

34. PAPPIS and the Battle for New Orlen

Hurricane seasons had been getting steadily worse, with more and bigger storms each year, as a result of global climate change. On July 4th, 2027, we experienced the worst hurricane ever in North America. Early in the afternoon, NOSA reported an abrupt change in direction of Hurricane Donald, which had previously been predicted to continue west toward Yucatan, Mexico, after barely clearing the southern tip of Florida and almost obliterating Cuba, with 150 mile an hour winds, huge storm surge and waves. It took time to verify, during which the storm covered more distance than expected, and strengthened, but it had turned due north, straight toward New Orlen, instead, which had been devastated before.

President Sioux, in her 3rd year in office as President of the U.S., didn't hesitate. At 2pm, with 8 hours estimated before storm-fall, she convened the Joint Chiefs of Staff and ordered every able-bodied person in the U.S. Armed Forces in the southern United States scrambled to New Orlen immediately.

Military brass pushed back, saying they were military organizations, and there were no military threats in New Orlen. They had no protocol or training for this. They were not prepared. That's what the Coast Guard and National Guard are for, not the army, navy or air force. Big numbers were on vacation, including most logistics teams. We didn't have the transport planes ready that could deliver that many people in time. What could the army do against a storm? What was the mission? Blah, blah, blah.

Six generals were fired in the next 45 minutes. Sioux threw a telephone handset through a video screen many were conferenced in on and howled, *"I'm the President of the United Fucking States of America, Commander in Fucking Chief of the U.S. Fucking Armed Forces, and you will make this happen right fucking now! Go to New Orlen and help keep those fucking levees from failing and people from dying! Do not take any weapons with you. Take shovels, buckets, bags for sand, flashlights, heavy equipment, medical kits and things like that. We are here to assist and serve the people, not harm them."* (President Sioux had a way of being heard. She'd escalate language as needed to get her point across.)

An hour later, the first Army and Marine troops began leaving North Carolina, and heavy equipment started moving from Texas in trucks and from California in Airforce transports. There weren't enough. Sioux commandeered commercial airliners, in some cases even making people get out of the planes. When they arrived in airport waiting rooms, they saw she had activated the national emergency system and was addressing the nation on most TV and radio channels.

"My dear brothers and sisters," she began. "I am very sorry to interrupt your 4th of July celebrations. However, at 1pm today, NOSA confirmed that Hurricane Donald, a Class 6 hurricane with extraordinary destructive potential, is headed straight for New Orlen.

At 2pm, I ordered U.S. Armed Forces and Army Corps of Engineers experts to go to New Orlen and help prevent levee breaches and flooding, assist in the orderly evacuation of the city, and help preserve life and property, to the very best of our abilities. I'm also ordering the evacuation of the city. To those in New Orlen, please leave the city and move away from the coast, as calmly and steadily as possible! For those not in New Orleans, please meditate and pray for our brothers and sisters there! Thank you."

At 3:00, President Sioux boarded Airforce 1 for New Orlen. Staffers and military tried to stop her, saying it wasn't safe, she should stay in Washington and monitor relief efforts remotely. She replied,

"Our people will be fighting for their lives in New Orleans tonight. A good chief fights with her people. I'm going." In the air, she ordered a portion of troops to supervise the safe and orderly evacuation of the city. The rest were sent to do what they could to reinforce critical levee and other infrastructure. "Don't wait for orders," she ordered. "Get out there, use common sense, and do what you can to keep the city from flooding and make people safe!" She set up a command post in Airforce 1 as she arrived, on the ground at the New Orleans airport, and didn't sleep for two days. Troops and supplies poured in, from all over the country, as people flooded out of the city, scared and upset, in traffic jams.

By 10pm, waves pounding the coast near New Orleans were measuring 25 feet tall. By 11pm, they were riding on top of a storm surge of 10 feet, all on top of 14 inches of already-experienced sea-level rise. People more than a mile from the coast reported feeling waves crashing through feet on the ground. Levees were designed to handle up to 100-year storms. We'd had 3 of those in the previous 3 years. This storm appeared to be worse than any of them, a 1,000-year storm, or something never experienced in modern history. By 11pm, winds passed 170 miles per hour, as the storm hit land, and continued for 8 hours, except when the eye of the storm passed over. Peak wind speed was measured at 192mph.

Seldom in war do soldiers exert themselves as heroically as U.S. soldiers exerted themselves that night. They packed and passed bags of dirt and sand in fire bucket chains to the tops of failing levees, roped together like mountaineers to keep from being blown off the tops, as bulldozers pushed cars and trucks against their bases. The Department of Homeland Insecurity was called in to hack and start up newer abandoned vehicles that soldiers drove to buttress levees, an ability most didn't know government had. Soldiers carried disabled and frail people down staircases and into vehicles. They saved pets.

Thousands of rescue operations took place, all over the city, in all kinds of ways, as trees fell on cars and made utility lines spark, basements and streets flooded, cars collided, electricity failed, citizens panicked and had health emergencies, windows broke, factories and refineries leaked poisons, and roofs blew off. Roads were crowded with vehicles full of scared and frustrated people, creeping slowly out of the city. Soldiers tried to keep the peace, talking to people and helping them. Sioux talked to soldiers on radios and to the people on radios and TVs, calming and organizing us, supporting us and giving us hope.

In the heart of darkness, when people were afraid and tired, and the storm was at its worst, one of the main seaward levees breached, began collapsing into the gap, and water began pouring into the city. Engineers predicted that within an hour, that breach would widen to the point where there would be no way to prevent the entire city from flooding, rapidly and completely. Water was already rushing through the gap in a stream that was 10 feet high, and the gap was widening at least a foot a minute.

In that crisis moment, in a desperate, calculated move, Sioux commanded the U.S.S. Eleanor Roosevelt, a light cruiser that had been ordered to enter the storm and follow it in from the center, to be available for sea rescue operations, to steam ahead at flank speed and ground itself into the breach.

As panic grew in New Orleans, Sioux spoke with the people over the National Emergency Network, comforting them. She told them what was happening, and how massive military support had mobilized for their aid. She told them of the breach and what they were attempting to do to plug it. She soothed. She even sang, accompanied by the reverberant beats of her hand drum and her 12-year-old daughter, *Thànka Ihánjla*, nicknamed Thanks, who sang and played beautifully with her on a simple reed flute. She'd asked to come with Sioux, to help her and people of New Orleans. She did, playing her heart out,

lofty and lilting, with child-strong emotive magic. It was a song Sioux had written herself, over the years, sung in her native language around the fire at night in the Dakotas, and translated into English herself.

Each line starts with a strong vocal evocation, Ahó, to hear and know deeply. (Bullets evoke us to hear, acknowledge and feel.) The music and chant were rhythmic, melodic, hypnotic, beautiful and soothing.

- ✚ We live with pure sunlight energy.
- ✚ We live with pure rains and waters.
- ✚ We live with pure air surrounding us.
- ✚ We live with pure lands we walk on.
- ✚ We live with pure views of skies, moon and stars.
- ✚ We live with pure sounds of thriving nature.
- ✚ We live with pure things we touch with our skin.
- ✚ We live with pure plants and animals that feed us.
- ✚ We live with pure beauty that surrounds us.
- ✚ We live with pure dreams that reveal visions.
- ✚ Let each of these live, that we may live!
- ✚ Let each of these be, so we may be!

- ✚ We live with pure expression in music, dance and art.
- ✚ We live with pure smells created by nature.
- ✚ We live with pure tastes of what nourishes us.
- ✚ We live with pure feelings that truthfully inform us.
- ✚ We live with pure energies which are all that is.
- ✚ We live with pure delights of creative imaginations.
- ✚ We live with pure laughter and love with others.
- ✚ We live with pure peace of living without fear.
- ✚ We live with pure security of knowing all is OK.
- ✚ We live with pure lessons nature and life reveal to us.
- ✚ Let each of these live, that we may live!
- ✚ Let each of these be, so we may be!

- ✚ We live with pure stories to learn more than we experience.
- ✚ We live with pure ways of living, working and being together.
- ✚ We live with pure love in our hearts.
- ✚ We live with pure respect for all life spirit.
- ✚ We live with pure pleasures we create with each other.
- ✚ We live with pure spirit medicines that expand our awareness.
- ✚ We live with pure quiet, presence and meditation.
- ✚ We live with pure inspirations grace gifts to us.
- ✚ We live with pure reminders of our need for humility.
- ✚ We live with pure relationships with nature.
- ✚ Let each of these live, that we may live!
- ✚ Let each of these be, so we may be!

- ✚ We live with pure values that harmonize us.
- ✚ We live with pure ways we share with each other.

- ✚ We live with pure relationships with our families.
- ✚ We live with pure belief our children's lives will be better than ours.
- ✚ We live with pure support for all on our own paths.
- ✚ We live with pure intentions that guide us.
- ✚ We live with pure ways we listen to others.
- ✚ We live with pure knowing that we are all one.
- ✚ We live with pure experiences that expand our awareness.
- ✚ We live with pure ways we release low and raise high energies.
- ✚ Let each of these live, that we may live!
- ✚ Let each of these be, so we may be!

- ✚ We live with pure wisdom we develop from experience.
- ✚ We live with pure ways we share with each other.
- ✚ We live with pure fulfillment of realizing dreams.
- ✚ We live with pure ways we accept and relate to death.
- ✚ We live with pure sleep that regenerates us.
- ✚ We live with pure ways we support our children and elders.
- ✚ We live with pure ways we are both me and we.
- ✚ We live with pure integrity of being true to our values.
- ✚ We live with pure ways we engage for experience and wisdom.
- ✚ We live with pure presence and attention, here and now.
- ✚ Let each of these live, that we may live!
- ✚ Let each of these be, so we may be!

- ✚ What is pure?
- ✚ What is pure?
- ✚ Help us so we may help others!
- ✚ Help us so we may help others!

You know not one person on that ship wanted to do what they'd been ordered to do. But they did. Violently crashing through gigantic waves, rolling perilously, the sturdiest of men gravely ill with nausea, with essentially no visibility, sailors worked to dump munitions into the sea, so they wouldn't explode and cause harm. Eleven sailors were swept into the sea and lost. Approaching shore at speed, they rode the top of a 25-foot wave, on top of 10 feet of storm surge, on top of 14 inches of sea level rise, violently into the levee breach, losing 33 more brave lives, ripping the hull apart and totaling the ship. The captain lost an eye to glass shards, and more than two-thirds of the sailors were injured. However, it largely filled the gap, and the ship was then taking the brunt of the waves in the breach.

Thirty minutes later, the breach was in the eye of the storm, and forces on the ground put in all they had to sealing the gap in the levee, working feverishly, with tired muscles, soaked clothes and many injuries, but great spirit. They crashed other boats into gaps around the cruiser. Stones and all kinds of debris were dropped from helicopters, including commandeered news helicopters. It was frantic, hard fought.

People all over the world cried and chewed nails with worry as they witnessed how heroically those armed forces men and women fought to save the city and its people, the intensity of their expressions, ways they were putting their hearts and souls into it, risking their lives, and pushing beyond all limits.

In the end, it cost a billion-dollar navy ship and 187 service peoples' lives, but New Orleans was saved. Some estimate that those efforts prevented \$150 billion in damages and the loss of over 200,000 lives.

That changed what and how many of us thought of the U.S. armed forces. Soldiers have long said they were "in the service," but most people did not see many benefits from whatever services they provided. Killing and terrorizing people in the Middle East or Arghmanistink or wherever for oil or to make money for the rich hadn't seemed like such a great service. In this event, there was no denying their services.

Many hundreds of stories and videos emerged that were indisputably heroic. Those people put their lives on the line to save people, and everybody saw it, as it happened, and for months and even years afterwards. A lot of previously anti-military people felt differently about the military after that night. Captain Marley of the Roseveltdt became an international hero, who, with his coal black skin, eye patch and radiant dignity, became a charismatic spokesperson for the many benefits of service to others.

A half a year later, when her proposed budget came out, President Sioux announced she was cutting the U.S. military budget from \$900 to \$500 billion (in 2020 dollars), and half of that \$500 billion was to be used by the military and Army Corps. of Engineers to work on critical national infrastructure projects, fixing levees, dams, bridges and canals all over the country that were in desperate need of repair.

She said, "We're going to proactively prevent things like the Battle for New Orlenex, instead of reactively having to fight them in the future. Our service people will spend half of their time learning to fight, hoping never to have to, and half of their time servicing the critical infrastructure needs of this country, to protect us from much more likely threats of invasions by rising sea levels, extreme storm events, fires, droughts, and failing dams, bridges, levees, canals and natural life support systems. Our service people will now also be in service to work to make our country and lives better and safer, to defend them from the results of our apathy, short-sightedness, ignorance and cheapness, not just to fight other militaries."

Under all kinds of threats by the military-industrial complex, and after witnessing three brutal attacks on President Sioux's life, Congress didn't go along. They increased the military authorization to \$950 billion as usual. Sioux didn't fight. She signed it. But then, as Commander in Chief, she ordered the military not to spend \$450 billion of it and to execute her orders. They didn't see that coming. Things changed.

Now, in 2060, Earth Citizen Nations are pledged to not use military force unilaterally against any people for any purpose. Instead, each has pledged to provide troops and/or resources to the UNEC to enforce the end of military violence anywhere in the world. That is the primary power granted to the UNEC, because we recognize the dangers of aggregating power and control that could be seized and used for harm and agree that violence of any against any is no longer something we are willing to tolerate.

The combined U.S. defense budget is now \$100 billion a year, in 2020 dollars, 11% of the 2020 amount, and half of that is spent on internal infrastructure projects and works to produce good for the public.

Money previously spent on the military has been used to reduce debt and public costs to service debt, and to invest in infrastructure, systems, innovations and public efforts to produce real wealth, instead. Those have added up to trillions of dollars and have been paying off for decades, greatly improving people's quality of life, and objective and subjective measures of real wealth, in many dimensions.

Now, many people choose to serve us in the U.S. Prevention and Protection Public Integrated Services, the current name for what had been the military, to end violence, do good for our people at home, and

acquire practical knowledge, skills and experience constructively building things that help people and make our worlds better for us in our everyday lives. People respect and appreciate what we call *PAPPIS*.