

FIGHTING FOR A LARGER VISION OF VICTORY:
VICTORY EXTRACTED THROUGH STRUGGLE, INCLUSIVE OF ALL

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DR. MAULANA KARENGA

SURELY, IT IS IMPORTANT TO CELEBRATE and reflect on the historic victory of Democratic candidates in the recent mid-term elections in which we as a people can rightfully claim a decisive role. But it is also imperative to remember and reaffirm that we are fighting for a larger vision of victory way beyond the taking of a majority of seats and offices. It is a victory which must be extracted through righteous and relentless struggle on every level, achieves a shared and inclusive good for all, and rises out of a radical reconception and reconstruction of society. And in its most expansive vision of the future, it means, in the Bethunian and Kawaida sense, a radical remaking of society and the whole world in the interest of African and human good and the well-being of the world and all in it.

This impressive electoral victory of the Democratic candidates carries with it a mandate, a gift from the people with the explicit understanding that they would do something more in line with the actual will and life needs of the people who made the victory possible. It also represents a decisive rejection and repudiation of Trump and his gansta government, his callousness and cruelty, shameless lumpen approach to life, and his kleptocratic corruption, all vulgarly visible in his policies and personal practices. And it is simultaneously a righteously angry rejection and repudiation of his enabling allies and acolytes on the Supreme Court and lower ones, who sanctioned and aided and abetted his gutting of the Voting Rights Act, and Republicans' gerrymandering and redistricting to undermine, diminish and destroy Black and Brown representation and political power.

Having won, the critical question becomes how will the Democrats honor and implement the mandate the people gave them? There are several obvious ways they can betray the hopes and faith the people have invested in them. But if they truly appreciate this moment of history and opportunity and the meaning of the mandate the American people have given them to do the right thing, they will do as Nana Amilcar Cabral advised in a righteous struggle for the well-being and liberation of the people: "Mask no difficulties, tell no lies and claim no easy victories". And they will identify with the hopes and aspirations of the people and join their historic struggle to open up new horizons and possibilities for a just and good society neither party has yet imagined or offered.

Of course, neither party in their current form can do this, but as a moral minimum, they must, on day one, begin to make every effort to undo and end the deep and widespread harm and injustice this racist regime has imposed on this country and the world. At the very beginning of their tenure in office, they must undo the callous and anti-life Medicaid and Medicare cuts that undermine needed health care, especially for the most vulnerable among us: the disabled seniors, low-income people and the poor.

They must disband ICE in its current Gestapo form with its reign of terror, unchecked violence and racist profiling and targeting, close down its savagely abusive and death-dealing detention sites and halt its immoral and illegal deportation practices. They also must end the racist and partisan attempt to deny and diminish ours and others' voting rights and power through gerrymandering and redistricting. And they must end the occupation of Haiti and the persecution of Haitians, stop the war in Iran, and support of the Israeli genocidal war against the Palestinian

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people, the occupation of Lebanon, and Trump's other allies support for the genocidal war against the Sudanese people and redirect these resources for positive social and peaceful purposes.

Furthermore, the issues of AI, data centers, labor replacement and work and economic security, climate change and restoring international aid and law are all on the agenda. And if this new Congress has half the heart needed, they should also find a rightful remedy to address the unjust firing and forcing out of 319,000 plus Black women and Black men as well as thousands of others in federal and public jobs. Here I am using "having heart" as a metaphor for both caring and courage, demonstrating a moral concern and commitment to justice vital to creating and sustaining a just and good society. And as part of "setting the scales of justice in their proper place", as the sacred texts of our honored ancestors teach, they must effectively hold accountable Trump, his gansta government and his rich corrupt crime partners.

Critical here also, is how we interpret and respond to reasons for this electoral rout of Trump and the congressional Trumpites. This requires that we recognize that the people revolted electorally in anger especially for various material reasons and that there is the fragility and fleeting character to anger not righteously rooted in moral rather than material reasons. Yes, material satisfaction and personal security are vital, but the moral and spiritual dimension gives fullness to our humanity and make us more than seekers of food and safe conditions. Indeed, our history and role as a key moral vanguard in America has been a constant and consistent fight for the Good in its wholeness, not only for the material conditions of life, but also to expand the realm of freedom in this country and the world. This freedom includes, as Haji Malcolm taught, freedom from "political domination, economic exploitation and social degradation". And as Kawaida teaches, it is also a freedom to develop, flourish and come into the fullness of ourselves. Thus, one of the most important roles we have is to always foreground the moral without sacrificing emphasis on the need and right of all people to be materially and personally secure as essential to a good and meaningful life.

Finally, it is imperative also that we remember and reaffirm our central role in this victory and in other struggles for freedom and justice in this country and the world, in a word, our righteous and relentless struggle for a shared and inclusive good for all. This requires rightful memory of all those who've gone before us and paved the path which has brought us to this point. As Nana Hamer taught us, let's hold to the commitment "never to forget where we came from and always praise the bridges that carried us over". And what better way to remember and honor all those ancestors who offered and gave their lives and deaths in the interest of this sacred struggle than to "continue the struggle, keep the faith and hold the line". Only in this way can we gain a victory and future worthy of the name and history African, audaciously achieving an ever expansive African and human good and the well-being of the world and all in it. ▲

DR. MAULANA KARENGA, Professor Emeritus of Africana Studies, California State University-Long Beach; Executive Director, African American Cultural Center (Us); Creator of Kwanzaa and the Nguzo Saba; and author of *Kwanzaa: A Celebration of Family, Community and Culture,* and *Essays on Struggle: Position and Analysis*, www.OfficialKwanzaaWebsite.org; www.MaulanaKarenga.org. www.AfricanAmericanCulturalCenter-LA.org.