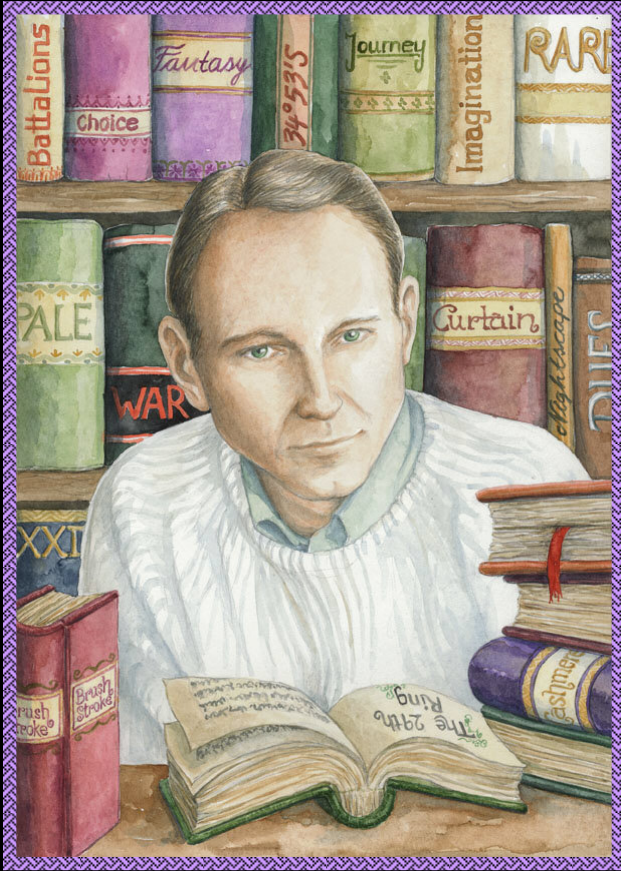


The SHORT STORY AFICIONADO™ PRESENTS



THE MINIATURE LIBRARY The SHORT STORY AFICIONADO™

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Out of the Imagination and Mind's Eye of the Short Story Aficionado

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Welcome to A STORY I'M TELLING™ from *Far Beyond the Threshold of Imagination!*

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Reader...

Spurred by the crisp coolness of any chosen Autumn afternoon...and before the violet blush of twilight fades to starlit night—hasten to find a comfortable easy chair...one where you may be warmed by the welcoming embers of a glowing hearth. From there, your imagination shall lift you up and whisk you down the narrow drive ahead—through the gateposts and beyond.



Once round the bend, you shall find yourself in a hitherto unseen quarter—and as *Far Beyond the Threshold of Imagination!* as you can ever hope to be!

It is there and then that you shall have the opportunity to reach out for one brief moment in time—and grasp the offer of an outstretched hand that is a *Bit of Mys-*

tery, Romance & Adventure.

Major D.H. Dale™
Driftwood™ Sixth Edition

A Miniature Story from *Stories We Are Telling*
for the *Miniature Library* of the *Short Story Aficionado*™

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Driftwood

Having Evolved into the Quintessential
MINIATURE STORY™
a Bit of MYSTERY, ROMANCE and ADVENTURE™
is Dedicated to

My FAMILY
Then, Now and Always

My DARLING and DEVOTED WIFE
You of Starlit Nights Come and Gone

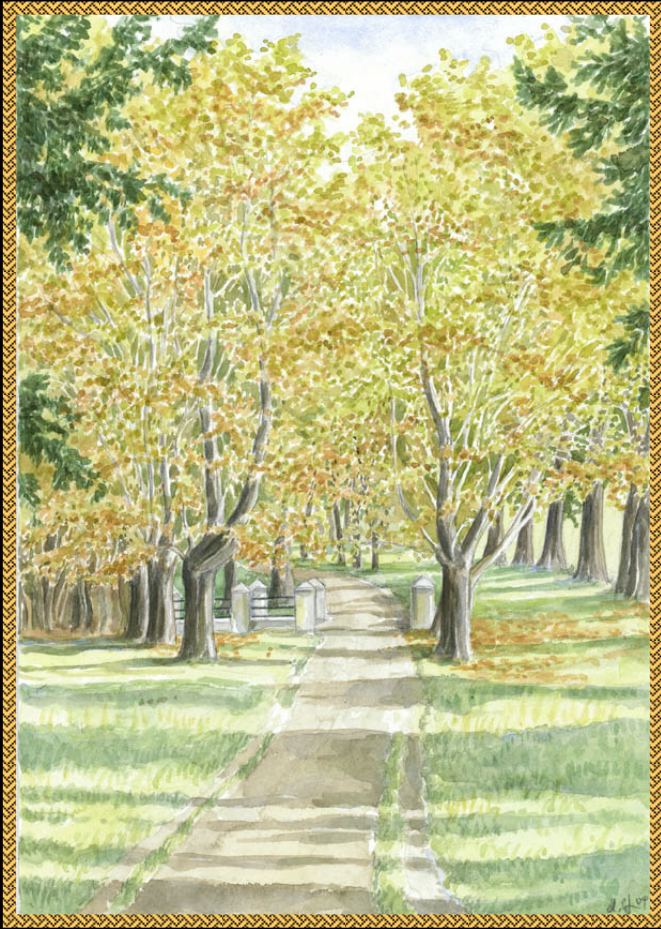
My LOVING and FAITHFUL DAUGHTER
You're the Best!

My BELOVED WIFE and ALLY
You in the Autumn Blush of All the Afternoons Yet to Come
having been the First to Cross Over the Threshold into the
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Driftwood

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Reader...

Join me now for *A Story I'm Telling*, and find a *Bit of Mystery & Adventure* born of politically acquired and amassed *Wealth, Power, Privilege, Indecision & Isolation* of government from the governed such as you and I.

Also discover the political toxicity that took root with the Article I, Section 7 *veto-proof* seeds that Congress sowed while legislatively shaping the Supreme Court for their mutual benefit with the Judiciary Act of *September 24, 1789*. This, while *Extraconstitutionally* enhancing Article III in breach of Article V—and *In Plain View* of Congressman James Madison, *author of the Constitution & Bill of Rights*, and over the *unneeded signature* of George Washington!

The foregoing transpired after the Constitution's ratification in 1788, but before that of the Bill of Rights in 1791—and *strangely just a day before* the seminal Amendment X of the latter was proposed to the States for ratification as "Article the Twelfth" on *September 25, 1789*, i.e., "*The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to The People.*"

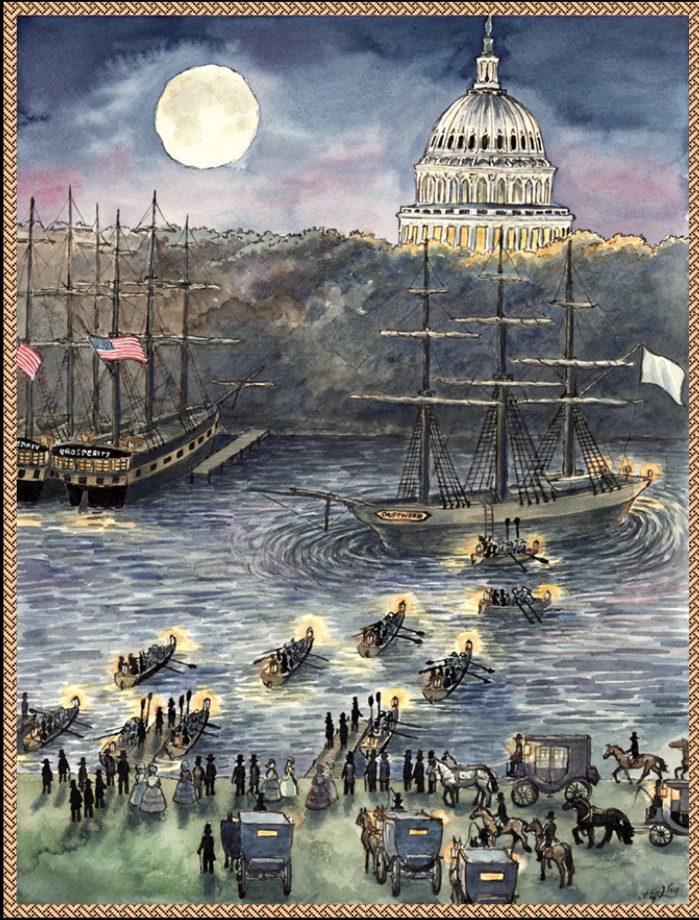
Naturally then, it was no accident when in 1803 & 1819, the Court created *Extraconstitutional Judicial Review & Legislative Oversight*—thereby throwing the door wide open to Court & Congress making repetitive end runs around the Constitution & Bill of Rights' Amendment X. This, to undermine the Article II powers & prerogatives of the President, and slow walk decision making and the response of government to the governed to a painstaking crawl.

Not inconsequentially, and like all those narcissistically addicted to an out-of-touch and well-heeled Capitol Hill, today's 9 judges & 535 legislators haphazardly scurry in as many directions—while exploitatively chasing *Wealth, Power, Privilege & Indecision* toward the shadowy brink of *National Eclipse & Demise*! 🗡️

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WELCOME to the MAELSTROM-BOUND DRIFTWOOD™!

HELLO, MR. & MRS. READER™! Join me now for *A Story I'm Telling™*, and discover *aBit of Mystery and Adventure™* born of politically acquired and amassed *Wealth, Power, Privilege, Indecision & Isolation™* of the government from the governed such as you and me.

Yes, mystery and adventure—or perhaps more appropriately described as the political secrecy and escapades that one can find running rampant in a world of dysfunctional federal governance.

The foregoing, although the vast majority of The People have no idea where, when, why & how such an impaired government came to be—unless like you, *Mr & Mrs. Reader™*, they are students of the late 18th and early 19th century legislative & judicial history which sprang from Philadelphia & New York City, respectively, and eventually emanated from Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C.

Be aware that the analyses, syntheses and conclusions contained herein reflect the richly deserved criticism of an impaired federal government, as well as its impaired national electorate. Be aware though, that neither one of the preceding is innocent of the damage observed across a 21st Century *National Landscape™*—although the urban voting electorate can said to be the least innocent among equals.

Under the circumstances then, the foregoing are certainly not the government and electorate envisioned by

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James Madison, the then future fourth president and *author of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights*, i.e., the *Constitutionally Glorious Triumvirate™* of federal governance encompassing coequal legislative, executive & judicial branches across a late 18th Century agrarian way of life and *National Landscape™*.

Yes, a coequal triumvirate whose level playing field would according to Madison just naturally be assured by an ironhanded though constitutionally flexible Article V—that could in his mind not be circumvented without amendments proposed to The People by 67% of the Congress and ratified by 75% of the States.

Further, Madison’s Constitution declared that elections of members to Congress and of the President & Vice President would be decided by The People and the States—the President & Vice President in particular by simple state majorities in order to select electors across a mostly agrarian and therefore underpopulated *National Landscape™* as dictated by ironhanded Article II, Section 1, Clauses 2-4 & Amendment XII.

As the overconfident idealogue that he seems to have been, it should come as no surprise that Madison likely did not address or perhaps even contemplate any possible—if not probable and sooner-than-later—judicial & legislative “end runs” around Article V amendments and the Bill of Rights’ Amendment X that would be jointly engaged in by Court & Congress because of the underlying difficulty (if not simple “annoyance”) of executing said amendments.

“Annoyance” is intended here to mean that a hypocritical Court & Congress were essentially paying

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nothing more nor less than mere “lip service” to Article V—if not to the Constitution in general.

Digressing for a moment then—the aforementioned Amendment XII was proposed to The People for ratification by 67% of Congress on December 9, 1803, and ratified by 75% of the States on June 15, 1804.

Likely because of the just discussed difficult and “annoying” nature of such amendments, the next constitutional “adjustment” would not be proposed and ratified until 1865—ratification taking place on December 6, 1865.

The foregoing was subsequent to the uncertainties of two seminal and perhaps not so mutually exclusive events, i.e., the conspiratorial assassination of twice elected & inaugurated republican 16th president, Abraham Lincoln (1861-April 15, 1865), at Ford’s Theater, and the Confederate States’ General in Chief Robert E. Lee’s tactical & operational (but certainly not strategic) surrender at Appomattox Courthouse on April 9, 1865.

Note that the latter was just a week earlier than the inauguration of democrat vice president and one-term unelected (and in 1868 impeached but not convicted by 1 vote) 17th president, Andrew Johnson (1865-69). Interestingly, Johnson’s impeachment and acquittal emanated from the so called and later defunct tenure of office acts of 1820 and 1867—whereby Congress sought to prevent the President from firing officials whose presidential nominations and appointments had been confirmed by the Senate.

Lee’s surrender fortunately brought 4 years of civil war to a close—but unfortunately signaled the start of more than a decade of ironhearted & ironfisted martial law

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in the former Confederate States, i.e., the so called Reconstruction Era in the South of 1865-77.

Returning now to the aforementioned judicial & legislative “end runs”—the judicial “end plays” enjoyed their “kick off” in 1803 and the legislative theirs in 1819. It was certainly no accident that the foregoing timeframe fell within the earliest years of the 34-year tenure (1801-35) of John Marshall—the ambitious and impatiently clever “tight end” and famously *Extraconstitutional Chief Justice™* who was nominated and appointed by one-term second president, John Adams (1797-1801).

Interestingly, there were several overlaps of political mention during this time. For instance, Marshall served simultaneously as Secretary of State between February 4, 1801, and March 4, 1801—then being succeeded as secretary by James Madison (1801-09), who was nominated and appointed by third president, Thomas Jefferson (1801-09).

Madison then served as fourth president (1809-17), at which point he was succeeded by fifth president, James Monroe (1817-25)—who was in turn succeeded by one-term sixth president, John Quincy Adams (1825-29), who was the son of John Adams.

Altogether, the foregoing can certainly be described as a “very tight group”, *Mr. and Mrs. Reader™!*

Madison would certainly have been disenchanted by what has today become the *Extraconstitutionally Inglorious Duumvirate™* (yes, “dumb”) that was backhandedly created by the self-serving and shortsighted Marshall—the judicial & legislative branches presently enjoying premeditated quid pro quo one-upsmanship over the *Extraconstitutionally™* weakened executive branch.

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More will be revealed *Mr. and Mrs. Reader™*, as you delve into a certain rare collection of *Miniature Stories™*—one particular volume lying high up on an out of the way and until now long forgotten and dusty shelf in the *Miniature Library™* of the *Short Story Aficionado™*.

Spurred by the crisp coolness of any chosen Autumn afternoon then, and before the violet blush of twilight fades to starlit night—hasten to find a comfortable easy chair...one where you may be warmed by the welcoming embers of a glowing hearth.

From there, your imagination shall lift you up and whisk you down the narrow drive ahead—through the gateposts and beyond.

NATIONAL SURVIVAL™ v. NATIONAL ECLIPSE & DEMISE™

YES, A MINIATURE STORY™ born of the long-standing tug-of-war between the White House and Capitol Hill—or more plainly stated as *National Survival™* v. *National Eclipse & Demise™*.

Alert to the *National Blueprint™* for *National Survival™*—any President of, by and for The People wields the banner and pursues the policies of *Security, Sovereignty, Prosperity & Supremacy™* across the *National Landscape™*.

Practically speaking, national security yields national sovereignty which sets in motion the national economic prosperity required to defray the enormous finan-

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cial costs of national military supremacy associated with the overall expenditure of *Blood, Time & Money*™—which at this point in the discussion serves to bring us back to national security and the point of beginning. Altogether, the foregoing ensure unimpaired federal governance and light the way to *National Survival*™.

Of course, there are the pitfalls of certain Achilles' heels. One of these perils reflects the decades of unhampered and unregulated foreign migration, whose annual costs have spiraled into the \$multibillions across the *National Landscape*™. Much of the foregoing encompasses the refugeeism stemming from overseas military interventions. Naturally, some conflicts such as the catastrophic World War II are justified, although most simply are not.

Another vulnerability is the even greater threat of decades of indeterminate and unwinnable overseas invasions, occupations & counterinsurgencies that are “unpaid for” by government borrowing in the \$multitrillions. The vast majority of the preceding reflects avoidable and in the end, fruitless post-World War II involvement on the continent of Asia.

Even so, the hawkish voices of Congress are already beating the war drums for even more needless military adventures—this time in the Western Hemisphere, e.g., Venezuela. The rationale for the latter may very well end up being laid at the feet of the Monroe Doctrine, and perhaps even over the objections of the President—said doctrine threatening consequences for any European intervention in the Western Hemisphere after 1823.

Interestingly, President Monroe's doctrine came to be associated with not only the Soviet Russian-Cuban Missile Crisis of October 16-28, 1962, but also the European-

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Venezuela Crisis of December 9, 1902 to February 19, 1903—the latter taking place during a naval blockade by the British, German and Italian crowned heads of Europe, as a consequence of the Venezuelan government’s refusal to pay certain financial damages suffered by European citizens.

The 1902-03 crisis reached its tipping point when the 26th president, Theodore Roosevelt (1901-09), ordered the positioning of naval ships offshore during a head-to-head confrontation with the Kaiser. The German government then backed down, as did the government of Venezuela.

Additionally, the President must continue to contend with a dark cloud that is the as yet ongoing and unchallenged Marshall Era—the foregoing casting a long shadow across the Oval Office.

Yes, unchallenged after two centuries!

Naturally, any Court challenge to *Extraconstitutional Judicial Review & Legislative Oversight™* would more than likely be rejected by the Supreme Court, whose then chief justice is famous for giving birth to them in 1803 and 1819.

The only hope of a successful challenge then, might rest with Congress.

Unfortunately, when one political party is in power on Capitol Hill and enjoying the fruits of *Extraconstitutional Establishment Status Quo™*, preservation thereof virtually always takes priority and wins out in the end.

On the flip side of the same coin of course, the political party that is out of power can be confident that



sooner or later it will also enjoy the same fruits of the status quo.

In contrast to the *National Blueprint™* for *National Survival™* of a President of, by and for The People—the eyes of Court & Congress are blinded by *Wealth, Power, Privilege, Indecision & Isolation™* of government from the governed such as you and I, *Mr. and Mrs. Reader™*.

Cascading taxes plus massive borrowing & vast inflationary printed sums in the \$multitrillions are the wealth that begets power, which in turn breeds privilege—all leading to the aforesaid isolation.

Altogether, the foregoing reflects an Achilles' heel of multifaceted vulnerabilities that exacerbates already impaired federal governance—and serves to cloak the brink of the sheer cliff of *National Eclipse & Demise™* in noir's pitch-black gloom of moonless nights.

HAND-IN-GLOVE COURT & CONGRESS
and EXTRA CONSTITUTIONAL
JUDICIAL REVIEW
& LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT™

WITH ALLEGIANCE AND LOYALTY only to themselves and to their political party, the members of the isolated multimillionaire groupthink Congress cavalierly immerse themselves in whirligig talk of impeachment. This, as well as *Extraconstitutionally Bizarre & Carnavalesque Rituals™* associated with nonstop hearings, investigations & subpoena

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frenzy—and whatever additional phantasmagorical oddities strike them at any given moment!

All the while, Congress revels in a fallback *Extraconstitutional Judicial Sanctuary™* courtesy of the hand-in-glove Supreme Court that its forebears legislatively shaped for the mutual benefit of Court & Congress on *September 24, 1789*.

The foregoing is a seminal example of the political toxicity that took root with the Article I, Section 7 *veto-proof* seeds that Congress sowed with the Judiciary Act of 1789. This, while *Extraconstitutionally™* enhancing Article III in breach of Article V—*In Plain View™* of Virginia Congressman James Madison, *author of the Constitution & Bill of Rights*, and over the *unneeded signature* of first president, George Washington (1789-97)!

The foregoing transpired after the ratification of the Constitution in 1788, but before that of the Bill of Rights in 1791—and *strangely just a day before* Amendment X of the latter was proposed to the States for ratification as “Article the Twelfth” on *September 25, 1789*, i.e., “The powers *not delegated to* the United States by the Constitution, *nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to* the States respectively, or to The People.”

Naturally then, it was no accident when in 1803 & 1819 the Supreme Court’s chief justice, John Marshall (who had been essentially lying in wait), took the opportunity to commandeer two otherwise inconsequential and innocuous written opinions as vehicles for the creation of cloaks of *Extraconstitutional Judicial Review™* and veils of *Extraconstitutional Legislative Oversight™*.

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Thereby, the door was thrown wide open to both Court & Congress making repetitive end runs around the Constitution, the Bill of Rights' Amendment X, the States and The People—while barely concealed behind the aforesaid *Extraconstitutional Cloaks & Veils™*. That is—*In Plain View™*!

DRIFTWOOD™

BY THE SPRING AND SUMMER OF 1865, uncertainties emanating from the aforementioned assassination of President Lincoln, and General in Chief Lee's surrender at Appomattox Courthouse became even more uncertain.

This, when it was discovered that fresh ideas were being hurled overboard like jetsam from the open deck of a maelstrom-bound *Driftwood™*, and that sound principles had been set adrift like flotsam in the Anacostia River's roiling *Whirlpool of Indecision™*!

Beware then! Empty Capitol Hill quivers are today, evidence of volley after premeditated volley of quid pro quo *Extraconstitutional Judicial Review & Legislative Oversight™* raining down on the White House—virtually all representing end runs around the Constitution and the Bill of Rights' Amendment X, thus continuing to undermine the Article II powers and prerogatives of the President, and slow walk decision making and the response of government to the governed to a painstaking crawl.

Not inconsequentially, and like all those who are narcissistically addicted to an out-of-touch and well-heeled Capitol Hill, today's 9 judges and 535 legislators

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haphazardly scurry in as many directions—while exploitatively chasing *Wealth, Power, Privilege & Indecision™* toward the shadowy brink of *National Eclipse & Demise™*.

Yes, all 544 *Wealthy, Powerful, Privileged, Indecisive & Isolated™* multimillionaires! Don't be fooled by the way. Regardless of political party affiliation, they all prefer the ease and quietude of the establishment status quo. Why?

Well, that's a very good question of course, *Mr. and Mrs. Reader™!*

It's because their comfort zone demands that they regularly and calmly swap control of the Capitol Hill Swamp without disturbing the water's surface—that is, without interrupting pursuance of their politically acquired and amassed *Wealth, Power, Privilege, Indecision & Isolation™* of government from the governed!

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A MANAGED, ENTERTAINED & CONFUSED ELECTORATE™!

IN THE JUDGMENT OF THIS WRITER¹, there is nothing really surprising about the impaired nature of the federal government and its likewise impaired na-

¹The freewheeling imagination and evocative storytelling of MAJOR D.H. DALE™ crown otherwise commonplace themes with *aBit of Mystery, Romance and Adventure™*—a bejeweled and magical coronet not shackled by convention. Herein lies the work of a self-styled painter of the written word—the full kaleidoscope of hues, blushes, shades, tones and tints flowing from the storyteller's inkwell to parchment. It is upon these leaves of paper so unselfishly bestowed by some mighty tree—that the teller has penned this *Miniature Story™* titled *DRIFTWOOD™—Chasing Wealth, Power, Privilege & Indecision™ Toward the Shadowy Brink of National Eclipse & Demise™*. The storyteller's thread of events, like all praiseworthy accounts, is a manifestation of the routine yet exceptional practice of observing, analyzing and drawing compelling as well as heartfelt conclusions. Inevitably, the finalities reflected in such reasoned judgments can be said to draw themselves up out of a shallow inkstone. After all, that vessel is the lone crucible in which the dry ink of deliberation is measured and mixed with just the right amount of imagination from the well of reflection—thereby maintaining the fragile flow of creativity that the pen can never completely manage on its own. ©1997-2019 by GTransGlobal™

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tional electorate as kaleidoscopically portrayed herein— one thoughtful reader’s reaction being “...the Constitution must rely on honorable people...”.

In that regard, one question of many that immediately comes out of the gate is, “Where does honor leave off and groupthink begin?” The setting that just as immediately follows the starting gun is the maelstrom-bound *Driftwood*™!

No, one cannot simply excuse the *Managed, Entertained & Confused*™ majority of the voting electorate that for whatever reason repetitively sends *Wealthy, Powerful, Privileged, Indecisive & Isolated*™ multimillionaires to Capitol Hill via the whirlpool-bound *Driftwood*™—from whose open deck they invariably discard their fresh ideas & sound principles before climbing down the rope ladder and taking the next open rowboat to the far shore of the Anacostia River where they debark and stroll to Capitol Hill. That is, the 435 isolated members of the House of Representatives and the likewise 100 isolated members of the Senate.

While we’re at it here though, let’s not forget to lay a well deserved mountain of blame at the feet of the *Managed, Entertained & Confused*™ nonvoting electorate as well.

One must bear in mind too, that the aforementioned Senate is wholly responsible for Article II, Section 2, Clause 2 “Advice and Consent” (confirmation) as to any of the 9 *Wealthy, Powerful, Privileged, Indecisive & Isolated*™ multimillionaire “Judges of the supreme Court” who are nominated and appointed to the Capitol Hill bench by any multimillionaire President—and who are themselves seriously impacted by workload, as well as by indecision and isolation.

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Unfortunately for the governed, the foregoing 9 “Judges of the supreme Court” enjoy lifetime tenures subject only to impeachment by the *Wealthy, Powerful, Privileged, Indecisive & Isolated*™ 435-member multimillionaire House of Representatives and conviction and removal from office by 67% of the *Wealthy, Powerful, Privileged & Isolated*™ 100-member multimillionaire Senate.

Naturally, any government of, for and by The People is by definition answerable to The People. Hence, The People must shoulder the lion’s share of any blame that they themselves assign to “their” government.

In the end though, be aware that criticism of the national electorate must be tempered by the fact that it is not The People who generally do any “morphing”, i.e., shedding of their skins.

Rather, it is the crocs & gators whom The People’s electorate choose to repetitively send crawling, slipping & sliding down the muddy banks & slopes of the Capitol Hill Swamp as typical reptilian politicians are certainly inclined to do.

This, after said reptiles rip, tear & consume the flimsy and therefore short-lived election day “leashes” that The People illogically drop in ballot boxes for some bizarre reason or another. 🐊



DRIFTWOOD™—CHASING WEALTH, POWER, PRIVILEGE & INDECISION™ TOWARD THE SHADOWY BRINK OF NATIONAL ECLIPSE & DEMISE™ BY MAJOR D.H. DALE™
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Your Storyteller in Miniature™

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Sixth Edition

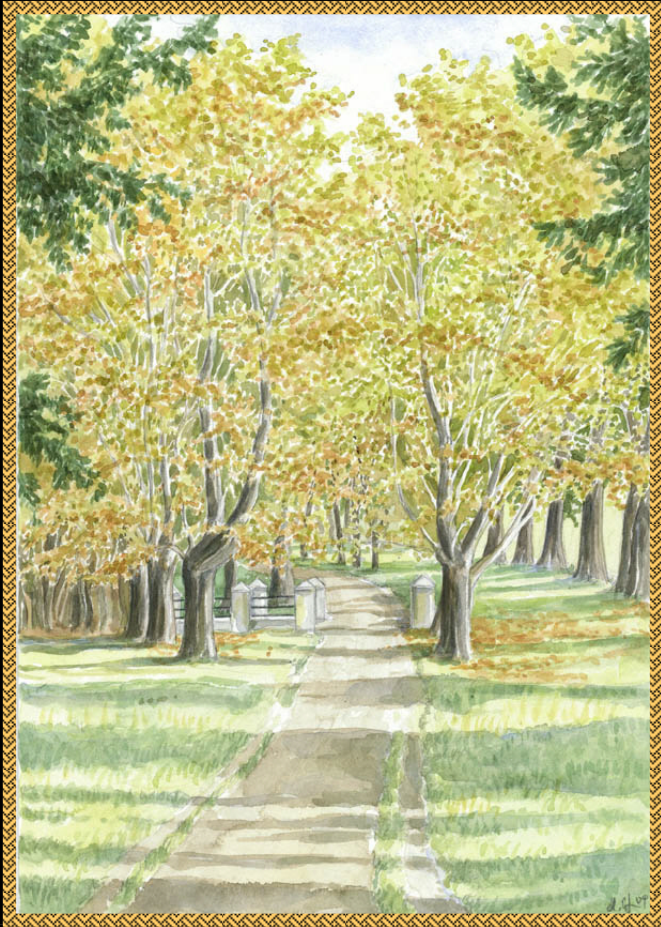
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