

RRRS
by
Robert Rietschel June 28, 2023

There had never been a fatal accident on Space Mountain, until that day in 2023 when 13 unlucky souls met their fate and one survived in a coma for 20 years. His name was Adam Johnson and he had been visiting from Georgia. His family were among those who didn't make it. Disney had provided for Adam's care at the best long-term rehabilitation facility in central Florida. Adam responded to a new drug that had been an offshoot of magic mushroom research, which was also funded by Disney. Someone thought that the Magic Kingdom should get behind developing the potential of magic mushrooms, and when it paid off for Adam, you just know somebody, somewhere in the Disney organization was saying I told you so.

Adam had a lot of questions as a few things had changed now that it was 2043. He was distressed to learn that his family had died in the Space Mountain accident and even more distressed that twenty years had gone by without his being able to grieve. Adam's questions made little sense to his doctors or reporters. He was so far behind the times that an emeritus professor of history was brought in to help Adam. The professor had personal memories that meshed with what Adam could recall. They spent hours together and Adam learned about the RRRS.

The Right Red Righteous States stretched from the panhandle of Idaho to the Everglades of Florida. They had been carved out of the former USA in the great schism. Actually, it was a constitutional convention. The professor explained that the Republican states that had been colloquially called red states had evolved to Republican super majorities sufficient to call a constitutional convention. It took 34 states and that was the exact number they had managed to control.

The professor realized he needed to back up further as Adam was still confused. The Republican party had been in league with the religious right for some time, but the changes started with the Primary Purification Purge. It was at that point, a tipping point if you will, that the religious faction decided that they would advance a slate of candidates who held to fundamentalist Christian principles. No longer just a faction within the Republican Party, this sect was ready to seize control. Purity and Piety were their rallying cry. Their candidates won in the Republican primaries and there were enough voters who would vote for any Republican in a general election that they won narrow victories. In most states, they only had the needed one vote necessary to control the legislatures. They borrowed from Barry Goldwater and claimed that "extremism in defense of religion was no vice, and compromise on principle was no virtue."

They won promising to restore Christian values in a world gone mad. They renamed their party the Right Red Righteous Party (RRRP). Right because they knew they were. Not just right, but absolutely right. Better Red than brain dead. Righteous because their

cause was holy. This resonated with enough of the voting public in red states to elect the governor in addition to legislative control. Adam wondered where the silent majority was when those votes were taken. The professor explained that polls revealed voter apathy far exceeded voter turnout and the zealots held the field. The states controlled by the RRRP called the constitutional convention at which two blocs vied for power. Each advancing its own constitution and ultimately agreeing to dissolve the old union in favor of three new nations. New England in the East, New California in the West, and the RRRS in the Middle, Middle West, and South. New England and New California entered into a common defense pact. The RRRS chose to go their own way. They knew they were right and wanted nothing to do with those godless heathens in the New's as the RRRP called them.

The fundamental difference was a mindset among the RRRS that traditional Christian teaching had been corrupted by science, by elites, and by deviants. The deviants were folks with non-traditional sexual orientations or practices. Strict laws were passed banning those folks from the public arena. Punishment was exile to one of the New's. Science had corrupted religion since Galileo and his notion that Earth wasn't the center of the universe. And then there was that evolution stuff. All the textbooks needed to be rewritten to conform to Biblical norms. Adam asked how it was possible to gaslight so many people. The professor said that the RRRP had total control of the mass media and social media and the message broadcast was that a conspiracy of elites had promoted phony scientific information in an attempt to corrupt Christianity. Adam asked if people accepted that without question. The professor said that those who questioned the party line were silenced and not heard from again. People who didn't like it could leave. Transportation would be provided. Those who disappeared were assumed to have left.

A state religion was established in the constitution of the RRRS and strict observation of the sabbath was built into the new order. There was a fundamentalist Catholic church and a fundamentalist Protestant church. A whole generation had been brought up with the King James Bible as the standard reference for scientific inquiry and theological instruction. Jews and Muslims were exiled just like Spain had done in 1492. History was rewritten to support only positive messages. Wars had only been fought to rid the world of evil. Slaves had always been treated well and were proved free room and board in exchange for manual labor. Why slaves didn't even have to go to school as that would have caused needless stress. An invisible divine hand was behind every inch of history and the books were changed to make it so. Adam told the professor that the invisible hand used to be something attributed to Adam Smith. The professor said that error had been corrected.

Adam Johnson was incredulous. Where were the free thinkers? What happened to the rugged individual? Where were those Republicans when all this happened? The professor reminded Adam of how primaries favored those most committed, those most radical to run and vote. Mainstream Republicans were as apathetic as the rest of the

populace. When the general election came around, only the Purity and Piety candidates were found under the Republican banner. How could government control so much of everyday life in states that had been Republican? Why didn't people object to this theocratic rule? The professor patiently explained that free thinking had become associated with the elites and right thinking was offered as a counterbalance to this pathway to a life of easy virtue. Virtue was not to be found in the free thought of men, but rather in Holy Scripture. The professor explained that freedom of speech and press were not part of the new order. It had been determined that those old freedoms lead to wokeness. And wokeness was just the first step on the downward path to sexual deviancy. Wokeness was like an entry-level drug that led to greater levels of deviant behavior. Adam did remember something about wokeness being an issue back before his coma, but it seemed isolated to Florida.

The RRRS instituted a Council of Elders to serve as a policy board that would determine what was appropriate. These were scholars steeped in a fundamentalist interpretation of Biblical texts. If a person did not conform, they were detained for a period of indoctrination. If they were not deemed fit to return to society after that period, they were expelled to the New's. New England or New California. Whichever coastal area was nearest. It was felt that they would be happier in the sordid world offered in those communities. Non-conformity simply wasn't tolerated. After all, the RRRS was right. The community must be righteous. It would be holy. It would be God-pleasing. The leaders would see to it.

This was a lot for Adam Johnson to take in. He told the professor he wasn't sure he could adjust. He was offered a stint at an indoctrination center but declined. He suggested that he was something of a dinosaur given all the time he'd been in a coma. He didn't wish to burden Disney or the RRRS any further and asked if he could have safe passage to New California. This was unwelcome news and the Council of Elders decided that the official news release about the fate of Adam Johnson was that he was grief-stricken about the loss of his family and was in a state facility for supportive care. His story would no longer be deemed newsworthy.

In fact, Adam was welcomed to New California where he heard a very different story. He learned that the RRRS was where democracy went to die. It was considered a neo-fascist state and travel to that country was not recommended. History books resembled the world Adam remembered and science was separate from religion. Adam asked what happened to Wokeness. That caused a lot of laughter. He was informed that was a boogiemán invited by a Florida politician who then proceeded to kill the boogiemán. Adam learned that in New California they had a different name for the RRRS and that was CCCP. Command, Control, Coerce People. Adam thought that had a familiar ring to it.

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