NO FEAR OF THE EVIL EYE: KEY TO FREEDOM, PEACE, AND PROSPERITY

[Out with the old, in with the new! Instead of Archives on Mondays, we are restarting No Fear of the Evil Eye. The chapters that were up on TTP are no longer as they were written years ago. Frankly, I faltered in not completing this book, and now certainly is the time to finish it. Chapters have to be updated, so we begin with the opening Dedication, Epigraph, Preface, and Introduction. Every Monday from now on until this book is done will have at least two succeeding chapters. There are currently 24 chapters so have to double up. I will really appreciate any feedback you have. Off we go!]

DEDICATION

To Rebel – mother of my two sons, my wife, my best friend, my life-partner

EPIGRAPH

> *"There is not one kind of Strife alone, but all over the earth there are two. As for the one, a man would praise her when he came to understand her; but the other is blameworthy: and they are wholly different in nature. For one fosters evil war and battle, being cruel: her no man loves; but perforce, through the will of the deathless gods, men pay harsh Strife her honor due.*
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> *But the other is the elder daughter of dark Night, and the son of Cronos who sits above and dwells in the aether, set her in the roots of the earth: and she is far kinder to men. She stirs up even the shiftless to toil; for a man grows eager to work when he considers his neighbor, a rich man who hastens to plough and plant and put his house in good order; and neighbor vies with his neighbor as he hurries after wealth. This Strife is wholesome for men."* –Hesiod, "*Works and Days,*" ca. 700 BC
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> "*Emulation (zelos) makes us take steps to secure good things. Envy (pthonos) makes us take steps to stop our neighbor from having them."* Aristotle, *Rhetoric*, II, 10 (1138a35), ca. 330 BC.

PREFACE

I have been planning to write this book for many years. Now is the time.

For centuries and millennia, various societies and cultures have suffered outbreaks of mass insanity, of "popular delusions and a madness of crowds." The results can be huge economic loss, such as Holland's Tulip Mania of 1637, or America's Subprime Mortgage Crisis of 2007-2010. Or they can be monstrously evil, of genocidal slaughter of millions and the snuffing out of freedom for millions more.

There is no one cause for all of them, other than a contagion of emotions overriding reason. What would cause such a contagion varies. A mass frenzy of making an easy buck. A megalomaniacal "conqueror" with a crazed armed horde wiping out entire societies and nations for no rational purpose whatever – Genghis Khan and Napoleon are but two of history's many examples.[1]

A mass panic of irrational fear is another. Fear of witches. Fear of voodoo. Fear that human production of less than 2/10ths of 1 percent of the world's greenhouse gases is going to burn up the Earth causing the end of civilization. Fear of a Chinese flu bug with a survival rate of 99.7%, the

median age of death from which is higher than average life expectancy.

This book focuses on one particular kind of fear. It is not fear of something imaginary or hyperbolized to the Moon. It is primordial and very real, so old the ancient Israelites deemed it the cause of history's first murder. So contemporary it caused the pointless death of over 100 million human beings in the 20th century alone, and continues to be the ruination of countless lives to this day.

As this is written in 2025, America is attempting to overcome this fear that has bedeviled it for many years. To best enable it to succeed, achieving once again the pinnacle of success among the nations of history rather than once more succumbing to this fear, Americans and those of any other country in danger of it must come to understand the nature and cause of this primeval terror. For once we do, we then understand how to conquer it.

Ready to explore this with me? Here we go.

INTRODUCTION

You've seen jewelry like these pendants, haven't you?

If you travel most anywhere in the Mediterranean – Spain, Italy, Turkey, Egypt, Morocco – you'll see people wearing something like this as bracelets, necklaces, pins, amulets. You'll see something similar all over Central Asia and the Middle East, in Iran, India, Mexico, Central and South America.

If you see a lady wearing this in the US, it's likely because she thinks it's attractively decorative. They're for sale in department stores like Macy's, and many sites online – just look up "*evil eye jewelry*" on Google or Amazon.

But for countless millions of people all over the world, displaying this type of jewelry is very serious business. Its purpose is to protect its wearer from The Evil Eye.

In Greece, the Evil Eye is called *matiasma*, in Spain and most of South America the *mal ojo*, Brazil the *mau olhado*. The Evil Eye is known as *ayin horeh* in Hebrew; *ayin harsha* in Arabic, *droch shuil* in Scotland, *mauvais oeil* in France, *bosen blick* in Germany, and *oculus malus* among the ancient Romans.

Today in Italy it is called the *mal occhio*. Fans of those preservers of certain unpleasant aspects of Italian culture, The Sopranos of the old television series, will recall Tony Soprano referring in classic New Jerseyese to *da ol' maloik*, that old evil eye.

So what is it in the look, be it a glance or stare, in someone's eye that makes it malevolent, wishing harm upon its object? It is the look of *envy*.

Fear of the envy of others is one of mankind's most deeply primal and pervasive terrors.

Ask a taxi driver in Cairo why he has a beaded blue eye dangling from his rear-view mirror, and he'll tell you, "Many people will look at you with evil eyes and want to harm you when they see you with a new car – so this protects me."

Compliment a peasant woman in a Turkish or Italian or Peruvian village on her beautiful baby and she will panic in fright, loudly denying your words.

Envy and Envy Avoidance are two of the most basic and primary motivators of human behavior. They have dominated the lives of countless cultures for thousands of years and continue to do so to this very day – from tribespeople in the Amazon jungle to taxi drivers in Cairo, to social science professors at elite universities and editorial writers at the *New York Times,* to Hollywood celebrities and multi-billionaires wallowing in appeasement for their success.

Thus envy and envy-avoidance remain today more intractable than ever, causing more misery, poverty, tyranny and death than anything else people do to each other – as they have everywhere for millennia.

The heartbreaking irony is that while we will never eradicate envy from human souls, we can eradicate the horrifically destructive efforts to avoid it. And doing that is *the* key, the most necessary condition, for achieving freedom, peace, and prosperity for ourselves, our culture, our country, and our world.

How to do that is the purpose of this book.

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[1] . Thomas Jefferson considered Napoleon "the Attila of the age dethroned, the ruthless destroyer of 10. millions of the human race, whose thirst for blood appeared unquenchable, the great oppressor of the rights & liberties of the world." Jefferson Letter to John Adams, July 5, 1814