

Not In My Wildest Dreams

By Marilyn Reeves

The other night I woke myself up shouting, “Not in my wildest dreams!” I turned on my bedside lamp, got out of bed and slipped into my robe and slippers, then I wandered out to the kitchen for a glass of water. As I sat at the table gazing into the gloom, little bits of the dream began to come back to me.

I was back in middle school sitting on a stool facing the classroom, and my Social Sciences teacher was asking me what I would do if I were elected President of the United States. I just sat there wide-eyed and told him I didn’t know where to begin. So he prompted me with a few questions:

“Have you been watching the debates this year and listening to what each of the candidates has to say?”

“Yes, I have.”

“And what have you concluded?”

“Well, first of all, I think there are way too many political ads! I’m so sick of hearing all the candidates saying nasty things about each other! I wish we could do away with both the Democrat and the Republican parties and replace them with three other ones: Liberal, Conservative, and Moderate. (I think you could call me a ‘Moderate.’) That would do away with a lot of party politics – voting for someone just because they’re affiliated with your party, never mind what kind of person they are. We should elect someone who possesses both honesty and integrity, regardless of which party they represent.”

“Food for thought. Next question: What would you do about the ongoing pandemic?”

“I think there should be some sort of middle ground. Of course we should listen to the medical experts and follow their advice, but we should also support businesses who follow the safety guidelines. The worst thing we can do is pretend Covid doesn’t exist and simply ignore it because we think the guidelines are an impingement on our freedom. It’s not a political issue, it’s a medical issue! And if we want to get past it we have to face it head on.”

“What about foreign policy?”

“First, do everything we can to try to win back the respect and friendship of our Allies. Which is not to say we shouldn’t try to have constructive dialogue with so-called ‘enemy states’ as well. Threats of sanctions and violence on our part can only bring about sanctions and violence on theirs.”

“What would you do about racism?”

“That’s a tough one. Children learn their attitudes from their parents. They have to be taught to hate. We can’t make up for all the wrongs visited upon People of Color by our forefathers, but what we *can* do is embrace them as an integral part of today’s society. I think the entertainment media helps by portraying them simply as individuals, each bringing their own unique gifts and perspectives to the table – just like everybody else.”

“So, when you grow up would you consider running for President?”

“Oh, heavens, no! A good President needs to be very well informed about all the things going on in the world. He or she should have very high moral standards and be humble enough to listen to those who

are more knowledgeable than they are. It's the hardest job in the world, and must be taken very seriously. The well-being of the entire planet may depend on the things they do.

"Me? Run for President? Not in my wildest dreams!"