

# **HERMIT HERALD**

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## **DEFINITION, GREEK TRAGEDY**

**“In ancient Greek theatre – a play in which the protagonist, usually a person of importance, falls to disaster through the combination of a personal failing and circumstances with which he or she cannot deal.”**

## **IMPEACHMENT CONTINUED**

**While thinking about what to write on this topic, the sophomoric thought came to your scribe to begin with some gallows humor; something like, “Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall.....” , well you get the idea. It’s good to sleep on such thoughts because there is no way anything humorous can be conjured up from this situation. Not only is the president an example of Greek tragedy, but so is the country.**

**Let us revisit the comments of NY Post conservative columnist, Michael Goodwin, from issue 90. “First among a long list of casualties is Trump’s legacy. His accomplishments, the good he did and the people whose hopes and opportunities he lifted are now overshadowed by recklessness. He gave the hanging party the rope to use against him and spread glee amongst the Never Trumpers. This time there is no defense of him. He owns this.”**

**And so it was, that it took the congress only one day, January 13, 2021, to impeach the president for a second time. Also, as noted previously the president in his speech on January 6<sup>th</sup> told his supporters, “I know that everyone here will soon be marching over to the Capitol building to peacefully and patriotically make your voices heard.” – a nice statement, and one that defense lawyers would lean on heavily in case criminal charges were ever filed against the president for inciting insurrection. In the political world that just doesn’t cut it, as the overall fabric of the speech was more bellicose than peaceful. Linda Qui, a fact check reporter noted that,**

**“The president used the word, ‘peacefully’ only once and the word, ‘fight’ 20 times.” That is, of course a bit misleading as there are many meanings of, “fight”, one could be with fists and baseball bats the other could be like, “As a Democrat, I’ll fight to my last day to rid the world of Trump.” You see the difference.**

**Regardless, the Congress permits itself to get whipped into a feeding frenzy, not unlike a cow being devoured by pirahana fish in the Rio Grande and, voila, we have instant impeachment. Having circled the globe as long or longer than many of our readers, I can only reflect on how often decisions or actions taken in haste do not have salubrious endings.**

**The two most articulate statements coming out of the impeachment were by the majority leader, Steny Hoyer and the minority whip, Steve Scalise.**

**Mr. Hoyer said, “This vote is not about timing, it is about principle and fidelity to our Constitution. It concerns the clear and present danger facing our country, not only in these final days of the Trump administration, but in**

**the weeks, months and years that will follow. It is about the necessity to demonstrate to this generation, and to future generations, the duty we share to protect our democracy every single day.”**

**And, from Mr. Scalise. “I oppose this rushed impeachment brought forward without a single hearing. And, by the way, the Senate will not even take this up until President Trump is out of office. So let’s keep that in mind – it will only serve to further divide a nation that is calling out for healing.”**

### **ALEA IACTA EST (THE DIE HAS BEEN CAST)**

**How does this “Greek tragedy” play out for the president? For starters it’s on to a Senate trial shortly after Mr. Biden takes office. Speaker Pelosi had opined that she might want to put a Senate trial on hold for 100 days, but she hadn’t read the fine print. In the event of a presidential impeachment, the trial takes precedence over all other matters under consideration by the Senate. The compromise being currently discussed would be to have the trial in half day sessions matched by other**

**issues such as confirmations for the new cabinet members.**

**I had opined the other day, that it was unlikely 17 Republicans would join the Democrats to convict the former president – not so fast there, Mr. Hermit. Senator McConnell has hinted that he might be receptive to a guilty verdict, the idea being, that, with a guilty verdict, a following vote with only a 51% majority could deny Mr. Trump the ability to ever again run for national office. Some observers believe that would take Mr. Trump off the Republican Party stage and enable the GOP to regroup without his participation.**

**Given the possibility that Mr. Trump may be convicted in a Senate trial, he would not only be denied the right to hold other national office, but Secret Service and other post presidential perks may be withheld from him.**

**In addition, the former president could be criminally charged for “inciting to riot.” If that isn’t enough, he is being pursued in NY City on tax issues and allegations of sexual misconduct. In the next three years he will**

**have to refinance \$300 million to \$400 million just at a time when his long time bankers are pulling away from him. The PGA has just deprived Mr. Trump of having a major tournament at one of his courses, a decision that aides say has, “gutted” him.**

**Not to be outdone, NY Mayor, DeBlasio, has said the city will cancel all it’s contracts with the Trump organization which include the two ice skating rinks in Central Park, the Central Park carousel, the Trump Golf Links at Ferry Point and a city owned golf course in the Bronx. DeBlasio cites his legal justification being that Trump has engaged in criminal activity, “inciting an insurrection against the U.S. Government.” For sure, Trump’s lawyers will be in court over that as indictment by political impeachment is not the same as indictment in criminal cases.**

**Lastly, the thing that will probably be most hurtful to Mr. Trump will be the diminishment of the Trump Brand. It will be, and/or is currently in the process of being, dramatically adversely affected. Most Democrats would disagree, but as Mr. Goodwin points out,**

**president Trump did do a lot of good things; what a fall from grace. What a “Greek tragedy.”**

## **CAN A COUNTRY BECOME A “GREEK TRAGEDY?”**

**Oh, I think very much so. For how many decades has the U.S. been the leader of the free world, using our power to not only support our allies militarily, but also to advocate for freedoms – freedoms of thought and speech, as well as behavior – never shrinking from advocating that other countries change their moral and ethical behavior?**

**Well, dear readers, this wonderful country is now a laughing stock in much of the world, in well -deserved retribution for having lectured other governments about how they should conduct themselves. They see huge social and economic inequities in our country. They see unbridled rioting in numerous cities, the destruction of small businesses that are the heart of the destroyer’s neighborhoods. And, now, now – the storming of the Capitol of the United States. Has the great U.S.A. really become a banana republic?**

**The military espoused great fear this last summer of rolling out the army or national guard to quell the awful riots, but that has, today, morphed into someone deciding that we need 20,000 national guard troops in D.C to protect the inauguration - many more troops than we have on location in Iraq and Afghanistan combined. Oh!, and guess what?- they're armed. This is the dumbest thing I have ever seen. This has potential Kent State Massacre written all over it. Any firearms should be kept in strategically located trucks and the troops armed only with batons.**

**With 20,000 armed guardsmen, surely one of them is going to feel justly provoked, and there goes the first protestor casualty - a trigger for violent outbursts throughout the country.**

**We add to all of this the toxic and selective mix of what can be published and what can't, based on the politically motivated whims of a few tech titans - Kathy Griffin, holding what looked like a decapitated head of Donald Trump; Iran's leader tweeting out a call for his followers to destroy Israel; Madonna voicing a desire to blow up the white house with the president and family inside; Vicky Osterweil's**



**book, “In defense of looting” getting sympathetic coverage and AK- 47 toting rapper, Raz Simone, who took over a large swath of Seattle last June, and whose songs are totally violence inciteful. As if to say, “ Hey guys – welcome to the internet- all yours”. President of the United States – “Whoa , whoa –gotta shut you down man.”**

**And now we have to hear from China, who we’re always after – human rights, freedom of speech, etc. A user on China’s social media platform, “This is not the U.S. as we know it. This is Saddam’s Iraq and Gaddafi’s Libya.**

**So, there you have it, dear reader- as a country we are truly a “Greek tragedy”, but we can recover. In my mind, President Ford was a great hero when he pardoned Nixon. He was vilified by some at the time, but enabled the country to heal politically. It has been suggested that, at the very least, president –elect Biden might do well to help turn down the rhetoric. Tens of millions of Trump supporters are not going away any time soon.**

**Your faithful scribe, PB**

