

IN DARKNESS

THERE IS NO CHOICE

(You Better Believe It)

Yeah. It's "only rock 'n' roll". Just a noise. Just an outlet for us degenerates to vent our frustrations, jump about, drink beer and go home again. Or could it be more than that? We think it can.

Back in the dark distant days of the advent of this "scene", as well as the noise, a major catalyst for it all was to outwardly state our rejection of the conventions and norms that had created the world around us. To stick two fingers up to and walk away from the established ways of doing things and seek out a better way to live. One that attempted to shrug off the chains of recognised "normality" and embrace an alternative reality away from the constant barrage of top down control, manipulation and general bullshit. We may not have had all the answers, but the fact that we were willing to put ourselves on the line and stand up in whatever ways we could for the belief that valid alternatives were possible, meant that what we had, above all, was an integrity and a spirit that, once found, was near on impossible to break. Our eyes were opening up and, once opened, it seemed it would be impossible to revert back to the grey world we had previously inhabited.

Here we are, some 40 years on from then. Older, and with all of the experiences that the time in between has provided. Some lessons learned along the way. Some not. Life marches on regardless.

It's almost hard to believe how the world around us has developed. Almost! Some of us saw it coming. Some of us who were around then chose to make the best of what they had, and as maturity crept in, the decisions made became more pragmatic and compromised over time. This is not to judge. Just to state a reality. It's understandable. We all have our reasons for doing the things we do.

Today we find ourselves in a slightly different place from where we started out. Fuck! Most people here weren't even born when "In Darkness There Is No Choice" originally came out. Imagine how that might feel for us. We're still here though. But not to engage in some sad, nostalgic, punk rock pantomime. We're here because we still believe in the power of encouraging folk to "do the right thing". And although the topics have widened and the debate has become more disparate, all of us now live in a time where those at the top of the "control pyramid" have at their disposal the means to marginalise actions and dialogue that might oppose their sought after domination in ways that simply were never possible in previous years. It comes from all sides and from all mediums. And the barrage gets louder and more enveloping every day. Time after time dissident voices are pushed below the waterline. De-platformed, censored, "shadow banned". Legislation is enacted to restrict what is viewable to only that which is in line with the governmental narrative and consequently that of their paymasters, those usual suspects, the unelected trans-national bodies, corporate interests and those who control the global financial system.

"Social media" is a controlled environment. People whine about having their more "controversial" posts removed. Of course they were removed. They were removed because they did not adhere to the best interests of those who provide the platform in the first place. To feel that Facebook?Meta, Instagram, Google, YouTube and all the other online social outlets might be there solely for the purpose of providing some form of benign communication vehicle is just naive in the extreme. That we are told that online censorship is put in place to "protect" us from "misinformation" is misinformation in itself. We are adults. We're all more than capable of deciphering for ourselves what's bullshit and what's not. If we're allowed to see and read the information for ourselves that is. Truth should not be something to be afraid of. Unless, of course, the purpose of obscuring it is to quell what goes against the grain.

Day after day we are fed a monotonous stream of banality that only serves the purpose of creating distraction after distraction from the agendas that are currently being put in place in the background. We are told that only "official" sources backed up by the so called "fact checkers" are to be believed. Information is simplified and dumbed down as perceptions are twisted and manipulated by a mainstream media who are in the pockets of the aforementioned paymasters. Life, though, is more complex than that. Very rarely can situations be viewed as simply black or white. There is a war going on. Not in the traditional sense though. Yeah, there are conflicts around the world where guns and bombs are still used to kill people, but there is also a far more sinister and insidious war that is being waged under our noses. And it is the mechanisms stated above that prevent most of us from even noticing it's occurring.

Yes, this is a gig. A festival. A place where we're primarily here to enjoy ourselves in a little space we can temporarily call our own. And that's cool. Of course it is. But if we return to the reasons why most of us followed the path that brought us here in the first place, then we can make more of it than a mere superficial gathering.

I guess what I'm getting at is to suggest we use the opportunity to spread awareness of what is going on all around us. There's a huge population out there that is blissfully ignorant of how the world is being shaped into a future that bears little resemblance to what any of us have grown up with. No matter what age we are. Yes, some of it is fucking crazy sounding. But a little research outside of the usual channels will confirm an awful lot of what we are actively encouraged to dismiss as "conspiracy theories" as conspiracy fact. The events of the last three years or so will provide more than adequate evidence of this. Google, however, in this respect, is definitely not your friend. Unfortunately, the dive has to be a little deeper. It's occult. In the true meaning of the word, which is to say "hidden from view".

A phrase that comes up regularly in some circles when trying to fathom the origins of a given situation, is "Follow the Money". And there's good reason for that. Trace who or what organisation owns what and the trail will, almost without fail, lead us to the same sources. Join the dots and what, on the surface, can seem like a complex mess that's too much to fathom, becomes a lot clearer. Of course "they" (whoever you might believe "they" to be) do not want us to do this. And also "we" (whoever "we" might be) are often too overwhelmed by simply getting on with the day to day stuff that's immediately in front of us to want to find this shit out. But until we do, until we take the steps to not allow our eyes to become closed to it all, "they" have us exactly where they want us. Drugged up and pacified by bullshit. Let's not let that happen. We're better than that.

Have a fucking great night.

PJL

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