

Unwinding the Hurricane - 3/20/13

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Absolute power corrupts absolutely. It is an old and fair assessment of the destiny of any dictatorship, but its sense may creep in amongst the weak in any imbalance, sometimes leading to action. These actions, though often less hideous in their immediate consequences, are often colder and more insidious in their historical influence and lead to abuses of a scale equal to the hubris with which dictators may bully.

To make decisions for the future - the future proper - one needs a broad view of life's balance, but this is seldom achieved amongst the chatter of the day. Often the nonsense is too great and the leader not great enough and "drastic times call for drastic measures" and finally out of cleverness but lacking much foresight, an atrocity is committed. An atrocity of the kind no one should have to bear or witness.

That this may come from the strong is clear, for the documentation of tyranny is almost endless; but sometimes the weak, from fear of abused power itself, reach extraordinarily frightening conclusions from which it will be hard to return.

It could be said that this dynamic is as old as man and woman; for it's roots are in asymmetrical physical strength, but add deceit and on a grand stage it can lead to terrifying escalation. At this point in our history, the threat from either side should be enough to stop the escalation, but as of now, we are left with the lingering threat that all is too easily lost.

Whatever the quality of the decision making otherwise, our leaders and people must be authentic within the scope of ethics. It is every person's responsibility, not only to secure the necessities for future generations, but secure the innocence of being free from this cycle. That the onus falls on our leaders to make tough decisions is clear, but it's the obligation of the adult people to remain vigilant, in the course of their daily lives and through ordinary means, until all people can live the honest, educated, and ethical life.