

**"IF WAY TO THE BETTER THERE BE, IT EXTRACTS A FULL
LOOK AT THE WORST." Thomas Hardy.**

Maurice Sykes, my English teacher, was always quoting that. Maybe that is what we are going through today. Except that we are not merely looking at, we are experiencing, the worst. Well, most of us are.

There is, however, little point in bothering to look with eyes wide shut (Stanley Kubrick). That brings me back to political literacy. Our political eyes still seem barely open. The Report on Political Literacy (1978) never thrilled me, although I was a member of the working party, but it did signal something positive, a movement if you like. What happened in 1979? Thatcher happened. What happened in 1997? She gave birth to a successor. Political illiteracy was on its way.

Cameron could in 2010 have helped to reintroduce a bit of old fashioned mutuality into the EU. Instead, in order to placate his UKIP wing, he aligned with the raving right in its parliament. And then there was Brexit. The newspaper headline should have been Cack-Handed Cameron Cocked Up Big Time. Then Theresa May. A safe pair of hands! The job of restoring her reputation was given to de Piffle. Only he could make us wish for her return. Well, getting Bercow back would be something.

What I cannot fathom is why anyone whose quality of life depended upon the defeat of the Tories fell for the 'Lets Just Get Brexit Done garbage. Even if you believe the referendum vote to have had some connection with democracy (I don't) this approach to Brexit was like a parent telling a self-harming child to stop messing about and get on with the suicide.

But back to Hardy, where is the way to the better? Do we have a navigator? Does our navigator have a map? Labour is now led by Bibi Starmer of New Likud. Where shall he lead us? To a New Jerusalem?

To do good politics and to make its language a widely-spoken one we need leaders of parties who can articulate inclusive values. Corbyn could do that. Blair, however, had injected too much poison into the Party's bloodstream. An inclusive society was never to their liking.

Remember EDUCATION EDUCATION EDUCATION? The slogan ought to have been SOCIETY, SOCIETY, SOCIETY.

Cliff Jones 27th. August 2020

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