

## Yo Blair

### Speech for the defence

Members of the jury, you see before you a man of nobility, a man of humanity, a man of whom this great nation of ours can, nay must, nay shall, be proud. When called upon for selfless sacrifice did he demur? Did he hesitate? Did he hide away from destiny? Not he! Tony Blair, for it is of him that we speak, fearlessly sacrificed the lives of millions. He did this so that we could be proud and, carrying forth the torch passed to us by ancient sons of ancient Empire, continue to paint the globe red: red with the blood of those that tried in vain to hold back the march of progress.

Under the wise guidance of Anthony Charles Lynton Blair once more we have taught the uncivilised hordes to quake at hearing the name of our nation. The Afghan and the Arab have learned their lesson. Never again shall they presume to challenge those that know what is best for them. The dead, the disabled, the born deformed, the dying and the displaced will come to realise that all was for their best. The pesky Palestinian shall learn that subservience is good for him. Johnny Foreigner has been brought into line.

Entirely due to Tony (for it is by that name we have learned to love him) we have begun to reap the benefits of a privatised National Health Service and more. This son of Thatcher saw the future and, taking us by the hand, led us into the modern world in which we could all aspire to become rich; though few have been as successful at fulfilling this aspiration as our once and, we must hope, future king.

Members of the jury I see that m'lud is looking at the clock so I must pause for now. My brandy and cigars await but, fear not, I shall soon be back to remind you, and to remind the world, how precious is the legacy of Tony Blair: the legacy, dear members of the jury, of a Messiah for our times.

### Speech resumed

Like you members of the jury I have had to draw in my claws. Following Tony Blair's far too early surrender of the seals of office when the world could no longer rely upon his steady hand on the tiller, we have suffered austerity. You will, I know, appreciate that last night there was no Napoleon brandy for me. After the Gevrey Chambertin 1958 we in the bar mess drank only Remy Martin five star; and as for cigars they were merely Romeo y Julietas. I tell you this to reinforce the rapport that I feel you and I have established.

Today, however, I wish to remind us of the insightful and overwhelmingly credible support given to my client by his character witnesses: people of undoubted probity who anyone of us would trust and no one could doubt.

You can hardly have failed to be impressed by the testimony of Donald Rumsfeld. The lucidity of his explanation of the differences between known knowns, unknown knowns, known unknowns and unknown unknowns was devastatingly clear to us all. To have such an intellectual giant speak on behalf of Tony Blair tells us so much.

We were sorry that Dick Cheney was unable to attend, having been rushed into hospital for a finger strain caused by counting Halliburton's profits. Nevertheless, you must have been impressed that George W Bush, no less, went to the trouble of sending us a link to his viral YouTube 'Yo Blair' video. Such an endorsement!

Perhaps, however, the most telling character witness was the Prime Minister of Israel. Apparently there are some reasons why he could not attend in person. The speculation is that he was on his way to Tehran to sign a nuclear non-proliferation treaty but his written statement to this court that he was willing to throw the entire humanistic credibility of his party, his cabinet and, so impressive and touching this, his lovely wife, behind a bid for our Tony to receive the next Nobel Peace Prize, well, members of the jury, nothing, but nothing, matches this: again, such an endorsement!

Tempus fugit and I must postpone the conclusion of my speech. Perhaps tonight we might try the Gevrey Chambertin 1957. It has to be better than the '59 when, as a result of a long hot summer, far too much wine was produced and the quality suffered; but, members of the jury, we all remember that do we not?

### **Concluding remarks**

As you will have guessed, members of the jury, the '57 Gevrey Chambertin was excellent.

Today I wish to concentrate upon two outstanding features of this man, this great man. They are TRUTH and FAITH.

Anthony Charles Lynton Blair is no ordinary man. Yes, he is a man of the people but he is also that rare being who can lead his people where they do not yet realise that they must go. He takes us on a journey: a journey, members of the jury, into a future in which new meaning is to be given to words such as 'truth' and 'faith'. To him the vision is clear: to us it is often blurred; but to hold his hand while on this journey is an enlightening experience. Once we begin to see that 'truth' means far more than we ever thought possible the boundaries constraining our actions begin to fall away: we can achieve so much: humanity itself is now translated into a higher form of being. And once we begin to understand 'faith' as Tony does we come to realise that our past was shackled by restrictive concepts such as evidence.

In the poor and impoverished pre Tony past when our minds were befogged and befuddled by old-fashioned principles and values we would have believed that the absence of evidence for weapons of mass destruction in Saddam

Hussein's Iraq signified an untruth. Now we know that it actually signified a higher truth: a Tony Truth. This new truth enables us to see things differently. Our horizon is wider, our perspective is more sophisticated, we stand with Tony upon the highest of hills with the clouds blown away and what we see is that minor mistakes about, for example, weapons of mass destruction must be viewed in the context of progress and modernity: our watchword has to be 'forward' and what, dear members of the jury, shall be allowed to stop progress? Nothing! Minor truths must give way to major truths. The mundane truth of the hoi polloi must step aside for the extraordinary truth of this exceptional man.

And so we come to FAITH. The House of Blair is built on faith. Its foundations are faith. It is built from faith. Its bricks and its mortar are faith. Its roof is faith. All, all is faith. And in that mansion of faith are many rooms that are visited by many sinners seeking redemption. Some have criticised Tony Blair for seeking out sinners: the rich, the racists, the torturers, the exploiters and the extortionists. How else, we must ask, are such people to be reformed and brought into the fold? No one more than Tony, our Tony, has done as much to bring sinners into society and to bring society to accept sin.

You and I, members of the jury, when we build our modest mansions, are limited by building and town planning regulations; we ask to see the plans of architects; we demand to know what has gone into the foundations; and we wish the finished mansion to be inspected by qualified people. Such pettifogging obsession with paltry evidence and regulation does not apply to Tony Blair. With faith like his all becomes possible and truth itself is transformed.

I do not ask for a not guilty verdict. Heroes are not to be subject to ordinary judgments. I ask, I demand, I expect acclamation for this great man whose place in history's tableau of great men is assured. He must be carried out of here on your shoulders to be received and revered by a grateful nation and to resume his place among the immortals.

Truly, in our time, we have seen no one such as he.

The Veuve Cliquot 2004 should be ready for drinking now I think. I am sure, members of the jury, that you agree.

**Cliff Jones June 28<sup>th</sup> 2015**

