

Nov. 20, 2016

## of prognosticators and eclairs

Was the election of new presidents and other historic events predicted in centuries past? And if so, how accurate were the predictions?

Predictions are often negative--having to do with rivers of fire, two-headed dragons, and having your car break down while driving to your aunt's house to pick up cinnamon rolls she made for you the night before. (Some predictions are very specific.)

Not all are negative. In Revelations 6:12, right after the "moon turns blood red", it reads: "Hot dogs and buns will both be offered eight to a pack, giving the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse two hotdogs each. This is very convenient, as it is a long journey from their ranch in Texas."

Does Revelations say anything about our new president-elect? I asked an expert, Dr. Lloyd Tunscht of the United States Institute of Greater Learning in Bent Fender, Kentucky.

"No, not really," he said. "The original draft of Revelations did include a sentence that started out talking about 'the tangerine one' rising to power, bringing with him both celebration and gnashing of teeth. But then John, the author of Revelations, crossed it out and wrote down his grocery list. He may have been sidetracked by 'tangerine.'"

Edgar Cayce was said to have made his predictions in his sleep. Among his more notable predictions was that the pyramids were built by space aliens, and that the lost city of Atlantis is not lost at all, but was simply renamed Myrtle Beach when nobody was paying attention. In fact, you can still find ancient runes in Myrtle Beach that read, "Welcome to Atlantis! Hope ya' enjoy your stay!"

Cayce didn't say whether the aliens who built the pyramids were undocumented, or even if we *had* documents for aliens back then. The only clue is an April 11, 1913 submission by Cayce, in which he noted that a group of aliens "had to go back to their home world because they forgot to bring a photo ID."

Regarding the presidential election, Cayce said, "Upon great authority have I been assured that in the presidential election of 2016, one candidate will win. The other, I am told by the mysteries of the universe, will lose. Of this there is no doubt."

He didn't stop there. He went on to say, "On the morning of the victory, the winner will drink Folgers, because Folgers is mountain grown for better flavor."

Others refer to Nostradamus for their prognostications. I'm a fan of Nostradamus, and not entirely because of his cool beard. Okay, it *is* entirely because of his cool beard. Well, that and the fact that one of his predictions tells where to get a really good eclair. He even gave directions, which is weird because Jetmore didn't even exist back then.

In 1529, he referred to the recent election in "*The Prophecies*". He wrote: "A branch will fall from a tree, startling a cat. The cat will sniff the branch and then walk away, bored with the branch. A dog will bark. The cat won't respond, leading the dog to wonder: *Why is the cat ignoring me?* He will learn later that the cat was disturbed about something and hadn't registered the dog's bark. And the dog shall lie down with the branch, on which it will chew."

"As you know, an emotionally disturbed cat has long been held as a symbol of high political achievement," noted Dr. Phyllis Hardy of the School of Applied Socio-Physics and Boot Repair in Rome. "Further, we believe that the orangy-yellow color of the cat in the prediction is symbolic of orangy-yellow color of the current president-elect."

Personally, I don't believe in any of this, except the part about the pyramids. And Atlantis. And the cat.

Whether you are happy or saddened by the results of the election, there are two things on which we can all agree: 1) The presidential race was ugly, and with few exceptions seriously lacking in the simplest Christian discipleship, and 2) We hope as disciples of a Loving Lord that any ugliness expressed toward our brothers and sisters in Christ is replaced with compassion.

As Christians, we must hold those elected to office to a higher standard, a standard measured by the admonitions of our Lord Jesus. As we come together under our new president next January, we must all continue to condemn any words or actions of gross derision from elected officials or members of the populace. Not to do so is to condone them. To condone them is to tell countless others that they can do the same.

I find hope in our Loving Lord. Like our Lord Jesus, we must never, ever lose faith in the human spirit. Christ is with us—all of us—every moment. And as children of God, we should pray for our future president, the Congress, the Supreme Court, and our country each and every day.