

"Give me Your Tired..."

The plaque that was placed inside the Statue of Liberty (later moved to the Statue of Liberty Museum) includes the famous "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free." My immediate take has always been that "yearning to breathe free" does not mean yearning to get free housing, medical care, etc., but yearning to be free to take control over their own lives; yearning to be able to improve their own situations.

In that context, when the next line refers to "wretched refuse" and "the homeless," it is describing their extreme conditions, but it is not inviting people to immigrate and then remain wretched or homeless. It is, again, inviting them to improve their own conditions by being free to do so.

This may be the crux of the argument between the Liberals and the Conservatives. The Liberals seem to think that the proper role of America is to invite the masses to immigrate into the country so that we can house, clothe and feed them for the rest of their lives. And provide free education, medical care, maternity care, etc.

The Conservative view, as mentioned, is to provide opportunity for immigrants to take control of their own lives and provide for themselves. This dichotomy does not refer to the other major difference: Who and how many immigrants can we handle over any given period of time – per day, per month, per year? Should the numbers be allowed to swamp our court system such that we can't control the process? What should we do with immigrants who refuse to become citizens?

There is a concept in mythology wherein two creatures are locked in mortal combat. Whichever one prevails determines the future/fate of the people. That may be true with our Liberal versus Conservative combatants, struggling as they have for many decades in America to determine the future of its people.

But unlike the myth, America doesn't have an eternity to wait for the outcome of the struggle. We Conservatives need to prevail. We need to get the job done in the 2022 midterms and "vanquish the foe" once and for all. The very future of our country is at stake.

In his Gettysburg Address, President Lincoln raised the question whether “...any nation so conceived (i.e., “conceived in liberty”) and so dedicated, can long endure.” Let’s not become a footnote in the World History textbooks of the future – the great experiment in self-government that failed. Let’s get the job done!

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