

LAMENTATION: STATE OF THE JIM ADDRESS II

Taken from Ogg-Cast 68, *A New Hope?*, January 2017

Original version: Part One, 0:01:44 – 0:09:52

I want to start this show, if you will allow me, with another State Of The Jim Address, because it's been four months since the last episode and I've made a few significant changes. There may well be some new listeners who are unaware of how and why I viewed 2016 – if you are new, I'd suggest starting with the package of Ogg-Cast 61, *Great Scott!* (and that includes the speech that I amputated from that show originally); listen to that and then work your way forwards from there.

First of all, new and old listeners, I want you to do some reading. Go to slatestarcodex.com and find an article titled "I Can Tolerate Anything Except The Outgroup".

LINK: [Scott Alexander - I Can Tolerate Anything Except The Outgroup \[slatestarcodex.com, 30 September 2014\]](http://slatestarcodex.com/2014/09/30/scott-alexander-i-can-tolerate-anything-except-the-outgroup/)

It will help you no end to understand me. It will give you all the information you need to know as to why I've been living in a state of perpetual simmering rage for the last four years. Imagine what it must be like to believe you were somewhere you belonged, where you were at home with your own people, in an ingroup drawn amongst the whole of the rock, metal and punk scene. That ingroup was broadly liberal-leaning and would reject extremist viewpoints wherever they came from. The important word there is: "was". Now imagine watching the boundaries of that group steadily redrawn around you, until, through no action of your own, you found yourself firmly in the outgroup – and hence find yourself the target of the Two Minutes Hate whenever it comes. I don't have to imagine any of this, because I speak from experience.

This isn't all you need to read. To understand why the boundaries have been redrawn of who is in the ingroup and who is in the outgroup, go to Zero Tolerance's website at ztmag.com and find Alan Averill's most recent opinion piece, titled "View From The Online Bunker: To Trump Or Not To Trump?". In 2,000 words or so, he identifies everything that's wrong with the Regressive Left, what's wrong with their beliefs and their tactics, why their tactics have backfired so spectacularly and why they're throwing tantrums because they won't lie in the grave that they've dug for themselves. He does it so much more incisively and concisely than I ever could.

LINK: [Alan Averill - View From The Online Bunker: To Trump Or Not To Trump? \[Zero Tolerance magazine, 7 January 2017\]](http://ztmag.com/2017/01/07/alan-averill-view-from-the-online-bunker-to-trump-or-not-to-trump/)

Now, Alan refers to these political shifts on social media and on university campuses, but every point he makes, I have observed happening to the wider metal scene. As the scene has moved inexorably towards the Regressive Left, as a direct consequence, boundaries have been redrawn that denote who is in the ingroup and who is in the outgroup.

Having now spent so long in the outgroup, I have come to the inescapable conclusion that the wider metal scene are no longer my people. So, on the 1st of January, 2017, I cut off all my hair. I'd been considering doing so for months before, but with my brother's wedding in October, for which I wanted to look like what he'd known for the last 15 years, I held off until the new year so that I could reveal myself as the all-new-for-2017 model. My hair was thrown in a steel bucket and burnt. Call that purely symbolic if you will, but it's something I had to do. It was the most obvious stereotype of male metalheads beyond the denim and leather of the old days; it was the signifier that I was still in the ingroup when I knew perfectly well I wasn't. It had to be cast to the purifying flames.

The other major change is that I've resigned from the Wyrd Ways Rock Show. This was a real wrench to have to do, because, as long term listeners will know, the Wyrd Ways Rock Show was what I based the Hammer Of Retribution Ogg-Cast on in the first place. I'd noticed some changes – again, over the last four years or so, subtly reflected in the playlist, but also in the views and opinions that esteemed host Carl Pickles was putting on the show and writing on social media. My level of alarm increased steadily, aided and abetted by the staff turnover that was bringing in more people of a Huffington Post persuasion than anything that might oppose that. But the event horizon was when the official Wyrd Ways Rock Show blog was founded in November, parroting all the opinions which have seemingly become compulsory in the wider metal scene in order to stay in the ingroup. I knew I had to put out some kind of statement that said "I refute these views, they are not mine and should not be taken as such" but again, I held off for a couple of months to where we are now, as the staff's Top Ten lists for 2016 are revealed. I've combined my top three, because that's all I could give, with my resignation. That show hasn't been aired yet – Carl is still building it as I write this, and I did warn him; you're not going to like this, you will disagree sharply with what I have to say. I was actually astounded when he replied to say, actually, he can see my point. We are still in respectful conversation behind the scenes where I will continue probing what Carl really thinks, and whether we have really diverged as much as I'd previously thought. He says the offer is still open for me to return. I'll never say never, but at this stage I have to do what's right for me.

[Note: the comments that caused the "event horizon" were soon deleted from the relevant post on the Wyrd Ways Rock Show blog; this caused a lot of confusion, which will hopefully be cleared up in the subsequent Lamentation that was part of a bonus Ogg-Cast released a month later.]

I see a parallel with what's going on in the media. I'd always wondered if there was a left-wing equivalent of Fox News, a torrent of propaganda, brainwashing, confirmation bias and delusional drivel that's gone full retard in the opposite political direction. And there is – it's called The Young Turks. It's part of a wider network that has hosted sensible liberal, atheist and secular thinkers – but as the network has not so much drifted as charged at full pelt head first down the social justice rabbit hole, some of its big names left the ship. Kyle Kulinski, who hosts Secular Talk, describes himself as atheist and liberal and has voiced his objections to the deranged lunacy coming from the far left. But he still calls himself a feminist, and he hates the term "Regressive Left" – he thinks such views are still progressive. So it comes as no surprise that he still suckles from the teat of the Young Turks – Secular Talk is still associated with their network – because he can't bring himself to reject their viewpoints outright. Dave Rubin, though, is different. He also describes himself as liberal and atheist, but he embraces the term "Regressive Left". He sees the Regressive Left for the crazed, zealous, religious madness that it is. He accepted an invitation into The Young Turks in 2013, when I'm told that they hadn't yet gone crazy... and he left two years later, completely severing his ties with the network, when he saw what they had become and could stomach it no longer.

This is why I've cut off my hair, it's also why I've left the Wyrd Ways Rock Show, but that's really as a secondary by-product of leaving behind a scene that has put me firmly in the outgroup. To do what's right for me, I have to follow the example of Dave Rubin – not that of Kyle Kulinski.

Fret ye all not, though, because there are still some parts of the metal scene that appreciate my presence, where I'm still part of the ingroup. Say, Warhorns, the Blackwood Gathering, and the majority of UK folk and black metal. I'm still at home there. Maybe the Metalgate group that I've recently been added to on Faceache could also be somewhere where I can be at home – and if any of you are listening, welcome to *my* ingroup.