey, but with a nice little gun in my hand, only partially protected? Yeah, as Schwarzenegger or one of this other ridiculous "action heroes", Bruce, Bruce would kill them all three with a fork, but I would be the snowball in hell. What rescued me was, that there was another small hallway to the door into

the garden, to my left, so I could hide behind a wall, could reach the garden - now hell broke loose. Maybe one could think that bullet-proof windows would be good for such a house, but they had had other ideas and this was good now. Three attackers in the living room, I outside, Arnold at least in the kitchen, the officers outside took the living room under fire, with all that they had - Casey still inside, on the ground. I tried to orientate.

*

The GOP, not too much interference of the state, free markets. Of course, trillions of dollars in tax breaks, but who was interested in the poor - right Mitt? Not everyone had worked that hard like you, or Ted or all the other proud Republicans. Sometimes it was plainly disgusting.....

*

I needed a moment, my eyes had to adapt to the darkness outside, good for us. Three attackers in an illuminated living room, we outside in the dark. But also the attackers had advantages, the sofa for instance not only a sofa, heavy steel inside to protect, now good for the attackers, obviously they knew it, I saw that one attacker used the sofa as protection. The three police officers outside had not that much protection, Arnold was also outside what I saw now, but he walked around the corner. He obviously tried to get, through the garage most probably, in their back, to open fire from two sides. I had reached a place from where I was protected, but could see at least some of the action, still only with my nice little gun in hand. What I had not seen was, that they had already neutralized one attacker, then suddenly the officers outside stopped the fire, but still bullets from inside, then several dull sounds and silence - Arnold!

He had reached the garage obviously, but entering the living room, heavily under fire? I thought that he had given the officers outside a signal, they had stopped their fire and Arnold could use the moment of surprise to attack and obviously to eliminate them, Arnold walked through the broken window, a bad-looking firearm in his hand. I came nearer, but he gave me a signal to stop, loudly he said that two men had been eliminated, the third man trapped in the kitchen. One had obviously reached the kitchen and was trapped now. In the monitoring center they could control the complete house, they had shut the kitchen doors as he was in, now trapped. We heard a single shot, damped by walls, no attacker left now.

*

2021, this year could at least not get worse and more complicated as 2020 - really? COVID-19 should find its end, maybe the States would get more stable again.....climate change? The problem with climate change was, that it was global and not really predictable. New studies showed, that it was not the norm that a planet was habitable for billions of years, maybe the habitable time on earth tended towards its end?

*

Arnold gave me a signal now, to come nearer, but he said something very strange.

"Wow, that was hard. I hope that your mousse has survived, maybe we four can enjoy it later?"

There were five of us, there were four of us before, but Tim dead and Casey? I tried to appear relaxed, came nearer with large steps, my arms down, the gun down, Arnold stood behind the three officers. One raised his gun suddenly, Arnold shot him in the neck, hit exactly the gap between the helmet and the neck protection. A gesture with his head and the other two laid their weapons in the grass.

"Casey?"

"Wait a second."

A second, how long is a second? It was silent, totally silent, a clock ticked, one time, then the silence was over. A helicopter was suddenly above us, the grass now illuminated. Police cars and ambulances rushed towards the house, the whole place flooded with people, I saw that I bled at the arm, Arnold beside me.

"Casey?"

"Not sure, had no time to look at her."

"Shouldn't we....."

".....it's better to let the pros make the job."

"Okay. Why you knew that Tim wasn't the only traitor?"

"I'm in permanent contact with the center, they told me to be careful."

"Do you think that Tim..... - his wife, his daughter?"

"Officers are heading to their house, you have to go to the hospital."

"This is not much - Casey?"

"I ask."

He asked the headquarters, spoke in his microphone, it needed a short moment till he got the answer in his ear.

"She's alive but in very critical condition. I escort you to the hospital."

Collateral Damage

Arnold had managed it, that I was in the same hospital as Casey, of course on different wards. I had nothing in the end, I had bled somewhat, but they had decided that I have to stay in the hospital for the night, it was okay for me. I waited till the night was over, till a nurse came to me in the morning, I asked her about Casey. Of course, she had no information for me, but she promised to try to gather information. She did not come back, but after a time a doctor and Arnold came, they informed me.

*

A president nuts, a GOP not willing to defend democracy, Democrats not able to act bold - not quite thirty days that maybe would be not able to destroy the United States, but in any case to shake the United States to the very foundations. Tomorrow would be Christmas, no gift, but a wish, a hope - February 2022, after the arrival Gus's Drive-In, next morning Santa Monica Beach.

*

"I know it, they have told me."

I sat beside Casey's bed, Arnold had accompanied me to her, they had allowed me to visit her for a while.

"So far not the last word is spoken, Peter."

"But even if they will be successful and able to implant an artificial knee joint, if they don't have to.....you will never be able to hunt the bad guys on the streets again."

"Office work? I'm good in the Internet stuff, maybe cybercrime?"

"That was not you dreamt about."

"I'm still alive, and even with an artificial leg you can do a lot today."

"Was it that worth?"

"I did my job."

"Would they had been successful at the first attempted then two police officers would be still alive, a mother, we would know what has happened with the baby, you would not lie in this bed. This was a much to high price."

"I got off best, or? Only my leg, some bullets hit my vest, but none went through, my shoulder somewhat, they knocked me out. No bullet from outside hit me, none my face, Tim had not so much luck."

"It was not worth that, it....."

I had no idea what I should say, silence, I held her hand.....

*

Nine hundred and eighty-six deaths in Germany yesterday, maybe again some too late reported deaths like last week, but also over two hundred more than last week. Now we had reached it, the level of the USA, maybe slightly better, but not much behind we were now. And would you take in account, that Germany had been much better than the USA over summer, then the only solution was, Germany failed now even more than the USA, Germany had screwed it up totally. Angela Merkel had asked very soon for stricter measures, the "governors" had opposed. Angela Merkel was a physicist, a scientist - and a woman.....

*

"Why did it all escalate so much, Arnold – why?"

"Today we threaten poll workers and their families, we threaten them that we would kill them because we don't accept the outcome of an election. We plan to kidnap and kill a governor because we cannot accept that she speaks out in favor of masks. Today a president pardons convicted liars and murderers with lifelong imprisonment, he and his family plunders the nation in a never seen extent. But hey, to be fair, today killing a nigger is not that easy anymore, the good old days when lynching was a family celebration, today they try to punish you even as police officer.

Everything is out of control, the GOP, the party for law and order, even now they support a president who spits every day on our constitution, shits on our flag! Every day it's getting more disgusting and devastating, maybe we need a big bang to begin with something new."

"Do you think that Joe Biden will have a chance?"

"Apart from the question about the senators from Georgia?"

"Yes."

"Much will depend on the GOP and Mitch McConnell, Joe Biden is only Joe Biden, and the Dems are the Dems. We have accepted at all the times that we have deep racism in this country, only considering movies or music, not to talk about education or politics. We have a problem with violence also, a terrible combination. Who's really interested in, that many "Indians" die now, we have tried to wipe them out. It's like in the good old days of the empty Wild West. At this time you needed gun power and money, then you were king, you could buy everything. Today you need a lobby and money, then you can buy everything, especially politicians. It's a fucking cycle, and in the center stands, being white with European ancestors, but maybe no longer? And they are not that wrong, the United States is in a change, African Americans and Latinos, Asian Americans and so-called Native Americans, none white people with no European ancestors, Muslims, maybe even atheists, lesbians and gays, they all demand for more, for more share in wealth, but maybe more important, even more share in politics. And women, African American women, Asian American women, Latino women, Muslim women, they rebel, and it seems as they could be successful, and they demand for real change, no cosmetics, real change. The next days, the next weeks, but much more the next four years will tell you a lot about America's future, history will be written, maybe a new chapter will begin, maybe a last chapter, we will see."

Merry Christmas!

"Taxi Driver", maybe not the movie that puzzled the boy most - at least you had to mention "Ana y los lobos" by Carlos Saura with Geraldine Chaplin - but most probably the movie that should occupy him most for the rest of his life - together with movies like "Heaven's Gate" by Michael Cimino, or "Rashōmon" by Akira Kurosawa, or.....

Betsy in her white dress, De Niro with Mohawk, the killings and the letter from the parents, from outside of the taxi to the inside of the taxi, the opening titles with the taxi and the steam and the wet streets and the eyes of Travis at the end, the rain that would clean up the streets, the reaction to a refusal, buying weapons and planning killing someone, the hecticness of the city, a world repelling and compelling.....the fact to share with Travis the mood to love the nights, at least.....
Not that all this was obvious to him, by the first time he watched the movie, secretly at night, but.....

*

Christmas Eve, not in the mood to celebrate, not because I was not religious, but too many had died yesterday. Wouldn't it had been much easier would have had only an old man died, instead of all the others, or marked for the rest of their life? It was like in one of these movies, tales about war heroes, we leave none behind. A group of soldiers on their way to rescue a comrade, at the end most of them were dead. Made this sense? I had no idea.

I hoped that the day would come soon, seeing Joe Biden swearing the oath, that these days would be finally over. Whatever would happen then, it would be way better as what had happened in the last four years, in the last year, the last months, weeks and days. Two weeks till Vice President Pence would have the honor to announce the presidency of Joe Biden, and Kamala Harris as vice president, his successor. I had the feeling that it was no longer interesting what this conscienceless and corrupt president would do in his last days and weeks, that it would be only important what the GOP and Joe Biden would do thereafter. Well, I hadn't thought it would come to this - Pawn Shop Blues - but I felt guilty, it all could have developed differently, I would have had all the possibilities. But now it was too late, now I had to live with it, I had to decide in which way this story should continue.

Christmas Eve, not in the mood to celebrate, because it would not give a happy ending. Maybe not a disaster, but between a disaster and no happy ending there was a lot of room for many possibilities. And what should "maybe no disaster" mean. A married couple dead, their child, baby, maybe also? Would that not count as a disaster? Every day three thousand more deaths, maybe soon four thousand, would that not count as a disaster? Murderers pardoned, deaths sentences executed, would that not count as a disaster? I had no idea.

*

The old man at Christmas Eve, not really knowing how he should feel. Should he be happy or sad or at least not sad but not happy either? He was not religious, Christmas or Hanukkah or nothing, Christmas meant more work than normally for him, normally, not more.

The pandemic, the pandemic would also be present in 2021, at least during the first half, the next winter or fall? But the pandemic was a virus, something that had happened before and would happen in the future again, a part of nature like the next outbreak of a super volcano or suchlike. One could try to implement measures to be prepared for the worst, but nevertheless it would happen again.

The States, it would be good if the States come to rest again. Europe and the USA and other states should work together, especially China had liked the last four years, China had come out of the last four years strengthened, also 2020, we should concentrate on China, not fighting against each other. We should.....

The old man sat at home, Christmas Eve, not worked since weeks, short-time working benefit, not as much as regularly but enough, would he get ill he would have to pay nothing. He felt secure, sure, during every shopping one could get infected, but he lived in a nation, where the nation cared for its inhabitants, much was a matter taken for granted for him. He lived in his world.....

Still Time For A Disaster?

Woke up in the morning, still under personal protection, now at another place, no longer in the hospital - well, my injuries had been very petty. Nashville?

I had switched on the TV in my sleeping room while dressing - breaking news? What had happened now, the president again in a bad mood, not enjoying playing golf anymore, new ideas for taking revenge on McConnell? An explosion?

I sat down on the bed and looked at the pictures, needed a moment to understand what I saw, intentional, it looked like a street in a war zone - Oklahoma, New York, no not that severe, but.....

A call, only three injured, Christmas Day, too early for details, AT&T, in an hour maybe more, I went downstairs, Arnold was there, Arnold was always there.....

"Have you seen the news?"

"Yes. But too early for too many conclusions, obviously no claim of responsibility so far, or something like that."

"But you also have the feeling that this was an assault, maybe a terrorist attack?"

"It looks like one, especially with this phone call to inform the police. But we have to wait, we should not speculate too much."

"AT&T?"

"No coincidence I think, but.....?"

"Yes, maybe we should wait for a moment. But you have also this bad feeling that maybe this is the next level of escalation towards inauguration day?"

"Yes."

*

It had rained in the morning in Germany, but now a clear blue sky, the sun started to set, 4:36 pm, it seemed as it would become a clear night, the first after a longer time, a good opportunity to observe stars, especially because the next days the weather should turn bad again.

The weather seemed not to be that bad also in Nashville, at least no rain, some sunshine at least, snow, 9:40 am. A terrorist attack? How many terrorist attacks I could link with the USA? More than with Germany in any case, yes the RAF in my youth, but compared to the terror attacks in the USA? The terror attacks in the USA much severer and typically committed by young white men, American young white men.

The next hours, when clear sky, observing in the cold and silent night, or listening to the American news? I would observe, to find some calm, the news thereafter again, feeling that this Christmas Day would most probably find no quiet end.

*

"Evening starts, and the more information you get from Nashville the more weird it gets?"

"That's true, Peter. And this expert in the news, talking about that this reminds on attacks from the IRA, makes it not better."

"This is not the first time that this happens in the States, only to mention Oklahoma. But if this is no single event, but the beginning of.....that would be awful."

"We have to wait, no fast assumptions. I fear that it can last several days before we will know more."

"But the RV, the traffic surveillance, this could maybe help a lot."

"Yes, this is a good chance, but nevertheless, we have to wait."

*

It had been freezing and somewhat difficult because of the moon, the bright moonlight made the observations much more difficult. But it was nevertheless nice to do it. But it was also nice to be inside again, warmer, but it was not nice to switch on the TV again, hearing the latest news from the USA, from Nashville.

It was to hope that it would be very fast possible to clear up what had happened in Nashville, no fast speculations, sometimes it was better to wait for a moment, not say or write too much. But in any case, this was no good moment for the US, as if it was not problematic enough.

St. Stephan's Day

"Maybe it would be better we would stop this."

"What, protecting you?"

"Yes, it's enough what has happened."

"And what should we do? Placing you in the middle of the street and telling everyone: Hey this is Peter, somebody wanna kill him? And then, after what has happened, after all these losses, it would be disgusting to let them succeed, and....."

"Yes.....?"

"It's okay."

"Tim and his wife, the baby - Casey? By the way, who was this other officer?"

"I don't blame you, but it's hard to bear what has happened. But this cannot mean that we give up, this can only mean that we will do our job now more than ever, and our job it is to protect you."

"Sorry, maybe I should not ask, but do you have any information about the baby or Casey and this other police officer?"

"The baby is still missing, Casey's leg is beyond remedy and the other officer was a member of a special force, I have no better information."

"Thanks, Arnold. A last question, you know what's the case now?"

"We have reduced the team that protects you, only a few people whom I rely on totally. Only singles from now on, all the people around you have from now on no private life anymore - not so dire in the time of pandemic."

"This is stupid to say, but I had difficulties from the beginning on why the police spent so much effort in protecting me, but now....."

".....but now it's no longer about you, or no longer only about you. From now on we talk about bloody murderers who not even shied away from killing a police officer's wife, and maybe even a baby. They have attacked us, we will strike back."

I thought about whether I was a kind of decoy bird now, I hoped so, at least this would give this all a meaning. It fitted that I had no real knowledge about where we were now - in a house with garden and a wall and not much around. Maybe I was to blame, but I knew the city very well, and some places around, but the city was surrounded by hills and valleys on two sides, I had no good knowledge about this area. We were in one of the valleys, but I was not sure in which, from the garden behind the wall one could not see that much, and one hill looked for me more or less like the other. I thought that it would be good to talk with Arnold about another topic.

"Nashville, all very strange. And of course no statement from the president, he has no time for such things, needs his time to play golf and to twitter."

"It's better when he shuts his mouth, he should sign the passed bills and piss of then."

"Still enough time for him to cause a lot of trouble, and he's doing his best that it happens."

"It would be good to find out as fast as possible what's the background of the attack in Nashville."

"You mean because it could be a terrorist attack?"

"In a way it's not essential what it is, difficult is not to know what it is. To fight an enemy, you should know your enemy. It would be a huge difference would it had been an attack on AT&T, maybe because of personal reason, or a terrorist attack, maybe in connection with the election and the transition of power. The authorities would have to react in any case, but the response would be

very different, depending on the background of the attack. Bad is, not to know where your enemy is, worse is, not to know who your enemy is."

*

Sometimes it's difficult to find words for the developments in the states, but as long as "Arschkriecher" like Graham are willing to suck the president's cock you cannot expect that something will change. Well, it will be "interesting" to see, in what a way the GOP will fix this after the twentieth - but hey, the GOP had no scruples to betray everything in the last four years, a bunch of swines without moral and attitudes, even "niggers" have them!

January the sixth, eleven days more to wait, nearly two weeks, how devastating it can become? Would be good to get some ideas about Nashville, would be good.....a lot would be good. Hoping that the day will come, January the twentieth? Well, while sitting in Germany this is easy!

Christmas Was Over Now!

Christmas was over, but the oppressive feeling stayed, the president would use his remaining days to cause as much damage as possible and the GOP still remained silent, the next increase in cases, caused by Christmas and the irrationality of the people, would come soon, followed by an increase in death somewhat later, an increase that would start from an all-time high - if this made you not depressive.....

They had made it possible to have a phone call with Casey, a special secure line, this phone call not was for to lift my spirits, it was for to try to say sorry. Last night had been a clear night, the bright moon, the close Jupiter and Saturn near the horizon, I had asked whether there were folk in the hills, observing us, waiting till something would happen. I got no distinct answer, the mood in the new house was not the same that had been in the old house, strained and edgy.

Christmas was over, New Year would be soon, a fucking year would end, would end in a very fucking way, still no clarity in Nashville, a suicide bomber most probably. The next year would begin most probably even more fucking as this year would end. An insane president in his final days, four thousand deaths a day or even more, most probably more deaths as during the Civil War but in only one year, and not one of our fundamental problems solved, not even addressed.

*

Imagine, you.....what? Living in Nashville? Looking at what happened in Washington while waiting for the money you would need for financial support? The fear that you would lose your home? Knowing that your community would have to suffer even more than before because of the virus in the next weeks, doubting about the vaccination? Waiting for hours in the lines at the food banks..... - hey, MacKenzie Scott was a wonderful philanthropist now, praise her, and the wonderful workers' conditions at Amazon!

I was in no good mood - well, Sunday, football day.....

*

A new suspicious RV near Nashville - it seemed as someone would be not interested in, that the nation would come to a rest, would have at least a moment to take a deep, deep breath. Instead, the nation rushed from one bad moment to the next, not able to digest anything, till the overload would come. And yet, one could say: Why I should be interested in this all, I have no real trouble with the virus, I need no check from the state, I have enough money, it's in the end not that important for me who lives in the White House, my lobby will be heard at any time.

I got nervous, like a caged big cat, walked from one end to the other, hoping something would

happen, not matter what, but something had to happen, some kind of discharge, a lightning, an explosion, something that would change everything.

*

It was a strange feeling, sitting in Germany, one TV program offered football, the other a car, an RV, parked at the side of a road.

Twenty-Four!

Much was known about the incident in Nashville now, but in the end nothing, why he did it. Alone, or a group, an ideology behind it, or only a man who wanted to go with a bang? Twenty-four. Fine "New York Post", fine headline, "..... - here's how to save your legacy" - what the hell he should save? Racism, arrogance, spiting on our constitution and flag, to be a notorious liar, betrayer, a killer that killed day by day hundreds if not thousands of Americans? What a shit you're writing, fucking "New York Post"? Twenty-four.

The vaccination had begun, no real problems so far, only problems with delivering the vaccine, but no negative side effects so far, only a few soft intolerances. But this would not help really in a nation, where it was your personal freedom to kill others with your ruthless behavior. Twenty-four. China showed it's hideous face again, in fighting against a free press, but China was a super-power today, the super-power - the USA the beacon for the world, hey Joe, only a paper tiger nowadays, never it had been one, an empty narrative and token like the Hollywood Sign in Los Angeles. Twenty-four.

I thought that the insane monster in office would dream about, to be a communist leader, he envied Xi Jinping, communist and fascist leaders, they had the absolute power, even more than a king, czar or emperor. Twenty-four.

I switched off the TV, my head ached, the day-long sitting in the house, cold outside, I was unsettled.....

*Old man look at my life
Twenty-four and there's so much more
Live alone in a paradise
That makes me think of two
(Old Man; Neil Young)*

*

A few days more, three, and the first part would be over, a new year would begin, but nothing would change, why something should change only because by an arbitrary act a year would end, another would begin? Maybe January, January had the potential to change a lot, at least some, would bestow you at least some peace again. And maybe in the second half of 2021, a new decade, maybe then we would find to some kind of normality back again. Signs of relieve everywhere, but so much could still go wrong.

*

Hurray, the president had signed the bill, I could no longer bear this asshole in office, it was disgusting, every day it disgusted me more that this person thought that he would be my president, I hoped that after he had to leave the White House his punishment would be the maximum punishment - no longer somebody would be interested in his babble, apart from his most devoted trolls maybe.

It was nice and relaxing to see Joe Biden giving a speech, it was like I would listen to the president, and one time he said in fact: The vice president Kamala Harris and I - hey Joe, do not forget the "elect".....twinkle, twinkle - it was shit being here.

Twenty-four, twenty-four days till inauguration day, this day and twenty-three more, then I would hear Joe Biden again, speaking the oath. Would I be stranded in this house the whole time till then, or would something happen? I was cut off everything now, no longer they gave me background information, I had no idea what happened outside, no idea about the stage of the investigations anymore. No longer I cooked, no mousse au chocolat was requested anymore, we had not spoken much in recent days.....

The World Outside

I felt isolated, I was isolated. Of course, I could watch TV and in fact, they reported also about "my case". There had been arrests, a first assassination attempt, then a second, of course the interest of the media was there, but.....many words were to hear, but only little information at the end. Okay, it was not the fault of the media, they got the same answers that I got now, they talked about mafia-like structures, that more arrests one could expect, but that because it all were ongoing investigation, it would be not possible to provide details or further information - yes, I knew this feeling only too well now!

Satisfying however was, to look at Washington and the White House. The veto virtually overruled, but McConnell in a fucking position. Sanders as pressure maker, sweating Georgian senators, a somewhat confused Chuck Schumer, a golfing president who destroyed his future - wow, what a dangerous figure he could have been, if he had acted more considered. He could have been, after leaving the White House, a very influential man, maybe even more influential as now. He could have supported Ivanka and Jared, now he was simply a destructive figure. The more he tried to overrule the election, the crazier his attempts became, the more shameful the twentieth of January would be for him.

It was interesting to see figures like the president, Bolsonaro, Johnson or Hitler. All bigmouths, all had "success" to a certain extent, but then they had not the felling when to stop, when to act considered, and they destroyed themselves and their "big ideas". A problem was only, that they destroyed not only themselves, they destroyed also much around them, sometimes whole nations. In Asia, I had the feeling, they acceded more rational, but that made dictators like Jinping only more dangerous.

I thought about what would be the best way to deal with this situation, maybe reading a book that I had always wanted to read, maybe watching all the movies that I had never seen, maybe listening to music all the day long, and we all knew that I would do nothing of all of this. I walked to the fridge, fetched some food, some snacks as well, a bottle of a soft drink that I hated - "The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air". Wow, wonderful 90s stereotypes - Vivian, the real Vivian, looked not that bad.....

*

Waiting, waiting till it would happen. The fifth of January near now, the next step. Two days and the year would come to an end and a kind of normality would come back, the normality of exact numbers, and they would narrate no nice story - waiting, the beauty of time. You had to do nothing, time elapsed just like that, you only had to wait.

Tomorrow

They had asked me if I wished something special for tomorrow's dinner - I had said no. I had said to them that I would hate firework, ordered gaiety, and when everybody did the same.

I got repelled from this mass-hilarity, it was not much different from standing in a large arena, someone at the lectern asked you if you would like it to have the total war, and of course, you answered him, full-throated, with all the surrounding folks, in unison: Yes! Yes! Yes, yes, yes, yes, yes, yes, yes.....

Typically I walked around somewhat at this day, in the city, my city, the tough city, before the ultimate madness began, and even that I was used to going to bed late, sometimes not before it got bright again, but this evening was predestined therefor, to go to bed soon, very soon, maybe watching some shit on TV.

I had asked Arnold, in a moment as I thought that it would be a good moment, what he would think, how long this all would continue. He grumbled something about, that this would be not on my affair to decide about such things, that I should be satisfied therewith, that someone would be still willing to protect me, whether I would like it to swap with somebody who would not know where he could get the next meal, whether he and his family would live on the streets next year - I decided that it would be the best to spend the rest of the day in my room.

*

One thousand one hundred and twenty-two deaths in Germany yesterday, equivalent to almost four thousand five hundred deaths in the USA - no good days in Germany nowadays!

Yes, of course, it was also because the last days had been holidays and not all numbers had been reported during the holidays, but nevertheless, the signal was obvious.

Other countries had declared Germany to a high-risk area, welcome to today's German reality, all because some "Ministerpräsidenten" (governors) had thought, that we should not spoil Christmas and the New Year's celebration for the people - thanks for that!

What was to say, if something was absolutely clear, that a certain behavior would have very severe consequences, would mean that people would have to die, but exactly this behavior became then promoted by a certain kind of politicians? I had called the President of the United States of America a disgusting swine, I would not go that far here, I would call them only plain murderers. How one should name someone, it was told this person that a certain behavior would cause deaths, but this person would act exactly in that way? I would call such a person a murderer.

Let's Celebrate New Year's Eve!

New Year's Eve and I was happy, so happy that I could kill myself! What would happen would I be dead? Nothing! I had no children, not even my spouse would mourn, there was none either. I had nothing to bequeath, at least nothing of value - it would make things easier for many, some would even be happy about it! Oh, yes, Mrs. Allen, and what about Mr. Kenay.....?

*

Well, again under a thousand deaths in Germany - let's celebrate, it's New Year's Eve, what else should one say! Well, nearly four thousand deaths in the States, but who cared? This all was very telling about the state of the human race!

*

"What do you think about McConnell's actions to make a voting about the two thousand dollar checks impossible?"

I had asked Arnold, today here till the evening, I tried to get a better mood into the house, not really certain about my mood.

"McConnell is McConnell, he's not interested in an average American - I have to check the situation

outside."

He stood up, headed towards the front door.

"Wait, can we talk?"

"About what we would have to talk?"

"Is it because of Casey?"

"What do you know about Casey? You know nothing about Casey!"

"That's true, but maybe you could tell me about her? She's still in the hospital?"

"She has killed a police officer to rescue your life. We knew Tim not that much, or his wife and the baby, but he was one of our colleagues. She's marked for the rest of her life, and the leg makes things not better."

"You both are together?"

He did not answer, but left the house. I did not feel really much better after this.

*

A Year Dies

A year dies

A new year

From the ashes phoenix-like

Rises

Human illusion

Human delusion of grandeur

Human lack of understanding

While a lonely sun drifts through the endless space, and time

*

Endless lines on roads to food banks, people had to leave their houses, families and children. Sick people were afraid of to go to hospitals because they could not afford the treatment - yes Mitch, the most important now was, that our deficit would no longer grow, after it had risen much more in the last four years, than during the eight Obama years. Now that not billionaires and big companies should add money to the deficit, now it was no longer acceptable to higher the deficit.....and of course Mitch, you were right, it also would be money for people who would not need it - I was sick of this shit!

I could see this bunch of GOP senators only as a bunch of despicable swines anymore, one had to spit in their faces to show them the disrespect they had deserved. Our nation had become the ultimate pigpen, and Mitch McConnell was the prime swineherd, in a way he was much more contemptible than the president, who would leave office soon.

But where had been the "Blue Wave", I had not seen this mystical wave? Maybe the Dems would not even get the majority in the Senate, this was no great win! Should one hope for 2022, that Biden would be able to use these two years, that the Dems would win the Senate maybe then? I was sick of all this shit, my head ached, something had to happen.

*

A year ended, a year that had had the potential to teach us a lot, we had had the opportunity to learn a lot, a lot about nature, a lot about us, a lot about us in nature, but, and that was the only problem, the ending year would have needed pupils, eager to learn.

But, and maybe we could take this as a consolation, the ending year had confirmed the madness of humankind, as if this fact had needed any more confirmation - as a Germany I had only to mention

the gas chambers.....

And now? A year of disappointment ended? A year of hope would begin? 2021, could it become even worse than 2020? Sure, who would deny this - hey Joe, America again the beacon of the world, a world heading towards the climate collapse? Happy New Year.....

*

They had given me no gun this time - why, what should I have done differently in the last house? But in the end, I thought, maybe they had done you a favor therewith, to.....

Happy New Year!

The new year was there, what had changed?
Nothing at all of course!

The same nonsense in Washington as last year, the next asshole charade they would present us next week, Mitch at his best, the same ruthless swine as ever, the Obama years, chaos with the vaccine, again no national plan.....

Hurry America!

This shiny beacon that showed the world the way, showed the world the right way, the way to become the laughingstock for the rest of the world, to decay into a fucking banana republic! 2021 began as 2020 had ended.....

Happy New Year!

*

Many words had to be made? Was there a reason to waste many words? No, therefore.....

A New Day

A new day, and everything was different. The American nation had woken up, your skin color made no difference anymore, the wealthy supported the poor, all stood together by fighting the pandemic. The Californian condor and the American eagle met in the sky and a new age begun - I should start to write pathetic kitsch novels.

Of course nothing had changed, at least not today. Maybe next week, at least some would change, Tuesday and Wednesday, at least some important decisions would be made. It would be too good, would Moscow Mitch get his comeuppance, it would be too good! And the sixth? The next fucking GOP travesty, why this all was acceptable? The people had voted, the states had certified, the electoral college had been in session, and now it needed congress to count votes again - this was simply crazy!

The power of the majority leader in Senate, the electoral system, the appointment procedure for Supreme Court judges and so much more, it all was a mockery of democracy! And the final reason to question the American idea of democracy? At least five hundred million dollar, most probably over a billion dollar, the Dems and the Republicans spent in Georgia for the election of two senators - this was simply insane and disgusting!

A multi party system, popular vote and a representational party democracy, not perfect, but much cheaper, more democratic and, as one could see now, more stable. Maybe not all was best in the United States? Not everything was worst, but maybe others were also no idiots and had good ideas?

And in Europe the democratic idea was not only some centuries old, but in fact some thousands of years, the political structures of the so-called "Native Americans"?

*

A shitty day, could not concentrate. Decided to kill the TV, radio. Houndstooth Radio, Morphine - Take Me With You, maybe such music would help me somehow? Afternoon in L.A., sunny California, hospitals filled to overflowing - yeah Californians, it was not enough to be hip and cool and the best of the USA! And yet, I wanted to be there, what would make no sense at all in the end, but what made sense in the end today? The GOP like one of these monsters in a Japanese manga, at first a nice cute girl with super short skirt, too large breasts and eyes, then suddenly developing into a big awful and scary monster(-s?) - had the GOP been ever nice or cute? Ronald Reagan - I would prefer Faye in any case - and his shitty policy? The two Bush - why I had to think on Faye again - where one had been even more a retard than the other? The GOP had voted against slavery, the Dems wanted to keep it? Maybe I should get enlightened - interesting song, I had always to wait till the next song to see what song I had heard, so be somewhat patient - and become a proselytized believer? I had only one problem, that I could not decide which god, religion, confession, movement..... - Hollie Cook - Walking In The Sand -should enlighten me, there was so much to choose from!

A fucking mood, a mostly wasted day, tomorrow Sunday. Nobody doubted about, that the hard lockdown would get expanded till the end of January, and then maybe a soft lockdown again? Restaurants, bars.....? Fucking weather, my mood not better, let's write a song.....give me a fourth line! - Baby come on.....sometimes it simply made no sense.....

Boring Sundays

It was Sunday again, another day to kill. I had decided to stay in my sleeping room, had all I needed - a TV. I had organized some food and coffee, had time to sag - sorry, to chill - till later football would be the highlight of the fucking day. A boring Monday would follow, then maybe it would become interesting again. Georgia and the next Washington GOP comedy would follow.....

But today was Sunday, had nothing to do, the president's shit became every day more annoying, maybe next Sunday we would be at least one or two steps further on? Hey, of course, this was pure sarcasm.....

*

It was Sunday, another day in a twilight zone - no exact data regarding corona because of all this holidays, still chaos in the USA, hopes about Tuesday and Wednesday, depressing weather, some snowfall, but wet and cold and gray and depressing.....

Two boring days - Sunday and Monday - and then two very interesting days - Tuesday and Wednesday? And then? Normalization? Could anybody say, what "normal" should mean nowadays - difficult, to remember any kind of a normal day.....

The United States were in a deep, very deep, crisis. A system at the brink to collapse, not only since four years. And no sign of willingness, to fight these developments honestly and severely? Germany? 2021, a "super election year", five federal state elections (by sixteen states) and as the climax the election of a new chancellor at the end of the year. Baden-Württemberg, my state, would begin at March. 2021 had the potential to become a very interesting year.....

The Monday Of Decisions!

Wow, it had been a very thrilling evening, now on Monday morning, stood up slowly - yes, I talked about the president's phone call! Really? Nope, I talked about football - of course!

Many really exciting games, this could become very interesting playoffs, I was very excited - oh, the phone call? Well, I could not understand the fuss about it, it was the president, our president, yes, this notorious liar, this man who had no problem therewith to kill every day hundreds of Americans. Golf was more important for him than this boring pandemic - so what?

Apart from, that it was total nonsense he chattered, what had he said? That he was convinced about, that he had won the state with a margin of four hundred thousand votes, but that it would be not necessary that he would win the state with so many votes, one more than Joe Biden would be enough - a right description of the majority voting system. Hey, not always the president lied! And then he said - again no lie - that it would be enough "to find" eleven thousand one hundred eighty votes - again quite right! Would the Dems now that stupid - like news channels like CNN - to start a discussion about the right interpretation about the term "to find"? What about a new impeachment trial, or if you thought that his words would hurt the law, then you should accuse him. It was good stuff to use it in Georgia, maybe it could make a difference - good timing! - but this was all. Tomorrow the voting in Georgia, then a day later the next farce in Washington, soon Biden in office? What about a discussion that it would become very hard for Joe Biden to change anything, not matter who would have the majority in the Senate? But why talking about such substantial topics, was it not much more thrilling, to talk about this new "scandal"?

Next weekend the wild card playoffs would begin, what would be the best strategy to pass the time till then? Maybe sleeping longer, maybe watching footage from older Super Bowls, maybe simply waiting, time would tick away by itself?

*

Wow, a new scandal rocked the States, the president had made a phone call - déjà vu? Come on, if this should be a smoking gun, what about all the "scandals" before? Tomorrow Georgia would be important, to give Wednesday at least some dignity would be important, to have some patience till Joe Biden would be in office would be important. Then the Dems would have four years time again, to screw it up. Joe Biden, the man who would reunite the American people again, what a funny fairy tale, like the one about this funny "American Dream". Maybe the United States would not need a reunification, but a revolution, maybe from the bottom up? Wow, that sounded pure communist, Anarchy In The United States, maybe the States had missed punk rock, real punk rock?

Well, I had never been a punk, loved "The Cure" but not the "Sex Pistols", but much the more music and musicians like "Cream", Chet Baker or Saint-Saëns. But it would have been good for the American society to have more "punk", more "anarchy" and maybe a guillotine like in France? I think that for the Europeans it was a very interesting insight, that it was possible to execute a king and a queen, ordained by God, by the grace of God.

But God did not interfere, as the royal heads lost their bodies - or vice versa? - and this was very interesting for the people. Maybe some GOP representatives and senators should think about it - but revolutions are not for cowards.....

God save the queen

The fascist regime

.

.

.

(God Save The Queen; Sex Pistols)

*

Three hundred fifty thousand, the next "milestone", and the vaccination not functioned - but hey, why still thinking about it? Maybe because three hundred fifty thousand Americans had died, and many of them could still live would we had acted more appropriate? But why being upset about this, why making this to a major subject, when one could yammer so wonderfully about a fucking phone call? We had to wake up!

Georgia On My Mind

It was morning, too early, but today was a crucial day, Georgia would vote today, would decide about the future of the United States - really? Sure, it would have an impact, Moscow Mitch four fucking years more or not, but I saw other matters, which threatened the American future much more. The development of the GOP, now with QAnon senators in Congress? The GOP developed more and more into an authoritarian and anti-democratic party. Should this development continue, the American democracy would be doomed - one of the risks of a two-party system. Mike Pence? Would he join the president tomorrow, then this would hurt the American democracy sustainable, maybe would be the beginning of the end. Kelly Loeffler had joined the president now - well, always thinking about your own career Kelly, right? Soon governor, maybe an appetite for presidency? In such a climate democracy had to die.

*

L.A., it was hard today to look at L.A., wished I would be there. What happened there, many attempts to explain. The many homeless in the city, many with two or three jobs, many large families in one home and much more - why not simply saying, the fucking American reality? No federal initiatives like in Germany, no means like short-time working benefit, it had helped Germany 2008 a lot, it would help Germany now a lot. I had not to use it in 2008, now the second month and maybe not the last - during the first wave I had been unemployed with an agreement for re-employment. In any case, I had been safeguarded by the German state at any time, an excellent feeling! But hey, the richest nation on earth every (what a joke!) could not afford two thousand dollar for their inhabitants.....?

So, all good in Germany? No, also in Germany some people had to struggle, but it was on a very different level as in the States. But Germany and the EU had not done the best job regarding buying vaccines. They had backed the wrong horse, hesitated too long, had not spent enough money - three billion Euros, a joke in such a moment - and the typical European haggle did the rest. Funnily, it could be, that in a long term the Europeans could have a good option on cheaper and easier to handle vaccines, but this helped not much at the moment.

*

Polling stations closed in Georgia, but of course, it would take its time till a result would be available. On the other hand, the officials from Georgia had promised that they would be faster this time, maybe tomorrow at noon a final outcome would be available, would be important for the day in Washington. My predictions? Would Warnock lose against Loeffler this would be disappointing, after her disgusting campaigning. Not only she campaigned with the liar in office, announced that she would cause turmoil in Washington tomorrow, but also because of her attacking of Warnock like he would be garbage and the dangerous "nigger", his church and faith even, the church of Dr. King Jr. - if this was not enough too lose, then.....

Ossoff? Well,.....I had my doubts. Perdue had acted more clever, but his illness at the end? Georgia very severe affected by the pandemic? I feared that Warnock would win, but Perdue also.

*

After midnight, the polling stations in Georgia had closed now, but no predictions from the news stations. In Germany, right after the polling stations had closed, every news station pronounced a prediction, based on a survey among the voters who had left the polling stations. By comparing these numbers from different news stations, one could get a good feeling about the outcome. These numbers were always excellent, close together, but this would become a close race anyway – not to forget the huge numbers of early votes, not so in Germany (but we voted always on a Sunday and had a huge number of polling stations). It would last hours till one would see better numbers, in both races the two Democrats with big leads now, after the first numbers from Georgia - the outcome? Hope or realism? I went to bed to sleep some hours.

*

Midnight in Georgia now, Warnock still in the lead, looked not bad, he had to win! Perdue ahead of Ossoff, I had feared this. CNN with the dream team Cuomo and Lemon, they talked - with others - about the African American candidate Warnock and the Jewish candidate Ossoff - yes, it would be a signal would they win in the former deep red state of Georgia, but Ossoff?

*

I had to go to the restroom, switched on the TV - Cuomo, Lemon and others. Warnock still in lead, but Ossoff no longer - would the worst nightmare come true, Moscow Mitch? I watched for a while, but then I switch off the TV again.

*

Two thirty in Georgia now, much had changed! Rev. Warnock with a substantial lead now, CNN predicted him as winner now - so far so good. And also Ossoff with a lead again, around eight thousand votes, good but not good enough, Perdue still had a chance - but CNN very optimistic, not to say euphoric?

*

Eight thirty in Germany, I woke up again, switched on the TV. CNN predicted Warnock as winner now, nice but not good enough! But also Ossoff in lead again, around eight thousand votes. Sounded not so bad, and they explained at CNN that mostly votes from counties were missing, where the Dems had been strong in November, hope? What an impact that could have for the coming charade of the GOP in Washington later the day? I decided to get up, to start with a long shower - no shave since several days?

*

Four o'clock in Georgia now, Ossoff with a lead of eleven thousand eight hundred votes now! Wow, what an impact that could have, but I needed some sleep, I had difficulties to keep awoken, I dozed off permanently, some hours of real sleep would be better. Would I wake up and also behind the name of Ossoff would be a green hook? In any case, the next long day had begun, this time in Washington.

*

Looked better now, a look at the TV screen - Ossoff with a lead of nearly twelve thousand votes - it

had been earlier less, or? Yes, he had expanded his lead, and all indicated that it would be over, this would be so fucking important! So important for Joe Biden, but also for Kamala Harris. She would have an exceptional role then. But permainly, it would be so important for the day in Washington - I would like to see that Loeffler would reject the result from Georgia and Sanders would tell her that she had become voted out of office because of such a shit!

The Next Punch-And-Judy Show

Under the shower, nearly noon, in an hour the next step - would it be the last? Ossoff still not through, but with a fine lead, it should have happened, the Senate was under the control of the Democrats again - bye-bye Mitch, happy vacation in Russia together with your fucking president and Putin. Hey, by the way, Putin knew it, how to make it, maybe you, Pence and the deal-maker in office should have had some private lessons by Putin?

But maybe it was somewhat too early to say this - maybe one should only be happy? It was fucking when this former slaves got self-confident! And, this would become the next, but maybe the last, bad day for American democracy. In an hour it would begin, most probably it would last many hours, it would become a very long day - most probably.

*

After lunch, too early for dinner, maybe a snack? In an hour the joint session would begin, it would not end today - local time - it would become the next long night. But I was excited, to witness also this - Georgia had been a real push! I had the feeling that it could not become chaotic enough, Senators like Cruz or Graham could not be too aggressive, the more they would act like this, the more it would hurt the GOP in the end. Also actions from Mike Pence would only hurt the GOP - maybe this could cause the split of the GOP, maybe one should be not too boisterous?

One should not forget, that a many problems - too many problems? - awaited Joe Biden and Kamala Harris, not to forget the tendency of the Dems, to make life difficult for a self. An hour and the next act of the play would begin.....

*

Now it had begun, the show had started, regarding Arizona first. Two hours of debate, most probably three times, Georgia and Pennsylvania as well, so: Let the show begin!

*

Okay, the first debate, Arizona. It would be interesting to see, what the Democrats would have to say in their speeches. Let the show begin!

*

Wow Mitch, you have a backbone! A last, very important, speech as majority leader? You talked about the wrongdoing on the side of the Democrats? I have written about it! The next two hours will become very interesting.

Ted Cruz, what an argumentation! Because your president and Fox manipulated the public, therefore now you have to reject the voting, only an anti-democrat can argue in this way. Such words paved the way for Hitler and the Nazis in Germany - Ted Cruz, you're more dangerous than the president!

The protestors they show in TV now? Well, the president encouraged them to become "heard". Why the fuck the police let them enter the steps of the capitol? They will be not happy when Joe Biden

becomes president today finally!

Protestors inside the Capitol now - come on, that's a joke! Do not say that this was not predictable! I cannot believe what I see! They have to ask for more forces, what about forward-looking planning? The VP evacuated? - I could not believe what I saw! Why they did not have protected the Capitol better? If this should stop today's procedure, this would be the ultimate shame for the USA!

*

Wow Mitch, you nearly shocked me! Did I hear an elder statesman? Now I would like to hear Cruz and Graham!

What a hypocritical swine you are, Ted Cruz! Your argumentation is so phony and coward, it stinks, you were too long in the president's ass!

Concerned about the demonstrators I see in TV now - yes, yes of course. How they will react when the final decision will be made? The fucking president would like it, would this day end in violence - without any doubt! - Why the fuck the police let they enter the steps of the capitol? And now they are inside - where is the police? Oh, I see, no photo op for the fucking president, we need no tear gas now! The Capitol Police asks for help now, what a shit is this? Why they were not more forces on-site? Come on!

The VP evacuated? Fantastic, what a planning what a nation we had become? It was unbelievable that this could happen, and the whole world looked at us! Welcome to Banana Republic!

*

I was speechless and had tears in my eyes - the first victim and the violence escalated. I had hoped for, that maybe this would not happen, that the rest of the transition would be peaceful, now I had deep doubts again! Still fourteen days!

*

I feel that it's no longer appropriate for me to comment this, sitting here in Germany. I cry, I'm broken, but now it's on the American people to try to handle and overcome this - I can only watch. I had hoped that much that it will not come to this, but I fear this could be only a beginning. Now the GOP has to react! This president is no longer acceptable, you have to unseat him!

*

Thank's for your words President Joseph Robinette „Joe“ Biden, Jr. - wish you the best.

<< imagine? - you would see this pictures

A Day In Germany

A forenoon in Germany, I'm cooking a so typical regional meal for my father and me today, planned since some days, "Eierflockensuppe" and "Linsen mit Spätzle und Saitenwürstle" - egg drop soup and lentils with spaetzle / Swabian nudels and Vienna sausages / wiener wurst. I'm still shocked, seeing the pictures in TV now even more than at night - have not slept tonight. I will not write something fictional today, will continue tomorrow, more or less in the way I had planned before.

How will the GOP react? Will we see a distinct reaction? Will we see arrests - four dead people now, pipe bombs? "Rudy"? The statement from the president this morning - will he be held responsible, still lying, best first term ever, the fight will continue.....love you, special people. This man is a fascist, a racist, a murderer, as well as these in and around the Capitol! This has to have strong consequences, we had terrorism in my youth in Germany, terrorists from the left, the "RAF" (Red Army Faction), people died. "No negotiations with terrorists" was a slogan at this time, the president and those in and around the Capitol are terrorists! The nation had to show now, that the United States of America is a strong nation. The first step is done, Mike Pence has announced Joe Biden and Kamala Harris as winners, but now the most important part would begin!

*

Lemon / Cuomo, let me say something to their discussion on TV this morning (German time). I agree totally with Don Lemon - sorry Mr. Cuomo, but I fear you not see the danger, you're dealing with bloody racists and fascists, anti-democrats, they would like to see Don Lemon at the tree, and they would have no problem therewith to execute you! Wake up, it's nearly too late, ask the important questions! Why was there so less protection for the Capitol? Had this mob helpers among the police? Why they were treated that nice - hey, they were proud, hurt, honest and real patriotic Americans, White Americans, not this disgusting former slaves, Latino scum, fucking Asians, or this stinking Natives! Wake up, with every day I understand Germany after WWI better! We need no second civil war in the USA, we need no terrorism like in Germany in my youth in the USA. We would need the United States, capable of acting, still inmidst a pandemic, still climate change exists, the Middle East and so much more. I agree totally with Don Lemon!

*

Lindsay Graham, it's too late, far too late, you seemed shocked? How shocked you would be about gas chambers? People like you paved the way for Adolf Hitler, whatever will happen now, so far the blood of four people stains your hands!

*

Ted Cruz and Josh Hawley? Read "Des Teufels General" by Carl Zuckmayers ("The Devil's General") - you both are religious? Be happy, you both, you will have a lot of time spending together in hell, as the devil's henchmen.

*

Eight o'clock in the morning in Washington, two o'clock in the afternoon in Germany, why I have heard nothing about arrests so far? Will there be demonstrations for democracy, against the president? I miss state action!

*

It's good to hear Van Jones, but the American people should listen to him!

*

Mayor Muriel Bowser, I've made you to a vice president, now I'm happy that I did so, you would be a fantastic vice president, but now Washington needs you! Strong women, strong African American women, only to name Stacey Abrams, have the power and strength to change this nation!

*

I start to relax, 8:19 pm local time, 2:19 pm in Washington. Joe Biden presents new nominees - Merrick Garland speaks at the moment. Moscow Mitch could delay it, but he could not hinder his nomination. Yes, not the Supreme Court, but who knows what the future brings.....

The FBI has started to act, that's good. I hope that we hear from the first arrests and trials soon, this would be significant. Still this problematic question, why this could happen, were there helpers among the police? I hope not, but I fear.....

Nancy Pelosi - brave Democrats now? Would be good to see that this side of the aisle would put a lot of pressure on the other side of the aisle. It's their momentum, they have the best hand now, they have to play their cards. Thirteen days of pressure would be necessary.....

I feel better now, still it's a strange feeling, sitting in Germany, and of course, it's still a very dangerous situation in the States and Washington. The action from Facebook and also (still) Twitter(?) is good, but by far too late, but why the Vice President stays silent? So many uncertainties and questions - could one imagine, that this mob would have been "blacks" or Latinos? This would be a national threat then, and the right-wing media would run wild. Joe Biden will have a lot to do.....

It would need harder reactions towards the insane wannabe dictator in office.....

*

"What happened is not the United States of America" - fuck, accept it, this is the fucking reality in the United States of America after four years of this swine in office, using that, what was always there in the United States of America right from the beginning on!

A New Day?

Friday at morning, had not slept much for the last forty-eight hours or so, had left my room only when necessary, the TV had been on constantly - I still was shocked! I tried to sort my thoughts, had a lot of trouble by doing so, where I should begin? Maybe with hypocrisy?

The rats are deserting the sinking ship - and this rats stunk like hell. Betsy DeVos, to call her a corrupt slut would be an insult for every single slut on earth! Raffensperger? This fucking racist not followed the president any longer? Sure, why following a loser, you had to fix Georgia again, a lot of new gerrymandering and voter suppression would be necessary to get Georgia red again! To see them and all the others let me puke, they all had blood on their hands!

The president was the same swine as always, it was more important than ever, not to fall for his tricks. It was important now, that the Democrats would maintain their pressure, why discussing if the remaining days were enough to impeach him - impeached him! The following days, till he would leave office, it was important to pressure him, but more the GOP. He would not attend the inauguration? I hoped so, to see this swine near our next president at this important day would drag all into the dirt - fuck off and keep this swine away from Washington at this day!

But it was also a day to grieve for another reason, more than four thousand deaths at one day we had for the first time yesterday, and without any doubts, this was only the harbinger of the coming. And in California, in greater L.A., it all found its sad climax at the moment. Federal action, federal support, a situation of emergency and tragedy - a fuck, fifty percent in this area were fucking Latinos, then all this Asians and blacks from the south? We Whites, living in Santa Monica or Long Beach, not to talk in Malibu or the Hollywood Hills, we had our private clinics - like "Rudy" got the cocktail!

Four-thousand a day - Gettysburg, twenty-thousand died, every five days a Gettysburg, soon every

four days, every.....but why being in panic, let's get the land back! It was only to hope for, that the Democrats could be strong enough and resilient during the next days, and then for the next four years!

*

A new "milestone", over a thousand deaths, more than compared to the US! Had we such a political crisis as in the States? Had we such a disastrous health care system? No? Why then we had more deaths per capita than the United States now? And this was not the first time over a thousand deaths, what happened in Germany? There had been a CNN report about the fantastic Germany logistic in building up corona vaccination centers - yeah, the fantastic Germans, not much was left now.

The United States? One was interesting, that they started to ask if freedom of speech meant, that everybody could say always everything. I as a German could not say or write that the Holocaust was a hoax, that it would be a lie that millions had been murdered in the gas chambers, I would get punished for that, and this was very good so! Freedom meant, that all those who had suffered during this time had to be protected, the living and the dead, that not everybody could spit in their faces and could lampoon them. The Holocaust was a fact and millions murdered in the gas chambers was a fact and denying this fact would get you punished - this was freedom, freedom of speech!

It would be redeeming and essential for the future of the United States, and not only for the United States, to hear, that the House of Representatives would have impeached the president again - no matter what the Senate would do. I waited ever minute, to hear that Nancy Pelosi would announce that the impeachment trial would begin!

*

I liked hearing Joe Biden, I liked it that he would like it would the murderer in office not appear at the inauguration - yes, he had said it before, that for him this man was not fit for office. What he said about Ted Cruz, too late to whitewash yourself, the bloodstains were clearly visible, vote this opportunistic "politicians" out of office - I could only agree with Joe Biden!

Should I went downstairs, looking for some food for a dinner? I had still some chocolate, some cookies, some tea and surprisingly an apple, could be enough for dinner. I never had been a guy interesting in to talk the whole day long, "to make conversation". Nevertheless, at the moment some talking, no matter about what, would have been good. Maybe I should walk around somewhat, in the garden, the sun shined? I lay down and closed my eyes, I lusted for at least some normally - people who lived in a war zone, in a refugee camp, especially children.....

*

A new sound, Joe Biden? Yes, we all would like it to see this asshole never again, especially not at a celebration day. And hey Joe, even you could be aggressive - in your way. You reminded me to Angela Merkel, also she knew how to express, that she's pissed off, by staying very calm and saying only nice sounding words - till after a second it became obvious that in fact, she had said very harsh words in the end.

Impeachment no later than Monday, would be fantastic to see such forward marching Democrats - at the moment some excellent signals. Wow, this story, a story named reality, offered some very hard but very impressive spins. One could really start to dream, after the twentieth, the next two years, Joe Biden becomes successful, fighting the pandemic, health care reform, new immigration laws, stopping and tearing down the wall, working bipartisan, new elections, Democrats expand their majority in the Senate, the next two successful years, infrastructure, education reform, more democratic mayors and governors, the next elections, a new president and a new vice president - Kamala Harris and Muriel Bowser.....I should take a deep breath and.....

*

Evening had come, and it was good to see that reaction gathered speed, at least it seemed so. More and more arrests, especially the most prominent terrorists from the pictures, but not the guy with the horns - or? More and more pressure for the president - phony, insulting and disgusting words from the president and the WH - uniting the nation again - who should believe this phony shit? Impeachment should start on Monday, voting and impeaching on Wednesday would be good, it had to be, no one should believe that this would divide the country more, this country was divided till the ground. It would be an important step to destroy every future political ambitions of the leaving one-term president.

I was in a bad condition, had not shaved and showered for days, always the same clothes - had not to ask, whether I would stink or not. Maybe tomorrow should be a day, to become a human being again?

A New Day

I sat in my room, had had a long and hot shower, had prepared me a breakfast, some coffee, watched TV. Had asked if I could have a talk with Arnold, but he would be not in today. Tomorrow, Sunday, he would be in again, I would have to talk with him. All calmed down again, but this should not mean that we could come back to any kind of "normal", whatever "normal" had meant before Wednesday. But at least some signs could give you hope.

The social media companies reacted very harsh, not only they blocked the president now, also figures like Bannon - wow, you needed only nearly four years to do so, congratulations! More and more Republicans broke with the president - it made me wanna puke hearing these Judases, a future political career were the today's thirty pieces of silver. You all slept with the devil: Stay proud white patriotic Americans now, to follow your golden calf to hell!

The Democrats acted consistent, at least it seemed so. But how they would act after the twentieth, would the Clinton Dems again try to suppress the progressive left? This would end this time in a total disaster, Mitch would smile in two years again! Biden, clever or too hesitant? Soon we would see whether his tactics would pay, I had no good feeling, not with this GOP, still refusing in larger parts to accept the outcome of the election. The GOP could break up, maybe even in more than two parts? I hoped so!

Had you seen the large Demonstration in Washington for our Constitution, our Flag, our Nation? Not? I also - not! Why we, the American left, could not act together, showing strength? Even the unions could not act together - this was a very deep constitutional crisis? I had heard about general strikes in European countries for much less! I had seen pictures from nations like Belarus or Turkey with millions(!) on the streets, in nations that suppressed their folks, nations with no First Amendment! But our streets were empty.....

*

A very dangerous time in the States, it reminded me on Germany after WWII. No, of course, no one could imagine that Hitler and his regime would kill Jews and political dissidents, would start a war: I had not heard it as he said it, I had not read his book, I was not aware of gas chambers, I had no knowledge of war crimes, I always opposed him, I never agreed with him, but I feared to say it openly, after he was in power.....and so on, and so on, and so on.....

The United States had to act carefully now, but that meant not to hesitate, on the contrary! Careful about all those who were now suddenly the presidents most harsh critics, after four years sticking in his ass. Laura Ingraham criticized the president? That was a mere joke! Joe Biden should be cautious about, with whom he would work together - the next assaults already planned, the next lynch mob on its way.

The United States should accept that, also in the USA, you had a radical and racist far-right, people who stood outside everything one could define as democratic, you always would have such a group in your nation. The aim was to minimize such groups and to control them, to give them not too much room. As well as the far-left equivalent, the communists.

The United States should learn from Europe - yes, one could learn things from Europe - how socialism functioned and that social market economy was an interesting idea. But for all this I saw no basis in the States, at least as even the Democrats were dominated by capitalist ideas, excellently illustrated by the Clintons.

*

It would become a long football afternoon and football evening, the games: Indianapolis Colts at Buffalo Bills, Los Angeles Rams at Seattle Seahawks and finally Tampa Bay Buccaneers at Washington Football Team - should become a fine day. And tomorrow the next games.

*

Not long and today's football evening and football night would begin - for me - some local patriotism had to be, the second game was the most interesting, Los Angeles had to play in Seattle. Two teams from the West Coast.....

It's All Over Now, Baby Blue

Sunday morning, Arnold was in, and I had asked him, whether it would be okay for him to talk with me.

"We have not much to talk about."

"I see this differently, Arnold. Since days now we have not talked. I know that much has happened, I know that it was all because of me, but....."

".....it's not all about you. During the day we will have massive house searches and the next wave of arrests, this time nationwide. We had been not inactive in the last few days, on the contrary. We will destroy certain structures significantly today - I think that you can drive home tomorrow, on Tuesday certainly."

"This comes a little surprising?"

"What do you think, that we make it public what we're doing? We did a lot of work undercover the last days, the FBI and others were at it already."

"At it?"

"Not yet, but maybe I should tell you that I do not blame you for anything, neither Casey is doing it. But the last days had been hard days, not only for one reason. I think that at the middle or at least the end of the week some should have changed - maybe coffee and cake on Saturday or so?"

"Coffee and cake?"

"You, Casey and I?"

"Why not, would like it."

"Then let us see what all will happen today."

*

Sunday, blue sky and the sun shined - well, the last days the weather had been ugly. But today it was.....well, it was pretty cold outside, but it was nice to see since a longer time the blue sky and the sun again. A new time would begin in the States tomorrow, a very dangerous interim till Joe Biden would be inaugurated. But then, then it would begin.

It would be important to reduce the danger of terrorist attacks for the next ten days, at least as much

as possible, but the crucial time would begin then only. Joe Biden would have two years time to prove that another politic would be possible - two years with many problems and dangers. The pandemic, the mob, far-right activists, his party.....it would be not easy for Joe Biden to deliver two successful years. But he acted not stupid so far, and his decisions so far seemed to be good. But soon the political reality would begin for him.

And then there was a huge danger - the GOP. It was still not to see in what a way the GOP would deal with the last four years and especially the last days. But this would be a very crucial point, maybe the most crucial point.

*

It should become a very interesting afternoon and evening, impeachment and pandemic and football and..... - police action? Well, it was interesting to see, that there was no real place in the news for anything else than the pandemic, the coming impeachment, arrests of rioters, stuff like this. Not much was to hear about the house searches, and the arrests in connection therewith, in several states of our country. But, maybe this was not so bad. I had decided to concentrate on football, sat together with Arnold, several snacks on the table - he got a call, thereafter he looked at me.

"All works out excellent so far. I think there's a good chance for you to watch the college championship at home."

"Not much to hear about it?"

"Efficiency needs no loudspeaker. It will need a little time till the media will notice what all happens at the moment."

"Some details?"

"Not now, the second game begins in a moment. Do you need something before we start? More tacos, a soft drink or anything else?"

"I have still my tea, some more guacamole would be good?"

"All right!"

*

From tomorrow on the endgame in Washington would begin, but today it was again a football evening and night. Playoffs - one team would win, one team would be out, one team would become champion at the end. Tomorrow Washington again, but today others was more important!

Impeachment Day

It came as Arnold had predicted, it was late afternoon and I sat at home, could watch the championship game at home, not much they had told me - Arnold had told me something: Wait till the coffee. This was easy to understand, at the weekend, when we would drink coffee, he would give me some insights. But much had happened in the last twenty-four hours or so.

Of course the beginning of the impeachment trial at the morning, but suddenly the media had become aware of all this house searches and arrests, had understood that this had been a concerted action. And of course, one question: Has this something to do with the president? For me was interesting, that the responsible authorities not really denied it. Of course, they said sentences like: This is not the only crime in our country, we have many criminal activities to combat. But in a way that sounded not really convincing - and Arnold consoled me with the coffee party.

I had to buy some food, some snacks for the game later, it was strange sitting at home now, in a way very surreal. Especially because I saw no real difference between today and say Saturday, I absolutely not liked it, to have no idea about, what had happened in fact. The news not helped, I had to wait till the weekend. I concentrated on the impeachment.

It was funny to see who said now what - even Melania had announced now something, it was

hilarious to see his bootlickers now. You had shared the bed with him? No complaining now because being pregnant. It would be critical now to forget no faces, to forget no words, to forget no actions. It was important now, to keep the pressure high on them who had enabled the president the last four years to do what he did, also and maybe especially Mike Pence. And of course, we were not allowed to forget Jared and Ivanka, at least as dangerous as the president.

But what was, on what we should hope for? Nice Uncle Joe who would unite our nation again now? "Again"? What should this mean "again"? Imagine you would be an African American living in the south of say Chicago or Los Angeles and someone would tell you: We have to unite our nation again - I would ask myself if this person thinks that I would be a stupid Uncle-Ben-Nigger whom he could fool. When, please, when was our nation only one second a "united" nation? Separation and racism - yes! But unification?

I came back from shopping, brewed me a tea, prepared a meal, sat down and wavered between being puzzled and being angry. I thought that we should prepare ourselves that we would see the final radicalization on the far-right side, that they would attempt terrorist attacks, and most probably would be "successful" from time to time - Ireland, Spain, Germany.....

*

Monday came to an end in Germany and it was interesting to see, who all thought that an impeachment trial would only divide the nation further on - well, the last four years.....

I was too young, was not born in the years after WWII, the 50s and 60s, was born in 1965. But this was exactly how I imagined the time in Germany after the "Liberation", after we had lost WWII, after the allies had defeated Germany, luckily!

Well, not exactly. No one defended Hitler in Germany anymore and there were the Nuremberg Trials.....

A Day Of Hypocrisy

The House Rules Committee had started to debate - if you needed only one hint therefore that - and why - our nation was in great danger and deathly ill, you only had to follow the debate, only to hear, after all what had happened, the in a not imaginable way hypocrite Jim Jordan, that told you the whole story! - Tomorrow would have to be Impeachment Day, a new holiday for America, a day to celebrate the American democracy.

Oh, by the way, the "president", the Prime Terrorist of the United States of America, had said something? It was time to begin to ignore this babble, it was time to go ahead, it was time to listen to the words of the President of the United States of America, Joe Biden.

*

It was hard to watch the debate of the House Rules Committee - the United States were in deep trouble. It would need a lot of efforts in the next four years to even reach the status again, as it was four years ago, and this had been a time with many severe problems, only to mention a deeply rooted racism.

At least the United States had a chance again, the impeachment tomorrow would be a very good sign. It was interesting to see who all thought now, that the impeachment would have a negative impact, a clear sign that it would be the perfect answer to what had happened. But without any doubts, the American nation would face a very difficult and dangerous time in the next four years.

*

Briefing of the Department of Justice - well, not really many answers. But if it was true that they

investigated very intense, then this would be a good message. But the next step would be the impeachment tomorrow, then, after it, it was time to head on. I lent back and closed my eyes, it was such a confusing and puzzling time - it was a time to be fully aware of, that the very hard time for the nation would begin at January the twenty-first.

Impeachment Day

The second impeachment had begun, what an important time for American history, what a pleasure to see consequently acting Democrats. I sat at home, watched the debate that started now, no words anymore needed, or? The GOP had no problems therewith to push through a judge for the Supreme Court, now it was on the Dems to push through the impeachment - go Dems!

*

And even if it would be the last day of this devastating term, you had to impeach him! Mitch and his "statement" this night, that he would hate the president now, that he would hope that an impeachment would make it easier for the GOP to get rid of the criminal in office? The time of revenge within the GOP had begun.

Was it important to listen to any word? Well, the final result would be important, important to see to what a degree the GOP was rotten, still after what all had happened.

*

Jason Smith, you were such a fucking hypocrite! Shame on you! - Nancy Mace, quoting Martin Luther King was a mere joke, not to express it more directly! - Oh Jim Jordan, again and again the same shit, still in the president's ass. Did it do not start to stink too much therein, or did you like the brown smell that much? - Guy Rensenthaler, peaceful transformation? On what a planet you were living? The next hypocrite! - Good response from the Democrats! - GOP, blah-blah-blah-blah..... With this GOP it would get hard for Joe Biden to find any common ground!

*

Sometimes it was very hard to listen to Republicans, without.....

*

While they voted in Washington about different matters, to start thereafter with the two hours debate, it was time to look at the numbers. A record high, nearly four and a half thousand deaths yesterday, would we reach five thousand a day soon? Experts said yes. We had to waste such much fucking time with this fucking president and his behavior and a GOP who was not capable to develop any kind of backbone. We would have so many urgent problems to solve, but this president, and unfortunately also the GOP, tied so many resources because of their dangerous potential. It was heartbreaking.

*

No "record" yesterday, a few less, interestingly per capita nearly exactly the same number in Germany as in the USA now - there had been a summer.....

What was worse, to act bad at any time, or to squander all your advantages? I felt not certain, both seemed to be very disappointing.

*

The final debate began.....

Jordan, it became boring! You were not more than a hypocrite bootlicker who wallowed in the brown mire.

It was always a pleasure to hear far-right politicians blaming antifa - sure they were fighting fascism!

And again the same GOP blah-blah-blah.....

Matt Gaetz from Florida, the next to a disgusting amount hypocrite "politician" from Florida. You would have been an excellent agitator in communist Russia under Stalin!

Oh Jordan, nice reading aloud the president's lies live in TV!

And again the same GOP blah-blah-blah.....

*

Sometimes it was very hard to listen to Republicans, without.....two hours over.....

*

It had been done, and a week later it was a very good feeling to be an American citizen!

*

Congratulations to the American people!

The Day After Second Impeachment

Sometimes everything changed in a moment, sometimes it was simply exhausting. Next week, in no week anymore, we would have a new president - still some days to stand the gaff. Now it was important to resist, the final days would be again very hard days.

But there was at least some hope. Biden / Harris in the forward mode, strong Democrats could change the whole mood very fast, at least if they not caved in to a loud and radical minority. And then there was this major question - Mitch McConnell. Talks between Joe Biden and Mitch McConnell? A kind of deal maybe? It would be an essential sign, and maybe a way to put at least a somewhat different light on Mitch McConnell, would they announce after the twenty-first, that they would work together. A few days, maybe then it would become possible again to develop a future, and a story, on a rational basis.

*

You lay down, after the normal time in between you found finally sleep and dreams, but then you woke up, the feeling something was not as it should, and it developed suddenly into an overwhelming chaotic situation - for the fourth time.

Life is fragile, as if this would not be known – no one needed any confirmation for that again anymore.

Friday

The decisive week? Well, the far-right had announced a further attack on the Capitol in Washington in two days, as well as on all other state capitols. In five days the inauguration, also threatened. In

six days we would have a new president, and the far-right with their insane leader, then no longer staining the White House, would like to see it that we would have a new civil war - civil war? This was not a question of a new civil war, this was a question of, whether the USA would have to experience terrorist activity like connected with the IRA in Ireland, the ETA in Spain or the RAF in Germany - it was to hope for, that not.

I hoped to get at least some answers tomorrow, answers why I could be at home now, what had changed with the last activities of the police, the FBI, or who else was maybe involved in it. In any case, I would see Casey again - I had this queasy feeling, collywobbles, I was worried about it.

*

Welcome to Germany, since days now we had more cases per capita as the United States, I had never thought that it could come to this. And yet, Germany had screwed it up totally - politicking was the answer! Maybe it would have had more substance, to be consistent in December - Christmas and New Year? Next week the next meeting of Angela Merkel and the governors (Ministerpräsidenten), a week earlier as previously planned - anything else than more and longer restrictions would be a surprise. Over the summer we had had all the chances, now the new mutations appeared at the horizon. It was disappointing, I mean.....in the States? In the States they had had an incompetent, scruples and reckless murderer as president who was totally ignorant regarding the suffering of the people, not only in the last few days and weeks, but the whole time, but in Germany? How much the more one had to see Germany as a failed nation? Utterly, utterly!

Having A Cozy Saturday Afternoon Coffee Party

Well, our afternoon coffee party turned very fast into an afternoon tea party, as we decided unanimously to try some of my tea, but no CSN played nevertheless. Casey and Andrew had bought some cake, also some nice Danish pastries. I had some fruit and we sat outside, I could offer a small balcony. The atmosphere was pervaded by uncertainty as we sat down, as all preparations had been done. It was Casey who decided to make the first step.

*

Saturday in Germany, already dark outside, Tuesday the next "corona meeting". Germany clueless, just in such a moment, a hard lockdown, but it did not function really - should I start now, how often I had seen violations of the rules? Longer and stricter measures they would announce, but maybe it would have been the best to be consistent right from the beginning on?

But this was not how it functioned - a look in the mirror was enough to find enough arguments for that statement. But maybe it was a different thing, talking about aspects that would affect you, or aspects that would affect others? It was funny to talk about the President of the United States of America, about his boundless narcissism - maybe it would help to set up mirrors everywhere, would be a nice art project, being Jeanne-Claude and Christo? We had problems with the vaccination? Others had problems therewith to get the vaccine.....?

*

"Okay Peter, my leg has gone, but this not means that I'm dead now. Of course, I'm not happy, but I have still many opportunities, maybe I will train for the Olympics? In any case, I have with Arnold somebody at my side on whom I can rely on, and also my parents support me. I don't say that it could not be cooler, but it could have been much worse, think about the officers who they murdered on Capitol Hill?"

"Thanks for your words, Casey. But it's not only your leg....."

".....you mean Tim?"

"Yes, also Tim."

"It's not on me to judge upon his behavior, but it should have been obvious to him that this could not function for him in any way. What if he had been "successful"? What would have happened to us then? Okay, killing you, okay, but Arnold, I, and the officers outside? And "they" would have congratulated him then, and would have told him: Good job Tim, go home now, your family waits at home? He has made a stupid decision, it would have been much better for him to work together with us - but okay, I have no children or so....."

"The baby?"

"We have still no idea about, what has happened with the baby."

"By the way Arnold, I've still absolutely no idea about, what has happened in the last few days. Only that we suddenly sit here and drink tea and eat cake?"

*

In fact, he was since a longer time no young boy anymore, but he had still problems with other people. He had started to work in a large bookshop in Karlsruhe, they had shown him where the place was, where the staff spent their breaks - with coffee machine and such things. It was not easy to find, hidden behind bookshelves somewhere. He could not find it anymore, but he did not dare to ask, so he started to spend his breaks outside. He worked not long there, the others thought he would be strange and maybe even arrogant.

Several years later he was in Karlsruhe back again, thought to visit the place, but the bookshop was no longer - a McDonald's in the down floor now. He did some research on the Internet, a sad story, many booksellers had lost their jobs overnight because of bad management. Well,.....

*

"First, I can't tell you everything....."

".....thanks for that!"

"Yeah, but it's also because I don't know everything."

"Okay, is it related to what happens in Washington at the moment, the alt-right?"

"Why you ask?"

"Because I've the feeling that a person like Mr. Allen would fit perfectly in this scheme, maybe even Mrs. Allen."

"Well, that's something what even I know only partially."

"But you would tell it me if it was different - in any case, or?"

"Not necessarily."

"Thanks for your honesty. And what can you tell me?"

"We think that you're no longer in danger because they have other problems now. Apart from that, was this action against you very personally motivated."

""They"? I think you cannot define this better?"

"Well,....."

"You will not do it."

"Yes. But also I have limited knowledge."

"Alt-right, or.....?"

"Alt-right is not bad because not that much telling."

"Personally Mr. Allen?"

"Mr. Allen."

"Mrs. Allen?"

"I would keep some distance, she's maybe not that much a victim as it maybe seems to you."

"So, Mr. Allen is the one who ordered the assaults?"

"I would say that he was the trigger."

"And why he, or anyone else, should be no longer interested in my deaths?"
"Because he has other problems now, and also they."
"For instance?"
"Saving their butts, especially Mr. Allen is very cooperative since the sixth."
"You mean.....?"
"Well, to order that a hustler gets tortured to death is one thing. Also to induce that a private investigator gets killed is maybe not the worst, but we talk about treason and such things now."
"You mean that Mr. Allen has transformed into a whistleblower?"
"Yes, and he's very forthcoming now. And what would be fucking for him now, would be another dead body."
"So, suddenly he's no longer interested to see me dead?"
"Quite the contrary! All eyes on the endgame now."
"Endgame?"
"Tomorrow is the seventeenth, next week, on Wednesday, the inauguration of Joe Biden, and then? Who knows at the moment what will be then, in the next four years."
"And Mr. Allen is involved in all this?"
"Gosh, no! Mr. Allen is a petty figure. But nevertheless, he had some excellent information."
"The house searches and arrests?"
"Yes, also he provided interesting information."
"Can you tell me something about the next days, about the threats we face?"
"You know how many are in Washington now?"
"I have heard something about twenty-five thousand, if I'm not wrong."
"I think that this gives you an answer."
"And what can I do?"
"Would you be a believer I would say pray. So, hope for the best."
"Wow, that's cold comfort."
"The best what we have at the moment. We had four years time, but we wasted all the time. It's the same as with the pandemic. React early and consistent, then you have a good chance that it will become not that bad, but.....we have wasted all our time, now we can only hope."
"Hope for what?"
"That our democracy, our institutions and our military will be strong enough - somebody the last piece of the Black Forest cake?"

*

Wish you the best!

Sunday, The Seventeenth

A quiet Sunday, not one word from the traitor in office - it was a good day so far. And it could only become better, football would start soon - everything okay?

Two days more, and it would happen, soon we would have a new president - well, he was already more president as this total failure who still occupied the White House. Very soon we would have over four hundred thousand deaths - this was a national tragedy, but were was the national outcry of the American people? Five hundred thousand at least were the new predictions, maybe even more. This was our new civil war, only fought differently. But the victims stayed the victims, the normal soldiers and the civilians, nothing had changed. Nothing? It would depend on, what would happen with the mobster in office, jail should be his future.

I leant back, closed my eyes and listened the voice from TV - pre-match reporting. Soon the first game would start, it was good that Casey and Andrew had visited me yesterday. It had been good to talk with them again. But now all eyes on the twentieth, and of course on the two games from today,

as Patrick Mahomes entered the field. The dominator of the first game? Maybe, but I had to be honest, the second game was the game I looked forward to - I had not to say why, or?

*

One more day and it would be the twentieth, maybe a very crucial day for Germany. The next corona meeting with Angela Merkel and the governors, anything else than a harder and longer lockdown would be a surprise - or? Objections were to hear, but no definite ideas to do it better - it made it easy to criticize when you had nothing to decide. Still more cases in Germany as in the USA, during WWII died millions of German soldiers and millions of German civilians. We had under fifty thousand corona deaths so far, should this tell you something? - Touchdown Chiefs, extra point.....?

The Last Two Days Of.....?

Two days had been left till.....? But maybe this was not the question for the moment? Maybe: Two days of what? Or maybe even more important: What would happen during this last two days?

Yesterday had happened nothing, at least nothing that theoretically could have happened. A few demonstrators in front of some state capitols, but no armed mob was to see. Maybe the president would pardon a hundred people or so in his last hours, maybe his family, maybe even oneself, but this would have no meaning. Only a few hours later we would have all times to investigate such action, as well as the whole last four years. So, all this would have no real meaning, not for the moment.

That Joe Biden was to hear daily now was of meaning. An undisturbed Wednesday would be of importance, a good speech on Wednesday would be of importance. Fast action of the team Biden / Harris from the first hour on would be of importance. Bold Democrats who would pressure the GOP to show their color's would be important, that they would have to decide which path for the future they would like to follow. Such things would be important - why the team I hoped for always not made it? Especially Los Angeles and New Orleans, but also Baltimore.....well, Chiefs vs. Browns I had had no real favorite.....

*

The first of two days that we had to get over with. In Germany only some hours were left, in the States some more. Not much had happened so far, in Germany new surprisingly low numbers of new infections. But now it became know that it was only because of wrong numbers form some states, tomorrow the next corona meeting.

Good old Germany? The conservative party in Germany, the CDU, had elected a new party chairman. A runoff between a candidate who stood for the politics of Angela Merkel, Armin Laschet, and a candidate who argued that the conservatives should become "more conservative" again, to orientate more to the right, Friedrich Merz. Wow, Armin Laschet won, I feared that Friedrich Merz would win.

And now? I had no exact idea what 2021 would provide, would I live long enough to see the first real crises related to climate change?

Yesterday had been Martin Luther King Jr. Day, what would be tomorrow? But today was today, a day that hopefully would end soon. Nothing was important today anymore, only that the day would end. Tomorrow, it would be important that tomorrow would begin, and the day after tomorrow of

course.

*

A normal Tuesday in Germany, later the new corona measures would become announced. But apart from that.....

*

I would have to make some decisions, what about Mr. Kenay for instance. I had had no contact with him or his daughter for days now - or even longer? I had no motivation for a phone call today, not tomorrow either, but I had to face this topic. Other matters would have to be decided, but today was not the day for decisions, today was the day to wait, watching the clock ticking down. Maybe I should cook me something, would take some time from the clock.....

*

Some stricter measures till February the fourteenth, the result of today. Some decline in the last few days, but many uncertainties about the mutations. Some words from the chancellor, enough? Why not saying loud and clear that.....I never would be a good politician.

*

I had seen a president today, no not that man on his way to Florida, the man on his way from Delaware to Washington, the man who now had arrived in Washington. I saw a man of empathy, a man with tears in his eyes, not hatred in his heart and insanity in his brain.

A New Era To Begin?

I stood up very early today, shaved for the first time since days, a long and hot shower was very refreshing. New clothes, not those worn for many days, prepared a tea, sipped at the hot tea. Thought on Joe Biden, his speech in Delaware, later in Washington - the beginning of a new era in the United States of America? If it was that easy, it was very moving to see the lights reflecting in the water, the whole sight, but would this be enough?

In a moment I was confused - "him as president"? What should this mean? Was it on me to talk about it, even to judge about it? Was it the expression of a deep honoring of his late son? Or was it the expression of the American economic and political oligarchy, that only a few families were chosen to lead the United States, white families with West European roots, economically and politically? I was not sure about it, I was confused.

Tomorrow, hopefully he would start bold tomorrow. What was to hear about his plans for the first day sounded very encouraging, it was important to erase the last four years. To rejoin the democratic world again would be so important, no longer being the leper, only loved by autocrats and dictators. But the pandemic, the situation of people with normal incomes, the majority of the American people? Racism, the still existing threat to our democracy from the far-right? But today was the twentieth, today Joe Biden would become our new president and Kamala Harris our new vice president. Today was a day to hope, a day for joy, a day to celebrate!

*

One thousand seven hundred thirty-four deaths because of corona in Germany yesterday. The highest number ever - yes, also due to too late reported numbers, especially from one state. Would

be equivalent with six thousand nine hundred and thirty-six deaths in the United States - had one to say more?

Yes, the last days less new infections, but it would need time to get back to acceptable numbers, and the threat of the new mutations? Whatever, seen from whatever angle, this was no day in Germany to be happy.

*

Imagine, you would wake up in the United States today, as an American citizen, what would you feel? Well, I fear it would depend very much on whom you would be. Maybe you would be hopeful, maybe disappointed, maybe full of hate. Maybe you would have tears in your eyes, as I, many hours still to wait. Maybe you would be angry, in rage, lusting for revenge. There was no distinct answer to this question.....unfortunately.

And in exactly four years? After Joe Biden's term, after he would have not run for a second term, maybe with Kamala Harris waiting to swear the oath for presidency, together with a female vice president? Yeah Mr. Petty, hoping for the wide open future.....

I had decided to have breakfast, normally I had never breakfast. But today was a special day, today was a day of history, as if we had not seen so many historic days in such a short time now. But this time it was something very special, maybe it would need some days to feel the relief finally? The president who was voted out of office, after only one term, still stained the White House, but the helicopter already waited - and then he appeared and the helicopter lifted of!

It broke my heart - gosh, of course not! My heart jubilated! Now Joe Biden could begin with, to clean the pigpen the White House had become during the last four years, to make it again to a place of honor and dignity.

Air Force One took off, his words? Did he say something? What a strange feeling, were this the first signs of relief? Yeah, fuck, they were!

Two oaths had been sworn, a speech had been held, a poem had been recited. A poem, the by far strongest moment of the ceremony for me, set by a young African American woman. A speech from a president facing all that, that he had spoken about. Racism, the threat of white supremacists, economic challenges, inequality, and so much more. I was surprised, positively surprised, about the clearness of his words, the distinctness in which he had described the last four years, his passion and empathy.

Would this be a movie, a Hollywood movie, we all would know the sequel. Amanda Gorman would become a Nobel Prize laureate, not many women, how many not white women so far? Maybe she would even become president - Hollywood knew no limits in fiction. We would make a time jump maybe, a hundred years into the future, in front of a statue of Joe Biden, the man who had started to unite the United States of America. And yet, with all the just seen and heard in mind, suddenly there was the feeling, that all this could really happen! For four years one could imagine everything that everything could become even worse. One could suddenly imagine everything that everything could become good, not only as good as before, but good as never ever.

There once was a moment in American history, an African American man - "Yes, we can!" - became President of the United States of America - suddenly everything seemed to be possible! And yet, two wasted years, years of blockade by Mitch McConnell, not much had happened after eight years, nothing compared to what all seemed to be possible at this day twelve years ago.

The best possible had been done today, today was a wonderful day, a sudden feeling of liberty, a sudden feeling to be free again. A free mind, who was now ready again being creative again, a mind

shaking off the bonds that had paralyzed him for four years now, everything seemed to be possible suddenly - tomorrow? *The hills*.....

Bravely Ahead!

Bravely ahead you have to go
To change the world to its better
But what if crushed
By all the suffering all over the world

But so much has changed, only the last hundred of years
But the basic, underlying, structures
But if surrender, evil will prevail
But if evil only plays a dirty game

Let us play a game
Okay
We give a man a chance to change things, after an evil time
Okay

Let us see what will be possible to him
Okay
And after four years we can add everything up
Okay

That seems to be fair to me
But we both should be not allowed to interfere
Okay
Then I would say that we've a deal

Four years to judge upon the world
Will he even have a chance
A lot, not to say everything, seems to have the potential to make life awkward for him
But should he dominate anyway, that would make his triumph only more glorious

Four years
No long time
Four years of destruction
Over now

Let us see
At the beginning of January
2025
Let us be here back again then.....

The old man felt.....he was not sure about. Contradictory streams in his mind, but couldn't he be arrogant? Time moved all the times one way, constantly. Time would transform into history, and history would give the answers, time would give all the answers, one had only to wait. The old man

felt not better now.....

The boy was never sure about his feelings, how to express them - well, that changed not really with the years. The human behavior confused the boy, much appeared to him as hypocritical or fraudulent, in any case very - too - complicated and "awkward" (?), even if labeled as "normal and accepted human behavior". Well, also that changed not really with the years. The boy felt not much protected in this human world, he didn't feel really fine in this world. Well, as expected, also that changed not really with the years. The boy felt very much alone. Well,.....

I had hoped for, that the president would act fast. It was good to see him in the Oval Office, sitting behind the desk, a pile of seventeen executive orders at his side. He signed three of them in front of the cameras, it was good to see this, as well as to see Kamala Harris in the Senate. It was to hope for, that they would continue in this way, to dominate the discourse from now on. A good day, a good beginning.

*

Fifteen executive orders had been signed now, only hours after the inauguration: The wall, Paris Climate Agreement, DACA, Muslim travel ban, WHO, Keystone XL pipeline, masks.....I was very impressed by the speed, the speed that would be necessary to make clear that a new president was there now, that the last four years had yield nothing, except a tax break that had expanded the deficit - the tax topic would be an interesting topic for the next four years. Four ugly years for nothing, maybe more billions for the super-rich, but apart from that? It was, for what I had hoped for - soon the first press conference, an event that would deserve this title again I would assume.

*

Wow, where had this woman gone, always so aggressive, always so arrogant, always so badly informed, always lying all the times? I was somewhat puzzled, daily press briefings like this one, again briefings with experts about the pandemic, maybe even with profound information? First phone call with Trudeau, not with Czar Putin? Please no new paint for Air Force One. "Pro-life"? - I looked forward to tomorrow.....

*

One chapter had ended, a new chapter had begun? I would found no sleep tonight.....

Brave New World?

I was a tough man.....no, at the end not. Living in a tough city, a tough nation? Maybe better in an unfair nation, an unfair city. But the nation had got a new chance, and it felt like a real chance, even a day later. But it would be important to grab the chance, to hang on to the chance, not to allow others to steal the chance again, as the last time.

A lot about healing was to hear now, but healing implied a patient, somebody who had got ill, had been healthy before. But this nation had been sick right from the beginning on, never this nation had been a healthy nation, viruses and cancer everywhere. But by looking at other nations all around the world it became obvious that this was the normality, every nation always threatened by such illnesses. But this was not the problem, the importance was, that the national body was equipped

with a robust immune defense - ours had nearly collapsed and was still wounded.

No, I was no tough man, I was not suited being a hero or something like that. I had to try to structure my life again, to find some ground again - had I ever? I had had some cases of public interest, a public figure I had been two or three times, but not because of being the all-American hero, in the end I always failed. I had to make some decisions, the first was about Mr. Kenay, maybe about his daughter, and then about my future, still trying to be a private dick?

But today was a very special day, today was the day after the inauguration of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris as POTUS and VPOTUS. They had started with verve yesterday, and they would continue so today. Maybe in three days the impeachment was over was to hear, they wasted no time! I grabbed the phone and dialed the number of Mr. Kenay's daughter, to fix a meeting with her and her father. Tomorrow in the afternoon, I would bring the cake with.

*

More deaths in average over the last seven days as in the USA, that was the devastating reality in Germany today, as the number of new infections continuously dropped. Apart from that, not much had happened in Germany yesterday, not much would happen today. We would elect a new chancellor this year, but this was not such a spectacle like in the States. No long primary race, none at all. A short election campaigning, not a billion dollar spectacle, we had a representational party democracy. Maybe somewhat boring but much cheaper and maybe not so vulnerable to bigmouths and wannabe dictators. And popular vote and a multi-party system were stabilizing factors also.

Well, not such a pomp we had. The inauguration ceremony, what all happened around it and after it - no, in Germany all much more reduced and not so extravagant. We had had this during the Imperial Era, later with all the flags and torches and that stuff during the Third Reich, we no longer liked this. But it fit to the United States of America, for better and for worse.

*

Sitting at home and watching Dr. Fauci – wow, he was back again! He looked ten years younger, smiled, laughed, no grim president in his back. I thought that this would be a very fine image therefor, that things had changed - I had hoped for fast and bold action, I had to confess that I was very impressed now. No twenty-four hours - how many executive orders now? Nearly thirty! This administration sent a distinct signal that they had no interest in, to waste any time. What would President Joe Biden do on the weekend? Playing golf? I had the feeling that it maybe could even be, that he would work during the weekend, and not only he.

Meeting An Old Man And His Daughter

We sat, as always, in the living room, tea and cake on the table.

"We're pleased to see you alive, it has to have been a very dramatic time for you, the past days and weeks."

"Well, the sixth was a shock for all of us, at least for all freedom-loving Americans. But now we have a new president.....well, Mitch? We have to see whether he's again on the trip, trying to make Joe Biden to a one-term president "

"Yes, these are really moving times, but that was not what I meant. Someone tried to kill you, two times?"

"But obviously failed - and of course this is not the reason wherefore I asked you and your father for this meeting."

"You have new information?"

"That wouldn't be my words, Mr. Kenay. I asked you to be here today because I have the need to talk with you, to talk about some of my feelings."

"Feelings?"

"Yes, feelings. Do you know some of this British private detectives? I love Hercule Poirot the most."

"Not that much - you dad?"

He shook with his head.

"Well, they have one in common, at the end of the story they are in one room with all the suspects and he, the detective, explains then who, and also why, the murderer is."

"And you will do the same today? We have a murder case?"

"That's the point, would I be Hercule Poirot then I could do this, but I'm Peter Maurer. And I'm also no Belgian, maybe that's the problem."

"And why then we're here today - you wanted to talk about your feelings, sorry."

"Yes, I had some time in the last few days and weeks to ponder about the evening, when Mrs. Kenay died."

"And you came to a conclusion?"

"Quite on the contrary, Mr. Kenay. Many contradictory thoughts and feelings I have, that's all."

"And you wanna talk with us about those thoughts and feelings?"

"Yes."

*

The political normality in Washington had begun, Mitch McConnell had begun to play games again, no longer the majority leader. It was good to see that the Democrats seemed not to be willing to accept this any longer, to hear Chuck Schumer and to see Nancy Pelosi's action.

The Republicans could block the \$1.9T stimulus plan? I was not confident about, if this was good for the Republicans after the last four years, not to support the Americans now, the Americans who needed support the most. In two years the next important elections, some more Stacey Abrams', consistent and continuous voter motivation during the next two years? Voter motivation with a clear message: With a distinct majority also in Senate we could do all that what was needed to create a better America, no longer depending on this corrupt, and in their oath on the constitution doubtful, Republicans - only to mention the two QAnon supporters in Congress now.

*

"I've done some investigation, maybe more than you're aware of. I've worked together with the police, maybe more than you're aware of. I've pondered a lot, maybe more than you're aware of. I've tried to find a real hint, a resilient hint. But, and that I have to confess, I've found many possible hints for anything, but not more. Three main ideas. Suicide, a murderer from outside, or I drink tea and eat cake with the murderer at the moment - sorry that I'm that blunt. Let us talk about these possibilities. First, suicide.

I can't help it, but I have massive problems with this possibility. It seems not to fit, all I could find out about Mrs. Kenay seems to contradict this possibility. Sure, you can never be sure, people can be very delusive, but I see this possibility not as a realistic scenario - a murderer from outside.

There is simply not the slightest hint therefore, that a stranger had been in the house. Again, this not excludes that a stranger had been in here, but on this basis it's simply pure speculation. Now the third possibility, and now we have a little problem. Mr. Kenay? I cannot see you not as a murderer, maybe an accomplice, but not a murderer. But if all this were true, sorry, but then you have to be the murderer."

I looked at Mr. Kenay's daughter.

"Well, that's a bit strange now. We have no longer a crazy president, but therefor a crazy private detective. You have absolutely no clue about anything, but you accuse me of being the murderer of my mother - are you nuts?"

"I have not said that you murdered your mother, nor you Mr. Kenay. The problem is, this possibility is at least as likely as the other two, in some ways even somewhat more."

"But in the end you know nothing?"

"Yes."

"And why then we're here together today?"

"Sometimes things simply happen."

"What did you expect, that I would start to cry, confessing a murder?"

I looked at Mr. Kenay, he seemed to be very self-controlled.

"I think it's better now that you leave."

His voice was very calm. I stood up and left the house.

Waiting On What Would Happen

Saturday, not much would happen today - whereby, I waited whether something would happen, and if what. Larry King was dead, he died today, of course the major news on TV, I had not that often listened to Larry King. The impeachment trial would start in two weeks, maybe no bad strategy. It would give room for the confirmations of Joe Biden's cabinet picks, and the former president was sentenced to two more weeks of silence. Would he start to babble shit again, say via still active far-right social media, then this would help only those who tried to impeach him finally, would set the GOP even more under pressure.

Joe Biden had said yesterday, that we would have to act like it would be a national emergency – "would be", Joe? Hey Joe, we had a national emergency! But maybe this was hairsplitting, his first days in office had been impressive. On Monday his first whole week in office would begin - what would we say next Saturday, how many executive orders he would have signed till then? Were this bold and consistent Democrats that I could see?

Had I been too aggressive? But what would have been the alternatives? The first two alternatives seemed to be so unlikely, only the third alternative seemed to make at least some sense. And if not? Maybe I had acted like an asshole, but.....I had acted like an asshole, but maybe it would lead to at least some truth.

I thought about what I could do with the day, had no work, all felt so different. I felt that I would need some more days to get used to this new time. It was like waking up after a four-year-long nightmare - you needed time to realize finally that the nightmare was in fact over now. And I had to figure out what to do with this new time - writing a novel, starting at January the twentieth, the inauguration of the upcoming dictator Donald Duck? Without any doubts, it was only a matter of time that this scenario would become a topic for novels and movies.

*

The old man had some trouble, the first weekend after the new time had begun. He could remember the moment, somewhat more than four years ago, as it had been yesterday. He had started to write, had planned his first travel to the United States of America, Los Angeles. And then this, his first reaction was: I have to cancel the travel.....but what about the writing, about Los Angeles? Only a day later his reaction was: Now more than ever! The travel, Los Angeles, writing - the best decision in his entire life!

And now, not November 2016 but January 2021? February 2017 he had been in Los Angeles, it would have been wonderful for him to do the same in February 2021, but it was simply impossible to do so. He was sad about it, maybe February 2022 - in any case, February 2022!

Suddenly, so much was different now, knowing that the threat was still there. But a good chance opened up for.....it was like in one of these movies. A jail amidst of an endless desert, the gate opens and a man with a back steps out, the door closes again. And there the man stood, some mountains in the far background, some white clouds on the blue sky, some sparse bushes in the foreground, dust, the wind and the man, waiting.....

Football!

It had become afternoon, only some minutes and the first of the last two games would begin, games before Super Bowl LV. I had slept long today, better I had not stood up, why I should have? A nice little late lunch, and now everything on the table what one needed for the long TV afternoon and evening - peppermint tea, a mocha, and a bowl with fruit. The first match, Buccaneers vs. Packers? Should I.....I was no Brady fan, it was simple as that - national anthem, kickoff Green Bay.

*

Well, first touchdown Brady, with the first drive.....not good, but the game had just begun.....

*

No points Green Bay.....no reason to get panic.....

*

Sack! No points Brady!

*

Sack Rodgers, but then good passing - end first quarter. First points Packers? Not the beginning I had hoped for, but Rodgers would find a good answer.
Second quarter - fuck, what a pass! This was the answer, I had hoped for!

*

What to say? Maybe, that this was the way how champions played? Next seven points for Brady in a forceful way! Okay, not forget the receiver.....

*

Only a field goal, three times the same receiver? This was not really champions like. Okay, still first half.....

*

Yes, fantastic defense! Zero points Brady!

*

Damn, no good! No points for Brady now.....

*

Ultimate penalty! Was this possible? Why always the team lost, that I would like to see to win? That was fucking played Green Bay - Brady the monster?

*

Halftime, fantastic football, but I was somewhat disappointed. I would need the time to come down somewhat.

*

Second half, Green Bay had to make points now - now Rodgers had to show that he was fit for the Super Bowl. - Fuck, that was a short drive, that was nothing! Brady the next seven points and then? Well, the next game I would have no favorite, therefor both teams could win. Too negative? Still a lot of time, but this was the worst possible beginning of the second half one could expect, at least if..... - touchdown Buccaneers, where was the Packers defense? 28:10, no two minutes second half? Wow, very bad! Now it was a matter of sink or swim!

*

Best possible answer Green Bay! Now the defense had to show up!

*

Interception! Big play defense, now Aaron Rodgers had to make points!

*

This drive had been a testing for one's nerves – only six points, no two point conversion, but everything possible again!

*

Interception again! Should the Packers win, then because of the fantastic defense!

*

Quarterback sack, the drive is over without beginning! Brady with his next good chance.

*

Field goal Buccaneers, eight points now! Come on Green Bay! Rodgers had to make points now! And not only a touchdown.....maybe overtime?

*

Only a field goal? Why only a field goal? Fourth attempt? Why Adams again? Always the same story with my predictions.....

*

It was not enough! I was a hoodoo, sorry Green Bay!

The next game had begun, Bills vs. Chiefs - should I predict a winner again? Well, Mahomes maybe? Okay, should the Chiefs lose, I would be to blame, definitively! The national anthem had

been very cool, and one had to confess, that the Buccaneers had been the better team. Green Bay hadn't played well at the end, the Buccaneers with a compelling play. - First points Buffalo? Sorry Chiefs, I felt sorry, honestly!

*

I was speechless! Punt, big mistake, the next six points for the Bills - I was an angel of death! Please Chiefs, could you maybe win?

*

Touchdown Chiefs, a big relieve!

*

Second touchdown Chiefs! Now the Chiefs in the lead, but a lot of time left. Nevertheless, I felt somewhat better now.....

*

Third touchdown in a row Chiefs, no points for the Bills anymore. Still second quarter!

*

Okay, Buffalo with a field goal, first half was over. At the moment it seemed as it could be, that this time - hard to believe! - "my" team would win. But, still a whole halftime, still everything was possible. Buccaneers vs. Chief would be not bad?

*

Second half began, and Kansas with the chance to expand their lead - next touchdown? - Okay, this time only a field goal, but the lead increased.

*

Field goal Buffalo, no problems so far for the Chiefs, especially should they score again now.

*

What a run! Next touchdown? - Touchdown! Wow, hadn't I said that I would see the Chiefs as favorites?

*

Interception, and I feared for the Bills, that the Chiefs would use this chance better than Green Bay. - Well, next touchdown, the game would be over, you had not to be a prophet to say this, even with still nearly eight minutes on the clock. So, Buccaneers vs. Chiefs - my favorite? I would say nothing anymore, I had nothing to say because it was obvious.

*

Now it became strange: Touchdown Bills, two point conversion missed, intercepted and some beef.

I had been distracted for a moment, Buffalo started the game again with the kickoff – onside kick and they recovered the ball? Buffalo with the ball again? Still four minutes on the clock? Oh, much could happen in four minutes.....

*

What a catch! One wide pass and Buffalo in the red zone? Still nearly four minutes on the clock! - Third and ten, quarterback under big pressure and the big beef started! Sack? Whistle? Discussions? I had to confess that I was for a moment not in, I had to do something very important, I had to say what?

Minutes later, all penalties offset, fourth down? Fourth and twenty-eight to go, field goal attempt, fifty-one yards, but seventeen behind? Okay, the field goal was good, but what now?

*

Onside kick number two, but this time the Chiefs' return team was warned and reacted – game over, over three minutes on the clock? Chiefs two touchdowns in the lead, but maybe I should be not so fast with my predictions this time?

Still beef, but this not helped Buffalo. Chiefs controlled the clock, an impressive third and ten, the game was over and the ancient wisdom was still true: It's not over till it's over! - Next stop Super Bowl.....

Monday

I stood up late the day, had found no real sleep. No, not because of the excitement of the games, it was because I was no longer sure about, whether I had acted correctly or not. If not, then I had caused a lot of unnecessary pain. If yes? I could prove nothing, that was not enough!

The TV distracted me. Yes, today the impeachment became delivered to the Senate - or it had already been done? But this was not the point, another news gathered my attention: Dominion Voting System, a Canadian - funny! - company for voting machines and voting software sued the former president's VIP buddy "Rudy", a \$1.3 billion defamation suit, what a nice beginning this day had for me! Now it would be very nice, to hear also about legal action regarding the dangerous anti-democrat in Florida. Two weeks till the impeachment trial in the Senate would begin.

I was not in my office today, I was reachable for everyone, but no one was interested in. What alternatives I would have, no longer private dick? I had had many different jobs in my life, but nothing with much substance, would be not easy in this situation to find another job. Yes, all this private investigators from the novels, often they had worked for the police or something like that, army with combat experience. I had served, Gulf War especially, H. W. Bush was our commander-in-chief - supply unit! I was fifty-five now, nearer to fifty-six, retirement? Well, would be not that easy without any income, especially without income during the next years. Well, I had at no time made much money as a private investigator, maybe any kind of job would be okay? How about \$15 as minimum wage? Never made fifteen bucks an hour as private dick.....

I had a few spectacular cases during the years, the press reported, statewide even, one time even nationwide, big media reported about one of my cases as a side note. But anyhow, maybe I should have written a book, being more economic orientated, as a guest in radio shows and on TV? In hindsight the question arose, why I had not acted like others would have acted? Without any doubts I could be a famous person now, would I had exploited my "spectacular" cases in a consistent American way. And? Would I be more happy today then? Richer in any case, and who knew whom all I would call my friend, which celebrity I could call a client? I was no good ambitious American, no wonder that I voted always for Democrats, I was a loser.

*

The daily political work in Washington had begun, the first whole week for the Biden administration, and it had begun like last week had ended. Consistent, executive orders.....bold Democrats in House and Senate.....but now it would be interesting to see, how the Republicans would position themselves. Huckabee in Kentucky, the usual suspects with the usual hypocrite and hilarious statements. But now the GOP could show that they had learned at least something out of the last four years, all their defeats. This week had the potential to become a very interesting week.

Interlude Day I

I had decided to take two days off, had left a message that I would be in the office on Thursday again, for the unlikely possibility that someone would be interested in to reach out for me today or tomorrow. My plans?

Well, in the time of pandemic? Today I had decided to leave the city behind me, some nature would do me good, some time in the mountains that surrounded the city on two sides. End of January, cold, it had snowed somewhat the last days. In the city one saw not much or nothing about it, but here in the higher regions everything was white. Not that much as in my youth, by far not, every year it became warmer and wetter during the winter. On the other hand, this winter was much colder and with more snow than the last years, had heard something about the polar vortex, the vortex had collapsed or so, and for this reason this winter was colder than the previous winters. But this was okay, while I walked through the snow. Unfortunately no sun was to see, and because I had stood up late it would not need long and it would begin to darken.

The number of cases had dropped significantly over the last days, after a devastating high climax, normally the number of hospitalizations and deaths should follow soon. But not only the United States feared the new mutations, they could become a game changer, in a negative sense. Some countries like the UK suffered already heavily from this new mutations, other countries feared their development would follow the UK. It could become a race, the too slow vaccination vs. the new mutations. The fight against the pandemic so far had been a mere disaster, with a former president who was not interested at all in the suffering and dying of the American people, not his people. Could Joe Biden win this race, with this devastating inheritance, it would be not only for the American people a win.

I started to freeze, it was already somewhat dark, even that it would still an hour or so till sunset, the sun behind thick clouds. I decided to walk back to the car, to drive back, maybe some shopping on the way back home. It had been nice to be at least for a few hours outside, outside the rooms, outside the city, outside the daily grind. Hadn't the last days and weeks not been exciting enough? Yeah, but what now?

*

Much was in progress in the States now, very crucial first hundred days. Much was tough to value, much simply unpredictable, human life, making history. It was like physics, a two-body problem was easy to solve. A three-body problem, and it became difficult. But what if you had not only two or three "bodies", but many more? And as if this were not enough, all this "bodies" would not obey such logic laws like the law of gravity, but would behave unpredictable, not to say, often enough highly irrational? This would be pure chaos, it would be absolutely unpredictable what the outcome would be, it would be like writing human history.

The virus, the next question? When enough vaccine would be available? Long-term effects? New mutations? The irrational behavior of the people? Like knowing that (too much) sweets did you no good, but you ate them anyway? Yeah, exactly like that!

Now starting talking about climate change? The irrationalism of racism? Maybe it was better not to

begin with all this.....

*

Home again, I had had roasted carrots with onion, garlic and egg for dinner, an interesting day it had been in Washington. The next executive orders - perfect! The Rand Paul freak show - what they thought, this trial would be good for? To impeach a former president? Or maybe to show how corrupt and rotten the today's GOP was?

It had begun with Ronald Reagan, maybe before, but I was only fifty-five. Two failures named Bush, John McCain and the Tea-Party movement.....it had been a long process, but now the GOP was what it were. It was important to show the American public this figures. The McCarthy era ended as he had to appear on television, as the American public could see with their eyes what a corrupt and disgusting man this man was – in the same the Democrats had to treat the GOP today. The Democrats had to force them to say clearly their yeas and nays, one after the other, audible for the American public.

I was not certain about, whether I should hope for that the GOP would split. It would destroy the GOP of course, but could this be an aim? Not with our voting system, with a multi-party system this would be no problem, on the contrary, it could be perfect for a modern democracy - but modern and the United States of America, this beacon for the world?

A new job? I looked at one of my shelves: Hammett, Chandler, Spillane, Macdonald.....

Interlude Day II

.....*we're America, we're bold*..... - I misheard.....did our president say this? If yes, I had to confess that I was impressed by the speed and boldness of his administration so far, also the Democrats in both chambers of Congress. Especially to see how broad his initiatives and executive orders were, or that he had started activities in areas, areas, even Democrats not liked to touch so far. The private prison system seemed critical to me, the directive about transgender people in the army of enormous importance and with a high signaling effect.

I had decided to stay at home today, had cooked me a nice lunch, now I sat in front of the TV and listened to our president. What a different experience this was today than only some days ago! Hey, no fact check after such an event was needed anymore - in a way fact checks were redundant also before, at least ninety-five percent lies always, so far you rather needed someone to find a piece of truth from time to time, under all this lies.

It all could be so good now, relaxing, wouldn't be the truth that the United States faced an existence-threatening constitutional crisis - as if an economic crisis, a social crisis, a healthcare crisis, a climate crisis, a crisis caused by racism.....were not enough. Our political system was near the collapse, and again the most problematic aspect was, that there was not only one cause for it.

Nevertheless, there was a major problem, our voting system that resulted in a two-party system. It needed only one party that started to stumble, and the whole system was questioned. Not so in countries with a multi-party system, with popular vote. In such countries it was no disaster when parties fell apart or fused, when parties perished or new parties arose, the system as such was never endangered. Not so in the USA.

Would the GOP fall apart or decide to stay with the former president, then this would be devastating for the USA. It would raise the question about the future of the United States of America - this development seemed more a danger for the United States as a united commonwealth to me, than the Civil War. Now it would be important that the Democrats would stay strong and bold, the GOP had to find an internal solution for their self-inflicted crisis, because this would be the only possible solution. But the GOP acted not strong and bold, most of them stayed bigoted weak wieners, no backbone, no guts, no balls, no pride to be an American, no respect for our constitution and flag.

*

The deaths rate seemed to drop again, but only slightly and fragile. The rate of infections seemed to reach a plateau, on a much too high level, after a certain drop. The experts feared the mutations, in Germany the mutations were still not dominant as in other nations around. At the moment it felt like being in the eye of the storm, but the storm would move on, it would be starry-eyed to expect that this situation could stabilize. And of course, also in Germany we had huge problems with getting the vaccine, distributing the vaccine, vaccinating the people.

In my county the number of new infections had dropped significantly, not in the independent city of Heilbronn, some decrease also there, but not so much, still on a far too high level. Would the development in the county be consistent for two or three more weeks, the situation could be relatively good again - could. In the eye of the storm? I had no good feeling.....

Being Lazy

In a spontaneous decision I decided that morning to skip work today - outside everything was gray, and it rained and most probably it would rain the whole day. A short check, nobody had left a message during the last two days, not very surprising, why somebody should be interested in to meet me today? So I lay in bed again, no office today, thought about that I had not much food at home. A few eggs, some bread? Why not eggs on bread later, sunny side up of course, I liked it when the bread became saturated with the liquid egg yolk.....

*

Over four thousand deaths in the USA, nearly nine hundred in Germany - not that much of a difference. But compared with countries like Brazil or the UK? Bolsonaro, Johnson and Donald Duck - could anybody see some similarities? And Germany? Angela Merkel - I still had never elected her - advocated all the time for stricter measures, as a physicist with reference to the scientific experts, but there were some men, and these men knew it better as the female chancellor.....

*

Still impressed by the speed and the dynamic of the Biden administration I was, the Democratic Party as such. DC as a new state, why not also Puerto Rico and other territories? Could it be that the Democrats had woken up, that they felt that now it was the time to head towards a kind of decision, a decision about the future of the United States? To pressure the GOP and to force them to show up their colors? Some talked about the risks regarding the voting in two years, that it would come the point when Joe Biden could no longer sign his daily executive orders, that they would need to cast all their initiatives into laws some day, that they would need the GOP therefor - really?

The worst the GOP could do now was to follow the mobster in Florida furthermore. To obstruct like they did for six years under President Barack Obama, a radical minority would cheer, but moderate Republicans would have severe problems then, to follow this GOP. Why not staying bold and brave? Why not signing for the next two years every day ten and more executive orders? Why not passing all the laws they could without the GOP, why not risking seeing what would happen in two years then - who said that all this would have to be bad for the Democrats, showing to be the party of acting and reforming?

The GOP was under pressure, who could say what "GOP" would mean in two years from now? In half a year? The Democrats had to move on, forcefully, they were the party that could only win at the moment, the GOP was at the edge to lose everything. It would be not good for the United States to destroy the GOP, but in any case they had to pay a price for their behavior during the previous

four years, a very high political and juridical price!

I thought about Nashville, should I do some research on the Internet? Looking for a Wikipedia page? The eggs on bread had been perfect, bread with butter and honey now?

Visit From An Old Man's Daughter

I sat in my office, a small office in a large office block, not exactly downtown. Not long, and it would be closing time, but I had to wait - the GOP develop not in a good way. For a moment it had seemed, as that they could overcome their self-inflicted canine devotion respecting their wannabe dictator, but only for some days. At the moment it seemed as the wannabe dictator could get a second chance, and such people were excellent at using second chances. The phone rang, an internal call, the call I had waited for. I stood up, opened the door and waited till the elevator - not far from my office - would open, that I could greet my awaited guest. The elevator opened.

"Nice to see you!"

I said this the moment as the doors had opened, and she wanted to leave the elevator. She was surprised, stood still, and nearly the doors closed again - she jumped out of the elevator.

"Yeah, you.....sure, the woman at the reception."

"Yes, they inform me when somebody comes. Especially after what had happened."

"Sure, I was here also yesterday, but you were not in."

"I know."

"Yes, of course."

"Maybe we should go in? I have fresh coffee and a tea is easy to prepare."

We walked inside, sat down, I had a small table with three chairs to talk with clients. We decided to have a coffee, unfortunately no cake today.

"What can I do for you?"

"Well, that's a strange question, to say it nicely. Or.....?"

"Well, you came to me, it seems as that you have a concern?"

"I have no concern? But you don't think that you owe me an explanation for that what you did to my father and me? Why you did this?"

"Do you think that it was a mistake what I did?"

"Is this a question?"

"If you and your father are innocent, then no. But if you or your father did it? - Wait a moment, please. I've seen a clip recently, a sex-tape from a celebrity, it looked totally real, more real than most of the real stuff. But it was a fake, and it had been very difficult to prove that it was a fake. The question about truth was never an easy question, but we head into a time now, where "truth" becomes a very blurred matter."

"And assumed that we're innocent? Are you aware of that, what that means for us?"

"Do you know that feeling, that you sometimes want to know the truth? Not to judge or to sentence, only to know the truth?"

"And if I say yes or no than you know the "truth"?"

"No, even if you say yes. You could say that you did it, but in fact your father did it. You could say your father did it, but in fact you did it. And so on, and so on. Nevertheless, I would like to know the truth, the "why"?"

"Not to "judge or sentence"? You're a private detective, how naive you think that I'm?"

"Even if you would say now, I did it, you would be safe. I have no proof, you could say that you never said it."

"And of course you don't record what I'm saying? Do you really think I'm only a stupid naive girl? And what you absolutely don't seem to accept is the possibility, that maybe you're on the wrong track, maybe it was simply a suicide?"

"I have no proof, but there are hints. I have done investigation, I said this before. For many your mother seemed to be the nice old women, but I found enough hints that show that the truth is more

complicated. She was not always that nice - or? Dementia is also a topic - I have no final proof, but all leads towards one direction. I have close contact with Robert, the police officer responsible for your cases, he has closed the case, at least till new evidence would appear. I have not told him everything I know."

"Why?"

"If my story were true, then I could.....understand you."

"But you're not sure about it?"

"Yes."

"You're confusing. You say that I could lie, even if I say that I did it....or my father. You're suggesting a motive and imply that, if this were the truth you would do nothing - why I'm here?"

"You came, you came yesterday and you came today. I've not asked you to come."

"Maybe my motive is somewhat different from yours?"

"Maybe."

"You said that you would understand me, if.....your mother?"

"No, it's because that I can understand everyone all the time. But this is a different story."

"Really?"

"It's late now, dinner? I know a nice unelaborate Indian restaurant around the corner - you like Indian food?"

"Yes, I like Indian food and I'm somewhat hungry, but why I should have dinner with you?"

*

The GOP at the crossroads, now we could see what the GOP would decide, what their way into the future would be. Remaining a democratic party, or decaying (ultimately) into a anti-democratic party with a Fuehrer, like a communist cadre party. But would that be existent-threatening for the United States? This would much depend on the behavior of the moderate parts of the GOP.

Germany, March the twenty-fourth 1933, the parliament, the Reichstag, voted about the Enabling Act, the act that would give Adolf Hitler all the power to become the dictator whereof he dreamt about. The votes of the conservatives would decide. A nay would mean that Adolf Hitler would suffer a big defeat - nobody was able to say what that would have meant for history. A yea would give him ultimate power - the rest was history. The point was, the conservatives had a choice at this certain moment - yea or nay. They decided to vote "yea" - WWII, concentration camps, many millions died.

The GOP had a decision to make, yea or nay. The moderate conservatives had to decide, and they had to make it fast. Adolf Hitler had been a little first class private in WWI, he had no billions, he had nothing, was poor. He had no net-work, no social media. He had nothing at the beginning. How much the more one could achieve, having a better starting point? A strange fact? Hitler's first attempt to become the dictator, that he wanted to be, failed. He even spent some time in prison, but he came back, sometimes one could find strange parallels in historic developments. But the GOP had still the choice - yea or nay.

*

"Can I ask you a question first, a question you maybe answer honestly? Whatever "honestly" should mean at the moment."

"Yes. I would have also an important question then - but you begin."

We sat in the Indian restaurant, I liked it to be there. Well, it was a simple restaurant, not one where you had to wait to be placed - I hated this. But the food was very good, it had a relaxed atmosphere, we had both a chai in front of us, had ordered both a starter and a main course.

"You said that you could understand me, but assumed that your story would be true? This would be something like: A mother and wife that had made life very difficult for her daughter and her husband, maybe had even terrorized them. They saw none other possibility then, then to murder her

- a retirement home maybe?"

"It's not that easy, especially when you have no money and no good health care plan."

"But, even if one can understand something, a murder stays a murder, a private detective a private detective - you have to swear an oath or something like that?"

"An oath? Some swear an oath and spit on our constitution and flag afterwards, call this by greed-driven behavior "patriotic" then."

"But still, an old woman would have been killed, her life had been taken away?"

"Would my story be true, then a man and a woman would have suffered a lot. They had tried to find a solution, but the society and the government had told them that this would be their private problem, till they despaired and did something very.....it's only a story, not more."

"What's your question?"

"You've a gun in your purse?"

"It would be legal in the state."

"You said that I'm a private investigator, that's true. People tend to do stupid things when despaired. It would be not good if they would find me killed by a sub-caliber gun, nobody would think that this had been done by the guys who tried this already two times. I wear protection, not because of you, but I feel better then. I have to confess that the last few days have left their marks on me. An envelope exists also, I will throw it away one day, but not now. I've meant it, I can prove nothing, I record nothing."

"Can I ask you another question?"

"Of course."

"You had some very spectacular cases in your life?"

"Really?"

"Pedophiles became arrested once, even in foreign countries. You helped a family and many other cases?"

"Yeah, the case from right the beginning? I was only a figure on the chessboard, the players were others. A Chinese girl's life is destroyed because of my inability, as well as the life of a young African American man. A mother killed the murderer of her daughter because I could not do it, she's in prison now, like the Chinese girl and the young African American man. I helped a family? Her daughter is dead, as well as the other young girl. A woman I.....she committed suicide instead of shooting me. I fucked everything up, I could not even.....I was....."

"Do you really think that you can understand me?"

"I can understand everyone, I can empathize with everyone."

"Even with a murderer?"

"I can empathize that it's an arousing feeling to rape a woman, to torture her, to kill her. Mentally and physically."

"Wow, that's more than I wanted to know."

"I can empathize also with the woman, totally."

Saturday

The next week would tell us a much about the GOP, the stability of the American democracy, a story would get told. A story about men, and a few women who tried to be the better men, but mostly about men and male behavior.

Would I ever run across with Mr. Kenay again, or his daughter? Would be better not, I had the feeling that everything had been said, everything had been pointed out. One of this situations where it was obvious, that every word more, every action more, would only worsen the situation, even if one could describe the consisting situation as not necessarily satisfying.

You had only to look in the faces of those who had stormed the Capitol, had chanted "hang Mike Pence", had worn disgusting Nazi shirts, all that what we all had seen on TV often enough. This was America, these were the American values, this was the expression of our constitution? I had seen a

mob of racists, fascists, a lynch mob, I had seen nearly only men. Especially those who were the loudest, the most aggressive, the most violent. It was a male problem, I had to think on Valerie Solanas, sometimes you had to agree with her elementary. Rape, murder, especially mass murder, religiously motivated pogroms.....all was (nearly) always connected with males and masculinity. Women do it better! - this was definitely much more than a slogan, not valid in total, but to such an overwhelming degree, that you could use it as a total, no danger to be too wrong, to discriminate men, to hurt men, to be too wide of the mark. Even to use a catchphrase seemed not that wrong: Men are shit!

I felt the need to talk with someone, I called Yves. It had been always good to talk with him, he only asked: When, tomorrow? We would meet tomorrow afternoon, on Sunday, one of his Sundays not in duty, time for me, not for his wife.

*

All indicated that the situation in Germany would relax, two or three more weeks and everything could be good again, low, maybe even very low numbers. But there were some uncertainties. Portugal always as good as Germany, even better, now near a collapse. Both countries were different, not totally comparable, but one was obvious - the mutation(s) already more widespread in Portugal as in Germany.

Everything indicated that the situation in Germany was in its development simply a certain time behind some other countries - one week, two weeks maybe, say three. The danger was, that soon the discussions would begin anew, now that the situation had eased, why continuing with this strict measures? Was it really always the same old stupid and disappointing story?

Meeting Yves

"Thanks for having time for me, Yves."

"You're my friend."

"It would have been also okay during the next days."

"It sounded not so."

"I've a problem, a serious problem, it's about attitude."

"A moral conflict?"

"Yes, but in a way no. I've made my choice, I'm confident that it's the best, maybe not perfect in a higher moral sense, but for the situation."

"What should be my function?"

"Maybe I'm too certain, sometimes it's good to speak with somebody with a view from outside."

"That's true. But then I should have some insights."

"I think that I have enough evidence to incriminate a person severely. It's important, I have no ultimate proof, but enough evidence. Would I be a judge and I would see this evidence, then this person would be in deep trouble."

"The offense?"

"Murder."

"Wow, not only a parking ticket?"

"Unfortunately not. You know, an important piece of the puzzle is still missing. I'm not certain about the definite implementation of the murder, I have a good idea about it, but not in total. There's especially one matter. She has rented a car for the doubtful day, but her car functioned, she drove her car at this day also. I think that it's obvious, that she used the rented car to drive from her home to the crime scene and back again. In the meanwhile her car stood in front of her house, it seemed as she would be at home all the time. We talk about a time frame of around 6 pm till 8 pm, it was dark outside."

"She?"

"Yes, she."

"You've confronted her with this?"

"Not with this certain point."

"Why you did this?"

"Would I go to the police with this knowing they would start the case again - so far it's a suicide. She would be in big trouble, maybe also her father. It could destroy both lives, especially if she not did it. But if she did it, I could understand her then, I would feel like a traitor."

"Whom she would have killed?"

"Her mother."

"Why?"

"To end a years-long suffering, to rescue her father, to end the suffering. She and her father suffered, I don't think that the mother suffered."

"You think?"

"I can imagine."

"Imagine?"

"I can be her, and then it's agonizing. I can be her mother also, then I feel only disaffection and grudge."

"Mommie Dearest?"

"So in this way."

"Can we talk about your feelings and your imagination?"

"Maybe we should....."

*

No defense anymore, how much signals the GOP still needed to realize that the system of evil of the previous president had been failed, apart from the final possibility, the way into terrorism and ultimate radicalization. Wouldn't it be a strange picture to see the naked wannabe dictator in court in a week, nobody would be willing anymore to defend him? Wouldn't that be a job for Cruz, Graham and Hawley? Maybe they could ask their QAnon and fascist friends to storm the Capitol again?

Two parallel developments could be seen. The former president more and more alone - even now the GOP was not capable to break with the former president. This was not only unsatisfying, it was highly dangerous. At a certain point - very soon - the GOP had to decide, and every day more would make the decisions more difficult and dangerous. One possibility was, to transform ultimately into an ant-democratic party, a fascist party. The other possibility would mean, to break at a certain point with the former president, to admit that the talking about a rigged election had been a lie right from the beginning on - but what would do this with the American democracy and how the disappointed GOP voters would react? It seemed that from now on, whatever would happen in the next weeks, everything would harm the American democracy fundamentally.

The only glimmer of hope was the still strong and bold acting Democratic Party and the Biden administration, maybe they could prevent the worst, but therefor they had to keep the course. Their acting so far was hope giving. And then there was this necessary discussion about what free speech should mean, and about the responsibility of Fox News. But this was another discussion.

*

"I was often puzzled in my youth, I could always understand everybody, why he or she did something, or said something. At TV for instance, a panel show. I could always understand all sides. You only had to slip into their position, their stream of argumentation. This should not mean that I had to agree with them, quite on the contrary, but I could understand them. Treating a human from Africa like an animal - you only had to accept that not all humans were equal, for instance. We, the white people, could deport them, but they not us. This could give you the feeling of superiority, it was your right then, to deport them and treat them like animals. But there was more. I could also

feel with them who became treated like that, felt their suffering and pain, and why they had to suffer? Because others who called themselves humans, talked about their God and his son, had better guns? But yes, I could feel it, how "nice" it was, being the white master, to rape and to fuck a "nigger slave girl", simply because I could do it, because I was the white dominant man - and I felt the suffering and despair of the woman, stolen from Africa. Both I could feel, I could jump between the two stages, could be the one or other, mentally, but also physically.

I thought this would be normal, I still cannot believe that others cannot do it. Maybe they not wanna do it, it's not necessarily nice - both. To understand what an arousing feeling it can be to dominate another person, not as a role-play, real and absolute, the more extreme the better. And by the way, that it can be also very arousing should somebody causes you pain, maybe even killing you - and how it is to be the victim, especially mentally."

"Have you ever thought about to work as a profiler?"

"That's not how it works. I'm not Will, Hannibal. I could never believe it - he was at a crime scene, and then he closed his eyes. Then he could see what had happened - how this should function? It would give many different possible courses of action that would lead to the same result - it would be impossible to decide which one would be the real one. Even a serial like Criminal Mind, we're searching for a white man around twenty-five, he lives alone.....this is statistic and such things, I'm no statistician. The person has to tell me what he thinks and feels, but then I can feel the same, I become him. It can be a historic report, a confession, and no, I cannot tell you if the person lies or not. The problem is, all could be possible. Two mass murderers, one regrets his doing, one not. I can empathize with both scenarios, understand both mental states, simply because both is possible, but I cannot tell you who's the one who regrets, who's the one who not. I also cannot tell you whether one lies or not - sorry."

"Does this burden you?"

"Not as long as I can control it."

"And when can you not control it?"

"The time between of being awake and being fallen asleep, when the consciousness fades more and more, but you have not reached the world of dreams yet."

"You have nightmares?"

"No, the world of dreams is a wonderful place, it's only difficult to get there. I think that I would love it to be dead, but the way thereto?"

Monday

A dreary day, all the day drizzle or light snowfall, wet and cold, I hated this weather every year more, the older I got. I felt absolutely whacked, had a headache, looked what I could eat, had no hunger, switched on the TV. I searched for something banal, The Prince of Bell Air? Wow, how much this Bell Air "negros" had to suffer from the bias of their poorer African American "brothers". Yes Philip, was it a sin now to have money and living in the white clean Bell Air, not in the ugly south of L.A.? Was it a sin now, to have a "nigger" as butler? In the Heat of the Night, in the greenhouse for the orchids.....

The president had two new lawyers now. It was interesting to see, how difficult it was for him to find paid lawyers who were willing to follow his insanity, but, and this was the problem, how easy it was for him to find lawyers for his insanity inside the GOP - what was their payment? I had a shower, but it did not help, I laid down again and felt more and more exhausted the longer I tried to relax. I started to fantasize.....

*

A day of tristesse, a day to be wasted, a day waiting for to be ended. Lack of motivation, no trigger for doing something, a meeting to discuss the vaccination problems, nothing to get excited. And yet,

it was a good day, sometimes it was good to do nothing, to be exhausted, to be unmotivated. Only if it became a normality it would become a problem - tomorrow would be another day.

Tuesday

The final battle about truth and lies had begun? Well, that would be maybe too much said, but it would be important that the lies could not dominate. The lies of a one term former president, agitators like Cruz or Graham and so many others. It would have been naive to think that the impeachment trial, who would start in a few days, would erase all the lies in the American society, maybe even would motivate the former mobster in office to confess, that all had been only a big hoax.

Cruz or Graham, not to talk about Donald Duck, it was not relevant what lies they would spread. Fox News was a topic, but much more important was, to confront the average GOP voter with the hypocrisy of the GOP, the danger of anti-democrats like Donald Duck, Cruz, or Graham. It was important to make the pool of democrats as large as possible, those who still respected our constitution and flag, and to marginalize - not to put an end to! - anti-democratic tendencies as much as possible.

I was annoyed by McConnell, his back and forth. Sure, from his point of view he had a very difficult position, a very difficult task: What would be the best way to ensure me, that it would be possible to become majority leader in two years again? Moscow Mitch was not concerned about the state of the nation - you expected this? Cancer for the GOP, not the nation, that was his concern! Moscow Mitch was concerned about the state of his career, he was a power politician, four years a loyal henchman, personal power was his interest, nothing else!

I liked it still very much to hear from the Dems and the Biden Administration. Bipartisan? At least over one trillion, otherwise it was necessary to punish the GOP with their own behavior. Should the Dems act for the next two years in such a manner, they had not to fear the elections in two years. I looked around. I felt better today, had a real lunch, had not cooked but had ordered a nice salad with chicken and fruit. I would try to relax during the afternoon, maybe a walk would be no bad idea. I had still some savings, but I had to start therewith, to answer the question about my future - I had no real idea.

*

No such councils in the States, like the German Press Council? Well, of course, one had to acknowledge historic developments in the United States, the relation between the states and the federal government. One was German in Germany first, and then from Baden-Württemberg, Hesse and so on - okay, Bavaria, Saxony.....but even there it was not like in the United States. You were a Californian in California first, then came the United States of America. The same applied to Texas, Ohio, Florida, Maine, Kentucky and all the other states.

Federalism was no bad idea, Germany defined itself as a nation based on federalism, but nevertheless we were all Germans. Of course tensions between the state capitols and Berlin, but not the feeling that Berlin would be the enemy, that Berlin would try to destroy Baden-Württemberg, to subdue Baden-Württemberg, that Angela Merkel would drink the blood of children. And, because we were at this point, why Bill Gates and all this other politicians and celebrities still aged, now where they drank the blood of children? It was the question about, that so many discussions would have to take place in the United States of America, so many.

*

It had become evening, Arnold had called me and had asked if I had time to meet with him and Casey tomorrow - time I had in abundance! But I hesitated, it sounded in a way like two kids who

were concerned about their old dad, who invited him out of pity. But then I agreed, coffee and cake at Casey's home. I should bring the cake - déjà vu, only that I was this time the old man.....

Coffee And Cake With Casey and Arnold

"Nice that you've accepted our invitation, Peter. The cake looks pretty delicious."

"Thanks for inviting me, Casey and Arnold, not necessarily natural."

"You mean because of what has happened?"

"Yeah,.....what are your plans for the future Casey - if you allow me to ask this."

"Of course you can ask. Office duty most probably, but this sounds worse than it is. I have not finally decided. I have an offer to become an instructor or work for the NSA."

"Wow, NSA?"

"Of course here in the USA, it would be an office job, but with some good career options."

"And of course you cannot talk about it."

"Not really."

"But you will stay her in the city?"

"Yes, the NSA and our city....."

".....has a long tradition. What do you mean, Arnold, will we see Casey one day on the side of the politicians?"

"I would not say that this is impossible. But also the job as instructor would give her many opportunities."

"Arnold is not that happy with the NSA. But I have not finally decided yet."

"And of course it's her decision in the end. I will support her whatever her decision will be."

"To have some connections to someone from the NSA could be very interesting.....who knows?"

"What are your plans, a new case - only if you can talk about it, of course."

"No new case, Arnold. I doubt on continue working as a private investigator. I only have no plan what to do instead - do the NSA needs someone near to retirement?"

"I will ask. But why not working as private detective furthermore?"

"I've made a decision, and this decisions contradicts the moral integrity of a private investigator."

"Wow, that sounds not less mysterious than Casey's possible job at the NSA - no, I also know no details. You wanna talk about it?"

"I would have information about a person that would cause this person a lot of trouble. The point is, we talk about murder. But I have no final proof, but some hard evidence."

"You fear that, if this person is not the murderer, you could cause a lot of unnecessary trouble for this person?"

"Would this person be the murderer, and I tend thereto, then I would understand this person. I know of course that I'm no judge, but I fear that this person would get no fair trial. We all know, how our court system functions."

"Is this person an African American?"

"No, but a potential murderer of the own mother."

"Wow, can you find reasons to kill your mother?"

"Never heard about mothers who were monsters?"

"Okay, but this would be in fact a matter for the courts."

"We know what an echo this would find in the media. Isn't it a question who's the victim in such a case is?"

"And what about other possibilities? I would say that to kill somebody, can only be justified in very limited cases of an extreme urgent threat."

"As we see constantly when an African American lies dead on the ground again - maybe it's better I leave now."

I stood up, but Casey grabbed my hand.

"There's no reason to leave. Arnold, as well as I, we have condemned police violence all the times."

But of course, you're knowing that it's dubious what you're doing?"

"I know, and therefore I think I should no longer work as a private investigator. But the longer I investigated, the clearer it became that the mother was the aggressor.....yeah, it was a bad decision to kill her, but....."

".....you warrant the murder?"

"No, but I feel that it would be not okay.....there's a lot of crime in our world, everybody knows it, nobody punishes anything. We had a president who murdered thousands with his fucking policy, caused a lot of suffering and harm and lied constantly. He's a racist and an anti-democrat and we still argue about, whether he should have to draw consequences therefore or not."

"I will not sound stupid or precocious, you're much older than I. But is this something new? Reagan or the two Bush - why we had to fight Saddam? A war, many died. And Clinton? Of course, he had no sex with her. I only wanna say, that this is nothing new - you feel sorry for this person?"

"I'm this person, I can be this person. And then I know - retrospectively! - that I did something wrong. But I know also, that I had been in despair, I had seen no way out anymore, had felt forsaken, had to do something that would end this situation, whatever it would need to end the situation - I had to decide. But what it makes it finally worse is, if I'm the mother, then I'm not this nice old lady, the neighbors thought I would be. I'm full of sourness then, the more a person cares for me, the more a person is vulnerable, the more I repel this person and hurt this person. I think I should look for a new job."

"Don't know, can we talk about that?"

"Would do me good."

*

Would we see today, local time in the USA, what the future of the GOP would be? The political future of two women would tell the story - for every person with at least some moral values left, this would be for not one second a matter to think about. But what if a liar - the minority leader in the House - should judge upon an even bigger liar? It would be like a racist who would have to condemn a more radical racist, what should he say? Okay, it's okay to see niggers as animals, but to say that we would need crematoria for the Jews again, is maybe too much.

Was it still a question if the GOP could find back to their values, to honor their constitution and flag, or was it only a question now, how decayed the GOP was, because decayed anyway? I tended definitively to the second possibility.

Good was to see, that the Democrats acted again strong and bold. To pressure the GOP was their strongest weapon at the moment, to fight against racism and anti-democratic tendencies, maybe for the next two years.

Thursday

It was already afternoon, had stood up late. Had eaten what I had found in the fridge, sat and watched TV. It was interesting to do so today, a good deal of interesting news.

Marjorie Taylor Greene had held a "speech" - really, 9/11 had happened? I always thought, that it had been an illusion, seeing me, sitting in front of the TV, in disbelief about what happened right now, as the second plane crashed into the second tower, crying. What a shit had this babble been! It was not a question if 9/11 had happened, nobody doubted about that! But saying nothing about the why, those who did it, told you everything that you had to know about this woman. And McCarthy - nomen est omen? / true to his name? - this cocksucker, or better pussy licker in this case, what a weak wanker he was. I do not know what QAnon is - how stupid without any limit the average GOP voter had to be? We're proud that mostly less educated people are electing us - no we need no better education for the average American. We talked about the today's GOP, standing ovations for Marjorie Greene? And McCarthy had said it, everybody is invited to join us. Well, I would exclude

people like racists, anti-Semites, Nazis, white supremacists, communists.....but hey, we talked about the GOP of today – oh, "Liz" had won the election, so everything good again? Good that the Dems stayed strong and that there would be a voting about Greene later. This would force the GOP members of the House to say their yeas and nays - the Dems were on an excellent track. But much more had happened!

Smartmatic, a voting technology company with its headquarter in the UK, filed a lawsuit against Fox News, three of its top hosts, Rudy Giuliani and Sidney Powell - another \$2.7 B on the table now! And as this would be not enough.....

.....the racist criminal, formerly stained the White House, now nerving his Floridian neighbors, became pressured by the Democrats to testify in the impeachment trial next week - I loved the Dems with every day more!

Sure, we had not to be naive. Everything was still unstable, but after two weeks, okay, a day more, it was very promising to see the Democrats and the Biden administration - had Joe Biden learned from the first two years of the Obama administration? It seemed so. And it seemed also, as that the Democrats had learned a lot over the last four years too. Everything okay? Of course not, soon a half million Americans would have died from corona, but I found nothing to criticize the Democrats and Biden at the moment. I had doubted a lot, but at the moment I was impressed.

*

In Germany? In a few weeks we would have an election in the state, we would elect a new governour - the Green Party with a big lead, then the conservatives, then the socialists most equal with the far-right party. Had I to say that, as a tradition, Baden-Württemberg had been, together with Bavaria, the most conservative state in Germany, together with Bavaria forming the south of Germany? Well, things can change, since May 2011 Baden-Württemberg had a governor (Ministerpräsident) who was a member of the Green Party, Winfried Kretschmann - all things can change!

A New Case?

Friday, two days till Super Bowl - two days' grace I still had. After the Super Bowl, after Sunday, on Monday, I had to be consistent and to decide what to do with the rest of my life. But today was Friday, not Monday, Sunday would be Super Bowl. Today? No special plans for today. Tomorrow? No special plans for tomorrow - special plans for Sunday? Of course!

The mobster from New York, now living in Florida, would not testify - I would subpoena him. Why? Not because I would expect something, but he did not want to do it, and I would do everything that the GOP and the man from New York not liked to do. It was all about to pressure the rights, to control the discourse, to be the force, not the one who had to react.

Sad Greene, had it been a triumph for the Dems or a failure? Last time ten Republicans, this time eleven, over sixty voted against "Liz". Would I be a moderate conservative voter, then I would have a big problem now! That was it, what it was about. As well as the advancing with the relief package, the GOP had been invited, if they were not able to real bipartisan work, then without them, then only the Democrats would help the American people who suffered.

Would I be a Dem, then I would look forward to the next elections in two years with pleasure. At the moment the Republicans did everything to ensure, that it would become a triumph for the Dems. This kind of politics, the politics of the former president, and of course the work of wonderful Stacey Abrams, had costed them Georgia - please Republicans, please, let's continue with this fucking radical politics!

*

Sitting in Germany I had the feeling, that the United States would head towards a stage, many European countries - for different reasons! - had to face after WWII, especially in the period from around the 60s till 90s - domestic terrorism. It was to hope that it would not happen, but some signal leded directly to it. If the GOP would follow this path, it would come necessarily to a split, a moderate part, a radical part. The radical part would have no chance to become mainstream, they would have only one chance to gather power - violence. A former president as groundbreaker for domestic terrorism, the one who would have unleashed the beast, that would be very bitter! The GOP should study the behavior of the Center Party (Zentrumspartei) during the Weimar Republic, the today's CDU/CSU.

And the United States would be in dire need to discuss the meaning of free speech and the meaning of human rights. It was dangerous in the US today, to say to my female workmate that I would think that her skirt looks very nice, but I could say that the Holocaust would be a hoax? I preferred it to live in Germany, where I would get punished would I deny the Holocaust, but I could tell my female workmate, that I liked her skirt.

*

Another phone call from Arnold, this time not a tea party with cake. He asked me if I was interested in to help him. He gave me some information, but I was not sure about it. We agreed to meet tomorrow morning to discuss it.

Meeting The Evil

"Good to see you, Peter."

"Good to see you, Arnold."

"Shall we both have a talk first, or would you prefer to be introduced to Maria immediately."

"I would have some questions first."

"Okay, then come with me to my office."

We walked along some hallways, till we reached his office, no small office. It was obvious that he was not only a "cop".

"Nice office, with own secretary. My office is smaller, and I have no secretary."

"Maybe you should consider for whom you wanna work?"

"I work for me, not with too much success, but I make enough to pay my bills. I'm not sure about how it was meant, the phone call, also now with the office. I'm here because of a certain case, or.....what?"

"It's about what we talked while drinking coffee and eating cake. That you can empathize with a person in such an extreme way. I had a conversation with Maria yesterday, I thought that you maybe could help us. It's an one-time matter in that sense, but maybe it can become more."

"That's a problem for me. The first what came me in mind was a weird mixture of Monk and Castle or something like that. Both not very convincing, but as a mix.....?"

"No, I would say that this is a kind of test. Not a test of your person as such, more, whether it can function or not. Furthermore, if it is okay for you or not."

"Say, it would function, and then?"

"Then we would see. Maybe you could support us from time to time?"

"Okay, let us leave it at this for the moment. Can you tell me something about Maria?"

"Of course. Your first thoughts after my phone call?"

"Honestly?"

"Of course."

"Starling - Jodie Forster."

"It's good that you say this, this is no thriller. We have not to create a hyper-gloomy atmosphere, it has not to rain every day the whole day. And yes, we all have our problems, but maybe.....in any

case, Maria is not Clarice. Maria Lopez is a one hundred percent professional, she's a huntress."

"But she asks for help?"

"She has the man, that was not the problem. He will never ever will be a free man again, that's not the problem. Some questions had been raised, and maybe you can help to answer them. We have not to rescue his last victim, maybe still alive. This is no TV show or a thriller movie, not in any case, we have not to rescue his last victim in the last second. All his victims are dead, the women and the girls, no one left to rescue."

"That's good, because I'm not good in rescue women and girls."

We had no long way to go, we went back some way that we had taken before, till we reached a conference room. Arnold opened the door, we stepped in, a tall woman stood up from the chair at the table where she had sat before.

"Maria, this is Peter - Peter, this is Maria."

We welcomed each other.

"Peter and I had to talk over some aspects, but now we're here."

"Sorry that you had to wait."

"No problem, I had a coffee - you both also a coffee?"

We agreed, and we all three sat at the table, all had a coffee. Maria started the conversation.

"Maybe I should give you some background information first. How much he knows, Arnold?"

"No specifics."

"Ethan Moor is a mass murderer, he murdered younger women and girls, at least one man, but only because he could become dangerous for him. As often in such cases, we do not really know how many persons he has killed. We know some cases very similar to his crime pattern, but with no direct link to him. We found some hints for more victims. Sometimes, but unfortunately not all the times, he kept a trophy, but we know no fitting victims to some of his trophies. I talked with Arnold about it, and he told me of you. My idea was, that it would be interesting for me, to confront him with you."

"That he would tell me about other victims?"

"To be honest, I would be interested in, to see what would happen when someone would tell him that he would be able to empathize totally with him."

"And with his victims."

"An interesting combination."

"Should I tell him, that because I can see the world from his point of few, I only see him more as a disgusting monster? I fear that this would not motivate him to tell me anything - I'm no good liar."

"No, no lies - he would feel it, he's superb at reading the person opposite the table. I would give you time to study some footage of former interrogations, to get a feeling about him. You would decide to do it or not."

"When?"

"I have asked him, if he would be interested in, to have a conversation with someone who can feel the same as he - he was interested in. He thinks that no one can be equal to him, he played God a many times. I would need roughly two hours, after you've decided to talk with him, to do the final arrangements."

"Will be a lawyer in the room?"

"He's God, he needs no lawyer. He would like it, to talk with you one-on-one - of course in an interrogation room under control."

"Can I see the footage?"

"Of course."

"You have not to do it, Peter. Should you be unsure about it, let it be."

"It's okay, Arnold. I think it could be interesting for me, to look into my eyes without using a mirror."

It was hard sometimes to understand the United States, former presidents got still intelligence briefings - please, for what reason? Really, the United States sometimes appeared very weird.

No subpoena? It was to hope for, that the Democrats not started to get weak now, strong Democrats was all now, what this country had to rescue their democracy. Next week would become a very interesting and important week, hours in front of the TV definitively.

Definitively also tomorrow, better Sunday night in Germany, many hours in front of the TV - Super Bowl, also in Germany an important sports event. In the last few years the local football team, Heilbronn Miners, together with the cheerleaders, Heilbronn Salt Crystals, hosted a Super Bowl party - of course not this year.

2022? Super Bowl LVI in Inglewood California, most probably in exactly one year. I had a phone call with my employer recently, I can have four weeks holidays next year February, to stay again in the USA. Los Angeles of course, maybe Portland and / or Seattle this time, an inland flight? Still time, at summer I should start with the planning. Of course, I do not think about tickets for the Super Bowl, but to be there at this time, maybe public viewing or something like that.....?

*

It had become late afternoon and I looked through the one-way mirror on him, he looked pretty normal, no monster sat at the table, the monster was hidden inside.

"Are you ready?"

"Yes - have we to talk about my strategy?"

"No."

"That's good because I have none."

"You still can stop it."

"It's okay Arnold, the more I watched the footage, the more I got interested in to be confronted with him. Shall I simply enter, or you have planned to introduce us, Maria?"

"He waits for you and he knows everything from you what he has to know so far."

I opened the door, stepped in, took a seat opposite to him and looked at him. I looked into his eyes, he had no objections, he tried to represent strength, I only looked, for a longer time.

"What you're searching for, you cannot see in my eyes."

"You try to appear strong, but you're weak. You're a wanker, everything, but no strong stallion."

"It takes a thief to catch a thief - they told me that you can read my innermost?"

"That's not how it functions. I'm no wonder boy, I can read nothing. I cannot tell you what you feel, but I can feel the same as you, if you tell me what you feel."

"Tell me more."

"Assumed you would tell me, that you like it when the girls start to cry, to get desperate, that this would arouses you, I could understand this."

"Really?"

"Of course, it's a feeling of dominance, such a feeling can be very arousing."

"So much, that you get a boner?"

"So much, that I jerk off."

"But you're an amateur."

"Really?"

"You ever did it in reality?"

"No."

"Well, I.....," he grinned.....

"Sure, because you're a pussy."

"And you not?"

"No."

"Why?"

"Because I can - other than you - also jerk off when it's a mature woman, self-confident, not fearing

for her life."

"In reality or fantasy?"

"That's not relevant for the moment because your specialty are young women and girls - how old was the youngest of your victims?"

"You're not really expecting that I would give you any information?"

"You know, you have raped, tortured and killed at least six people. Six they know for sure and by name. At least three or four more, but about them they know only from your trophies. Maybe ten, maybe some more - did you ever raped, tortured and killed a mother with two or three beautiful daughters, maybe with a son also? Or together with a forty-eight-year-old fucking hot grandma in a team, her daughter and her daughter's two cute daughters, her grandkids? Your stuff is very trivial - you're right, I would have problems to get even a boner, by doing what you did."

"You're a blowhard, you would never have the guts to do what I have done, in reality, not in fantasy. But I have hope for you, with such fantasies, who knows? In a few years maybe, maybe you will be capable one day to implement your fantasies. I'm confident, the day will come."

"Never ever."

"Sure?"

"Yes, for two reasons."

"Those would be?"

"First, only a few mass murderers not became arrested. You will spend the rest of your life in prison, wish you a lot of fun with your fantasies behind bars, not much more you ever will have. Second, even for the worst dictators, even for the Caesars in ancient Rom it would have had been hardly possible to realize in reality, what I can experience in my imagination. In fantasy there are literally no limits. You're starting to bore me."

I stood up to walk to the door.

"What are you doing?"

"As I said, you start to bore me. You have a monster inside you? Maybe you got a hint about the monster inside me. You're not playing in my league, I'm the monster, you're the wannabe. You fucked a young girl, deflorated her, she screamed, you liked it? I would have slit open her belly first, but I play in another league."

I walked to the door and left the room. Outside Arnold and Maria waited.

"I would bring him back to his cell, without any comments. Maybe he will feel the need to tell you more about his "heroic" deeds later. I should drive home now."

"Shouldn't we talk about what has happened?"

"No, no need therefor. You both should maybe not forget, that I can empathize also with the mothers and the daughters and also the son."

Super Bowl Sunday

Not in a good shape I was this morning - my head ached, and I had hunger. Looked for something to drink, only leftovers in the fridge, I had to change some things. But not today, today my task was to get fit, still enough hours till the event would begin - short after noon? Was I crazy to stand up that soon? I drank some old coffee, found some tea also, emptied the fridge and set the alarm. Rolling out of the bed when the pre-match reporting would begin, this would give me time to recover, a very long and very hot shower, to visit the 7-Eleven round the corner, to buy all the necessary stuff needed for the game - my game plan. This time I needed not long to fall asleep, to enter the wonderful and calming dreamland, to have some pretty weird dreams.

*

Early in the morning for some moments some kind of sun, then grayer and grayer, now it darkened, rain had set in. During the evening and night the rain should turn into snow, already a snow chaos in

the more northern parts of Germany. A fucking day - really? The weather yes, but it was Super Bowl Sunday, of course also in Germany a topic. Okay, "German football" - soccer - without any doubts the most popular sport in Germany, but the Heilbronn Miners? Football in Germany, definitely a fringe sport, but many Super Bowl parties and public viewings also in Germany - of course not in the time of pandemic.

5:47 pm in Germany, the game would begin at 0:30 am, on Monday. Some hours and the pre-match reporting would begin, some time left to prepare. My favorite.....?

The kickoff came nearer, but still half an hour. I had everything done what had to be done, I could concentrate on the game from now on. I had decided for salty snacks, okay, also sweets snacks would be reachable, but I had hunger for the salty stuff.

About my favorite I had not to talk, the team in red, it was time to show that also red could win - okay, should Brady and the Buccaneers win, then they would have deserved it, Brady was a force. Now leaning back, waiting that the last quarter would be over and the match would begin.

"America The Beautiful" and the national anthem, felt different this year, to hear such tones, but it was good to hear them, at a time, were maybe something bad had come to an end, and something new and better would begin.....

Amanda Gorman - no words, only contemplation.....

Coin toss, the Chiefs, second half - some statistics.....? But now it began.....

*

Kickoff - no bad return. Good defense, okay, this time a few yards. Third, incomplete, good start for the Chiefs, three and out for Brady.

No bad field position for the Chiefs - Mahomes better than Brady? Okay, again only a few yards - wow, Mahomes under pressure, but makes it - second down. Third? Mahomes makes it again! New first down!

Again under pressure, Buccaneers defense not bad! Second - incomplete - next long third down. Again incomplete - at the moment the defenses are dominating!

Next chance Brady - superb run for the Buccaneers. A match of the defenses? Already third again - sack! Next chance Buccaneers. No points, but very interesting so far.

A moment to take a deep breath, which offense would make the first points? Chiefs? Or again a short drive - no, next first down. Mahomes very movable - no, incomplete, no touch down. Flag? Next first down, field goal range in any case. But again the Buccaneer's defense - long pass, end zone - incomplete again!

Well, a field goal, Chiefs with the first points. A very entertaining match so far - Brady's answer now?

Next drive, at the twenty-five, a run, a few yards. Next run, nearly a new first down. Third and one, no problem for the Buccaneers - now with runs? Pass, incomplete, flag - holding defense, automatic first down. Pass, good catch. Now the offense.....good run, next first. Next run, next first, red zone - Brady? Run, some yards, only some yards left. Next run, touchdown - that had been an impressive performance of the offensive!

Extra point good, lead Buccaneers.....now Mahomes had to find an answer.

Good kickoff return - now a touchdown would be not bad, at least a field goal - blocked pass! Next

pass, some good yards, next third, the end of the first quarter.

*

Very intensive so far, always the nice statistics, first time a touchdown for Brady in the first quarter? Okay, but now the Chiefs and already the third, Mahomes under pressure - not good! Next punt, no points, next chance Brady - good Buccaneer's defense.

First not good, second a few yards - Chief's defense! Flag - why acting this way? Next first down, good run - Super Bowl emotions. Next run, next first down - next pass, fantastic run, nearly the next touchdown - but next first down, first and goal. Run, two yards left. Pass - incomplete! Wow, good action from the defense. Third - wow, free ball? No, fourth and goal..... - defensive Chiefs! The defense of the Chiefs perfect again - now it was on Mahomes and the offensive. Big play Chiefs defense!

Again a moment to take a deep breath, a match with only a few points so far. A challenge, declined - what a drive for the Chiefs now. First down at the own one-yard line - what a run! First down! Okay, not that good - second down. Again not good, third and eight. Pass and incomplete - damn! Again no points, problems with the punt, good tackle - flag. Holding, next punt - not good again. Excellent field position for the Buccaneers now - next points Brady or again a fantastic Chief's defense?

Again a moment for a deep breath, very interesting game so far – Brady.....?
First down - good defensive. Second and thirteen - no bad run, third and four. Interception! - Flag, fuck! Holding, next first down. - Fuck! First, run, one yard. Short pass, but again a good defense. Third and five - incomplete pass, Chief's defense had made it! Please Mahomes, now some points would be nice - punt and.....a flag?
New first down Buccaneers, again the ball for the Buccaneers - first down, next touchdown Buccaneers - that was bad! That were the moments to lose a game - but still the first half.....

Good pass - next first down. Run, a few yards. Very impressive pass, under pressure, next first down. Mahomes runs - next first down! Run - seven yards. Pass, good extra yards, of course a new first down - red zone, two minutes warning.
Now a touchdown would be perfect - ball for the Chiefs at the beginning of the second half. Run - no god. Pass, some yards. Third and six - Mahomes under extreme pressure, fourth and field goal, field goal good. Brady with the next points? Enough time he would have. Whatever, I would need the halftime to recover.....

Punt, no bad return, nearly a minute left. Run, but good defense. Timeout Chiefs? Good second down, next timeout Chiefs? Third and next first down Buccaneers. Monster pass, flag, first down, near end zone again!
Timeout Buccaneers.....timeout Chiefs - really? First and goal, pass, incomplete – flag? Pass interference? No, come on!
First and goal again, pass - touchdown! What a fucking Chiefs' strategy? - Next penalty for the Chiefs, extra point good - okay still a complete half, but this half, this second quarter, had been devastating for the Chiefs – halftime.....

Halftime, a time to get new breath again. Chiefs will have the ball, The Weekend sings - Lust for Life? Lean back and enjoy, the Chiefs still with every chance to win - well, Tom Brady maybe?
Okay, not totally my music, at least when he's singing alone. But maybe I was simply too old?

Closed my eyes and heard a woman singing.....try to relax somewhat, a complete half is still waiting.

Second half and a fantastic run for twenty-five yards at first play. Next run, nine yards. Next run, next first down. Okay, this time only two. Damn, one yard with trouble. Third, Mahomes under extreme pressure again, incomplete! Would they try a long field goal? Field goal good, but again only three points.....will Brady expand the lead now?

Good defense, good defense again, third and four. Short pass, good play from the receiver, next first down. The same again, first beef and the Chief's defense under pressure. Next pass, good action, substantial yards. Run.....yards – touchdown!

What a drive from the Buccaneers and Brady. Extra point good, Buccaneers lead by nineteen? Well, a team that had me as mojo.....? The Chiefs in crisis.....

Nice return, a run, a touchdown was needed now, simple as that - quarterback sack! Third and thirteen, long pass, intercepted - flag! Whatever, ball in hands of the Buccaneers again - now it would become difficult.....still time on the clock.....

Short pass, enough extra yards, next first down. Next run, excellent run, second and four. Next run, one yard left - first down! This all seemed so easy.....

Pass and nearly the next touchdown. Brady under pressure - not often seen today, incomplete. Third and ten - wow, what a mistake, what a miscarried snap! Fifty yards field goal now – 9:31, still hope for the Chiefs? There was this story with Tom Brady, but twenty-two points.....

Very long pass, incomplete, but pass interference. Next play, five yards. The next seven or so yards, a first down in any case. What now? - Okay, false start. First and fifteen! Incomplete pass - but now a good play, next first down. Good catch, next first down. But now not good again, end of the third quarter.....

*

The last quarter would begin soon, I was somewhat disappointed - why always my team lost the match? Mahomes? Wow, he would become a legend - twenty-five points.....good pass, red zone - touchdown?

First try - no. Second try - incomplete. Third try, Mahomes under extreme pressure - incomplete. Extreme action, but no points. Fourth try, no field goal this time - Mahomes under extreme pressure again, again he managed it anyway to throw a pass - again incomplete. No points, not even a field goal, but a fourth field goal would have helped nothing. Next chance Buccaneers, Buccaneers with a lot of time now.

Of course runs, second down, next first down, not good. Next run, eight yards, and the clock ticked. Next run, next first down, no defense anymore. Run, a few yards, run, first down, under ten minutes now. Run, next eight yards - wow, no yards, third down and one? Brady under pressure, incomplete - fourth down? Punt.

Chiefs with the ball again, eight minutes on the clock - I would say, Brady with his next ring. - But wow, excellent pass for substantial yards. Quarterback sack! Incomplete - flag? Defense, fifteen yards and first down for the Chiefs! Again a good pass, first down. Incomplete the next pass. Well, nine yards, first down - Mahomes tried his best.

Pass - again a flag, holding defense, first down. Incomplete, nearly intercepted, five minutes. Oh

come on, a streaker! Not now, nice commercials.....I would like seeing a Chiefs' touchdown. Second down, twenty yards, quarterback sack! No, it hurts - third and thirty-three! Good play, but not enough, of course a fourth down. Not complete, bad behavior from a Buccaneer, flag, but no first down. Again the the Buccaneers in ball possession.....no four minutes left.....

Well, of course runs.....punt, Chiefs with a last chance, three thirty on the clock. Interception? No, second and ten, third, next first - flag? It did not function today, it had begun very interesting, but the Buccaneers had become the dominators - fourth and three, first down, two minutes warning.....

Mahomes tried at least to get a touchdown, till the end - intercepted in the endzone.....okay, this was a day to forget for the Chiefs, the game was over. Brady and the Buccaneers deserved the win? Stupid question, of course! Mahomes had time, he was young, maybe not for six more, maybe next year in Inglewood, maybe one should be there next year in February, in Inglewood.....