

Community

THE SYSTEM THAT RUNS ON FRIENDSHIP

An Ecclesian Barn Raising

COMMUNITY

The System That Runs On Friendship

by Ben Williams

"For we are foreigners before You, and migrants like all our fathers; our days on the land are as a shadow, and there are none continuing."

I Chron. 29:15

"For here (in the world system) we have no continuing city, but we seek the one beginning (i.e., New Jerusalem)."

Heb. 13:14

"But now they seek a better country that is a heavenly one. Wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared for them a city."

Heb. 11:16

"But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I write to you: for you yourselves are taught of God to love one another."

Thess. 4:9

NEW JERUSALEM runs on friendship. Love, liberty, family and friendship are the fuels required to keep it running.

Babylonian society, on the other hand, runs on greed, deception, selfishness, threat and slavery.

Neither machine can run on the other's fuels. The fuels that energize Babylonian society deplete and destroy Ecclesian society. And the fuels that energize Ecclesian society deplete and destroy Babylonian society. Thus, we see that the fuel is an important consideration. This determines the kind of world in which we live.

New Jerusalem (aka - the Ecclesia of God) is the great misplaced treasure. It is the treasure hid in a field (Mtt. 13:44), the pearl of great price (Mtt. 13:46), the mustard seed which becomes the greatest of trees (Mtt. 13:31-32), the leaven which leavens the whole land (Mtt. 13:33). It is our gift of LIFE in this age ... but most of Israel is yet blind and has not seen it. Only a few of us - a remnant - have seen it.

What can we do to realize the blessings of this treasure while living amidst our blind and Babylonian kindred ... while the rest of Israel is waking up? We can learn and understand the meaning of "ecclesia" and "friendship."

A friend is a blessing. And in these

times true friends are especially rare. We're not talking about mere acquaintances. Acquaintances are commonplace. But friends are people you can trust. Friends give of themselves ... more than they demand of you. Friends strengthen you.

Many in our generation were raised in "me first" homes where they learned to be unloving and dishonest. They were spoiled and trained to be unmannerly, self-centered and ungrateful. They became addicts of gratification (i.e., Hedonists). "Doing what is right" is defined by them as "doing whatever we want."

These make up much of this generation. They are incapable of being true friends to anyone. They just don't have the stuff true friends are made of.

We are commanded to love one another. It is perhaps the most broken of all laws.

34. A new commandment I am giving you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, so should you also love one another.

John 13:34

The term "friend" is misunderstood today, as is the term "love." "Love" is confused with "lust," and "friend" is confused with "acquaintance."

Often a so-called "friend" is no friend

at all. Acquaintances can exploit one another rather than love one another. Perhaps you know what I mean. Their ties to one another are based upon the concern for "what is in it for me?" This is not friendship.

The reason Ecclesian society was lost, and now is replaced with Babylonian society, is because there is no love between the brethren. No family spirit. No tribal cohesion. The brethren have been raised in homes where love of self predominates. When we don't love one another there is no trust or honor between us. Consequently, we have no fellowship, and nothing in common except love of money, contracts, police, and government courts. When we see this in a society we know immediately that the people are devouring one another. They cannot trust; they cannot love. Rather than learning how to love one another they learn to cheat and steal from one another. They do not respect the interests of their neighbors. Everyone grabs anything he can, anyway he can. When society is at this stage there is no place for Christ's Ecclesia, because an ecclesia requires trust and love. An ecclesia requires its people to be FRIENDS.

TIME TO FIND A FRIEND

Learn how to find a friend, and to be a friend! It is time to build trust and honor! It is time to quit squandering our lives on the treadmill of Babylon. We need to start accumulating things of substance upon which a future can be built for our children. This requires people who won't stab each other in the back; who won't turn on each other at the drop of a hat; who won't gossip and backbite; who LOVE one another and will watch out for the best interest of one another; who will protect one another's property and look out for their children in their absence; who will not abandon ship in the first storm; who will not turn on one another and become contentious

the first time a disagreement arises.

This admittedly is not for everyone. Some people were not meant to be friends. And that's okay. But we need to be able to know the difference between a friend and an acquaintance.

Anyone who wants a piece of the society Jesus offers had better start learning the meaning of "ecclesia" and "friendship." Being a friend is more than being just an acquaintance, and knowing the difference helps you to know how to be a friend, and how to find a friend. Its either that ... or get used to being alone and dependant upon the state.

FALSE SAVIORS

We must quit allowing ourselves to be bamboozled by the "patriots" who tell us to invest our lifeblood into the Beast System. There are retired cops and so-called military "heroes," proud of their government medals and commendations, exploiting gullible people and selling bogus survival seminars and real estate developments. There are Constitutionalsists selling idolatrous ideology and worthless legal counsel to people in trouble with the courts. There are hundreds of patriotic publications peddling false hope and idolatry. Everyone is lying to everyone to make a buck. Preachers are some of the worst liars. They'll do and say anything to keep their churches profitable.

All of these false saviors have come upon this land because the people quit loving one another. Where there are idolaters an idol salesman will show up. Thus, preachers, con men, politicians, etc. are having a heyday in this society. The American system is built upon greed and distrust; lies and manipulation. This has become the norm. Voters today admit they don't trust politicians. They admit that politicians are perverts and liars. They admit that their church leaders are debased and incompetent. BUT THEY DON'T CARE! They don't expect honesty or honor from anyone – not even from themselves. Maybe that is because most voters themselves are debased and untrustworthy. Why should perverts and liars care if their president is a pervert and a liar? And why should they worry that the system breeds perverts and liars?

The state of American society is appalling. In it there is no place for honest, moral people. Decent folks are

scarce as hen's teeth, and are seen as dull and strange.

THE ALTERNATIVE TO BABYLONIAN SOCIETY

We must begin to find friends, and to build family and ecclesia strongholds. Otherwise, the above scenario is all we will ever have. As long as Americans distance themselves from their friends but allow their enemies into their personal lives, there can be no hope for their children. As long as we continue doing what we've always done we'll never have more than we now have. If you are dissatisfied with what you have, you'd better stop doing what you've always done. You'd better learn the meaning of ECCLESIA. It is the only lasting alternative to Babylonian society. [see *What Is The Ecclesia* – by Ben Williams].

It is time we put to rest all the deceptive patriotic rhetoric about the US Government. It is NOT now our system, and it never will be our system. And the land will remain subject to the current government system until Americans quit worshipping the system.

PROMISE LAND?

America today is no promise land ... except to the bankers, lawyers and politicians. The United States system is wicked. The systems of the states, counties, and cities are the same. The system, at every level, grew from the same seedbed. The programs come from the same idolatry. The system was conceived in sin and born in iniquity.

Like a weed, the Beast System took root in free and prosperous soil. Then it took over everything, starved out freedom, and made it impossible for anything else to grow. It has done it repeatedly to scores of nations and societies down through the centuries. Babylon the Great, Mother of harlots, and Murderer of innocents covers the Earth.

Over the years it has subjugated the people and the land. For a while there remained pockets of relative freedom in America – mostly in the north and the west – where the Beast had not yet fully intruded. There are people alive today in certain parts of the country who recall better days with relative freedom. But that is all in the past now. The good times are over! The net has closed, and the fish are trapped. There is no place

to run and no place to hide from the Beast today. With the advent of electronics and space technology privacy is gone and no place is safe from the Beast. It mercilessly pushes its way into our lives. It allows no independence, no privacy, and no peace. Its goal is to track every transaction, every trade, and every movement so it can tax and control every soul. It keeps us impoverished and powerless.

The Beast has matured into a full-grown Leviathan. Yet millions of Americans proudly pledge allegiance to the flag of this international commercial entity (The United States of America). The flag representing this entity is still held high and honored, and Americans still send their children to war to kill and be killed for it. It is sad, and it is insane. Corrupt perverts in government send millions of kids off to war to fight for things they don't understand, so bankers, lawyers and politicians can continue to plunder the world with impunity.

WE ARE SOJOURNERS

This land is ravished and controlled by the Beast. As things stand we have no heritage or inheritance here. We have no stake in the system or its future. The founding fathers laid the wrong foundation. They built on their Constitution instead of God's Word. Until we rebuild upon the correct Foundation we must live as sojourners. We are like Abraham who sojourned in the land of promise as in a foreign land, dwelling in tents ... looking for that city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God (Heb. 11: 9-10). Abraham and the faithful were foreigners and pilgrims in a foreign system. They sought a better system – a heavenly one – prepared for them by God. We stand in their shoes today.

Like Abraham, we are strangers in the land. Like Abraham we are "called out." He was called out of Ur, and we are called out of Babylon ... unto that better country and the City of God.

The faithful must not squander their lives and the resources of their children in the politics and religions of the Beast. We must not join in establishment politics – local or otherwise. How can we willingly join ourselves to the Beast system when we are already married to the Bridegroom and called to "come out of her." Our system is that Great City which Abraham saw only as a promise

for his future descendants.

Like Abraham, we still are without a physical land of our own. Like Abraham, we must build our own communities and tribes as separate systems – strengthening ourselves as we go and learning how we can be “not of the system” while physically living in it. We need to be pioneers ... like our forefathers.

Our plight is not as tough as Abraham’s, because we have “a city” – a spiritual one – and a great King Advocate as its Head. The city is New Jerusalem which is the mother of us all (Gal. 4:26). And the King is Jesus. Babylon holds sway over those who are debased and criminal in nature. We do not belong to that system because we spiritually belong to New Jerusalem. We cannot be members of two opposing systems. We are spiritually allied with Jesus, and with friends, while physically residing in a land ruled by Babylon.

LEAVING EGYPT/ BABYLON

To enter Canaan the Children of Israel first had to leave Egypt. The problem is that Americans do not want to leave Egypt. The American system is still too glorious in their eyes. They want to keep the system and give it a face lift. They have not driven it from their hearts. They still place their hope in it.

When the Children of Israel left Egypt they were commanded to leave her spiritually as well as physically. But their hearts still lusted after Egypt’s flesh pots. They feared freedom. They tasted responsibility and didn’t like it. It took forty years and a new generation to develop a taste for freedom. Like Americans they were challenged ... and like Americans, most of them failed. Perhaps the lesson here is that an enslaved

generation is too degraded to salvage, and we need a new generation that has the spirit to seek freedom.

Thus it is with Christian Israel today. They want freedom but they cling to their illusions in the American political and religious system. This is idolatry, and until they turn from it they cannot see the true Kingship of God. They cannot differentiate between a friend and an acquaintance; a leader and a con man; a criminal and an brother.

4. *Adulteresses, don't you know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world, is declaring himself the enemy of God.*

Jms. 4:4

OBFUSCATING A CONCEPT

The concept of family and ecclesia, as opposed to central power, is the answer for society. This element has been

lost to the western world because it was obscured by politics and religion (church & state).

In Revelation 12:15-17 it was prophesied that the Beast would cast water out of its mouth, as a flood to overflow and carry away the woman (Israel) and separate her from her manchild (i.e., the ecclesia system of Christ). The “dragon” is the system of Babylonian/Roman-type government and religion. The “water” from its mouth is propaganda, doctrine, lies, and calculated confusion designed to cover up truth and obscure the manchild (the ecclesia system of Jesus) and replace it with Babylon’s system. Thus, the Beast is attempting to permanently enslave the “woman” (true Israel) by obscuring her manchild (Christ’s system) and replacing it with man’s government system.

THE REMNANT

The prophecy has proven true. The manchild has been greatly obscured by the flood of lies and misinformation. But God helped the “woman” and preserved a remnant of her seed who still have the capacity to love and keep His commandments, and who still have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Brethren, we are of that remnant. And it is up to us to do something about

LEVIATHAN AND NATURAL LAW

**Some man or group in every form of state,
Has sovereign power to kill and confiscate.**

Suppose a resolution to be introduced in Congress proposing a constitutional amendment empowering the President to proceed by information against political offenders, and to try and sentence them in the exercise of his sole discretion. Suppose this resolution to be carried by the requisite two-thirds majority in both houses of Congress. Suppose the proposed amendment to be duly ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the commonwealths. Suppose, finally, a sentence of death to be imposed by the President in strict accordance with the authority conferred upon him. To whom then would the threatened citizen look for protection? The answer must be that he could look nowhere for protection. The illustration may be objected to on the ground that no such amendment as the one suggested could possibly be adopted. This objection amounts to nothing except an expression of faith that a sovereign who has acted considerately in the past will probably continue to act considerately in the future. I think there can be no escape from this logic or from the underlying fact that gives rise to it.

If you live in a political society at all, some man or group can confiscate your property and forfeit your life.

— F. Lyman Windolph

WHERE IS YOUR HEART?

Babylon must be divorced from your heart. When that is done, truth can be recognized. You can begin putting the pieces together. You’ll not accomplish this before you divorce your heart from Babylon.

it. We must take another look at ourselves. We must withdraw our allegiance and loyalties from the Beast System that we formerly believed in.

If we retain any hope whatsoever in the Beast system ... then we are still galley slaves, mentally shackled to its oars. Divorcing your heart from Babylon is a mental and spiritual quest for freedom. Until that is done in your heart your head is still in slavery. The love of Babylon must be cast out.

When that is done, you can start building on the foundations of Christ's system. Not before!

When that is done, you will have the capability to be a friend and to find friends – true friends. Then the ecclesia of Jesus can begin taking form. The city of God will begin to grow here and there. Then it can begin to strengthen itself and prepare for the spiritual battle that is before us (Rev. 18).

This cannot occur until we, as a people, learn the benefit of having a friend, and in being a friend. Or, as stated in the Scripture:

11. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.

1 Jn. 4:11

Not the passing false "love" of the churches, manifested for an hour or so each week until they can get out of sight of each other. But the steady, dependable, and practical love that binds true friends and true family. If you have never experienced it you may not know what I mean. I pray you will someday.

16. By this we have come to know love, because He (Jesus) sheltered us with his soul: and we ought to shelter the brethren with our souls.

17. But whoever may have this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God remain in him?

18. Little children, let us love, not in word or with the tongue, but in deed and truth.

1 Jn. 3:16-18

24. A man that has friends must show himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticks closer than a brother.

Prov. 18:24

WHAT IS A FRIEND?

A friend looks for the good, not the bad, in you.

A friend encourages your strengths and discourages your weaknesses; brings out your best and suppresses your worst.

A friend feels your pain ... and your happiness.

A friend does not keep score or hold mistakes against you, knowing that he makes mistakes too.

A friend is not competitive, jealous, or envious toward you. He doesn't feel superior or vindicated by your misfortunes.

A friend does not gossip about you or speak evil of you.

A friend expects to give more of himself than he asks of you.

A friend looks upon you as a comrade, not a convenience to control, exploit or manipulate.

A friend knows that what hurts you hurts him in the long run.

A friend is casual but considerate; humorous but respectful; engaging but not pushy.

A friend does not forget to use good manners. Manners are the means to prevent friends from feeling uncomfortable.

A friend honors the same God you honor.

10. Do not forsake your friend, nor your father's friend; and do not go into your brother's house in the day of your calamity; for a near neighbor is better than a brother far away.

Prov. 27:10

FRIEND OR ACQUAINTANCE

An acquaintance is not a friend. Friendship is holy and rare ... and too often taken for granted. You have fewer real friends than you may think.

This generation has produced people who have difficulty being, or finding friends. Modern society has turned us into un-loving, self-centered people who have lost the capacity to be friends, or to find friends. So we end up more personally involved with government than with our families and friends.

Brethren, this ought not to be!

Neighbors ought to protect another's property rather than steal it. We ought to have the best interest of our neighbors and their children at heart. But today, given the chance, your system-programmed neighbor will conspire with government agencies and hateful

people to turn your children against you – to pursue things that are harmful and destructive to them.

Our society has been ravaged by the Beast, and most Americans have been compromised and degraded by it. Our quality of life has declined and our families and communities are in a state of decay.

THE SPIRIT OF FAMILY

What makes an ecclesian community? Not elections and political conventions. Not wars and hatred. Not political parties or church memberships. Not close proximity of location. Not even vested financial interests. The lifeblood of an ecclesian community is *the spirit of family* in the hearts of the people. Love is the only glue that can hold it together successfully. Any other motivation will fall prey to domination by Centralism.

Churches (and church camps), rock concerts, and political rallies are not good places to look for friends. The people who frequent these places are usually weak, impractical, and living on a diet of deception and mythology. They do not know the meaning of friendship.

MAKING SENSE OF IT

Confusion is a major factor in today's fragmented society. Confusion keeps us apart by keeping us from communicating. Because of the lack of communication we often assume wrong things of one another.

An ecclesian community cannot be built unless we first learn to communicate with each other. Therefore, a regular exercise of sorting, defining, and clearing our terms and assumptions would be beneficial. In doing this we should be able to eliminate many of the inflicted insanities which needlessly separate people. Such an exercise should help differentiate between those who are truly impossible to work with as opposed to those who are merely confused and need clarification.

Examples of acquired cultural insanities and hypocrisies that afflict many include:

- Protesting violence and aggression while defending abortion, war, police brutality and violent and morbid traditions like Halloween and sodomy.
- Advocating "equality" for women and Blacks while discriminating against men and Whites.
- Protesting "sexual abuse" and "sexual harassment" while supporting and defending Hollywood porn and music which produces a constant supply of glorified sexual abuse and disrespect for everything good.
- Wanting to "save the Earth," "save the owl," and "save the trees" while trashing helpless babies in the womb.
- Fighting against "intolerance" and "hate" by conducting cruel, intolerant, hateful campaigns against anyone who disagrees – example: *Women's Lib, NAACP, JDL, and Holocaust Survivors*.
- Claiming to be a free society while demanding that government severely punish anyone who doesn't comply with perceived norms.
- Defending government's policy of mak-

ing war to achieve "peace," and of imprisoning and torturing dissenters to uphold "freedom."

- Claiming "America is a free country" although her government is the most oppressive and dishonest on Earth and her prison population is the greatest in existence.
- Supporting government's policy of banning private gun ownership while exporting huge armaments to warring governments around the world.
- Calling Jesus "King" while not recognizing His Kingship, and relegating the Earth to a false god churchgoers call "Satan."

Americans truly strain at the proverbial gnat while swallowing the camel. We should rethink our petty doctrines, and consider the big picture to see whether we are really making progress or just chasing our tails.

CONFUSION IS NORMAL IN BABYLON

These kinds of inconsistencies and insanities are the cumulative result of centuries of mental insult (assault) by idolatry and deception. Trying to make sense out of it can drive you senseless. That is why it is paramount that we eliminate any remaining belief or hope in Babylon. This will separate us from modern society and make it harder to make a living. But it will enable us to hold on to our sanity and build a healthy future.

Rebuilding may be scary at first, but it clarifies the picture and explain why we the way of the world does not work. It will punctuates the importance and need for developing communication and fellowship based upon better values. It also hopefully will give us a clearer understanding of the Ecclesian Community that Christ died to give us.

We can do it if we believe it is possible. It will take time. The mental transformation must happen first, preceding the physical transformation of society. We must throw down Babylon in our hearts before we can throw her down literally.

We must start now. We have a long way to go.

GUN CONTROL?

The U.S. government is pushing more and more gun control upon U.S. citizens. The claim is that removing guns stops violence and insures peace. If that theory worked, and if politicians were honest and actually believed it, you'd think that they would want the principle applied at all levels so the whole world could have peace. Right?

So ... how is gun control faring on the international scene? Something is wrong here.

The U.S. government leads the world in arms sales and exports. In 1994, U.S. had international sales of 512.45 billion – a 35% market share. France was a distant second with \$12 billion. The U.S. government exports that year included 1036 armored vehicles, 702 battle tanks, 316 missile-launchers, 121 large-caliber artillery, 82 combat aircraft and 5 attack helicopters. Their top customer was Saudi Arabia. These items represent a gigantic amount of violence and blood shed! Who's worried about a few private handguns?

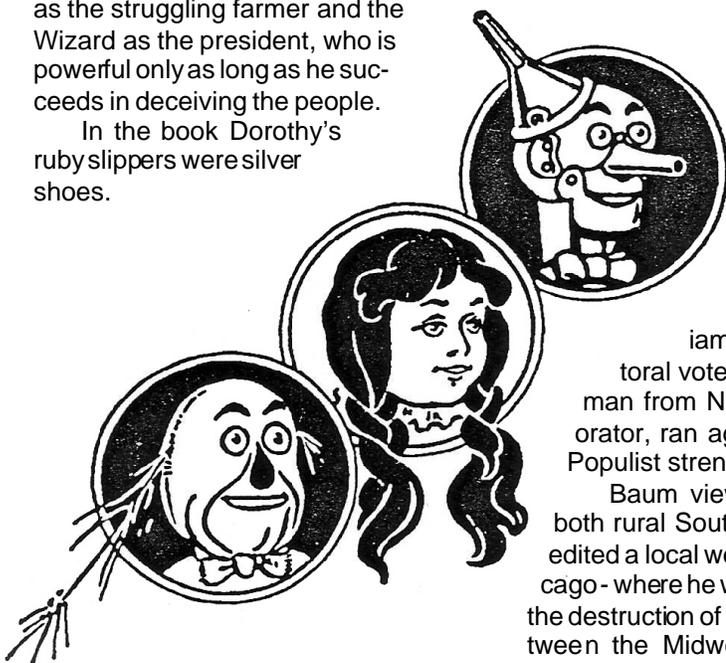
Is this a double standard! American citizens must be nuts. They want government to take away your little pistol, but provide tanks, cannons, bombers and nukes to kill millions around the world.

Americans need a reality check!

THE WIZARD OF OZ: A Political Fable

Most Americans are familiar with THE WIZARD OF OZ through L. Frank Baum's children's books or the 1939 motion picture, but few realize that the story was written as a political fable to promote the Populist movement around the turn of the century. Next time you see it, try interpreting the Tin Woodsman as the industrial worker, the Scarecrow as the struggling farmer and the Wizard as the president, who is powerful only as long as he succeeds in deceiving the people.

In the book Dorothy's ruby slippers were silver shoes.



The Wonderful Wizard of Oz

was written by Lyman Frank Baum in 1900, during the collapse of the Populist movement. Through the Populist party, Midwestern farmers, in alliance with some urban workers, had challenged the banks, railroads and other economic interests that squeezed farmers through low prices, high freight rates and continued indebtedness.

The Populists advocated government ownership of railroads, telephone and

telegraph industries. They also wanted silver coinage. Their power grew during the 1893 depression, the worst in U.S. history until then, as farm prices sank to new lows and unemployment was widespread....

In the 1894 congressional elections, the Populist party got almost 40 percent of the vote. It looked forward to winning the presidency,

and the silver standard, in 1896. But in that election, which revolved around the issue of gold versus silver, Populist Democrat William

Jennings Bryan lost to

Republican William McKinley by 95 electoral votes. Bryan, a congressman from Nebraska and a gifted orator, ran again in 1900, but the Populist strength was gone.

Baum viewed these events in both rural South Dakota - where he edited a local weekly - and urban Chicago - where he wrote OZ. He mourned the destruction of the fragile alliance between the Midwestern farmers (the Scarecrow) and the urban industrial workers (the Tin Woodsman). Along with Bryan (the Cowardly Lion with a roar but little else), they had been taken down the yellow brick road (the gold standard) that led nowhere. Each journeyed to Emerald City seeking favors from the Wizard of Oz (the President). Dorothy, the symbol of every man, went along with them, innocent enough to see the truth before the others.

Along the way they meet the Wicked Witch of the East, who, Baum tells us, had kept the little Munchkin people "in bondage for many years, making them slave for her night and day." She also had put a spell on the

Tin Woodsman, once an independent and hardworking man, so that each time he swung his axe, it chopped off a different part of his body. Lacking another trade, he "worked harder than ever," becoming like a machine, incapable of love, yearning for a heart. Another witch, the Wicked Witch of the West, clearly symbolized the large industrial corporations.

...The small group heads toward Emerald City where the Wizard rules from behind a papier-mache facade. Oz, by the way, is the abbreviation for ounce, the standard measure for gold.

Like all good politicians, the Wizard can be all things to all people. Dorothy sees him as an enormous head. The Scarecrow sees a gossamer fairy. The Woodsman sees an awful beast, the Cowardly Lion "a ball of fire so fierce and glowing he could scarcely bear to gaze upon it."

Later, however, when they confront the Wizard directly, they see he is nothing more than "a little man, with a bald head and a wrinkled face."

"I have been making believe," the Wizard confesses. "I'm just a common man." But the Scarecrow adds, "You're more than that...you're a humbug."

"It was a great mistake my ever letting you into the Throne Room," admits the Wizard, a former ventriloquist and circus balloonist from Omaha.

This was Baum's ultimate Populist message. The powers-that-be survive by deception. Only people's ignorance allows the powerful to manipulate and control them. Dorothy returns to Kansas with the magical help of her Silver Shoes (the silver issue), but when she gets to Kansas she realizes her shoes "had fallen off in her flight through the air, and were lost forever in the desert." Still, she is safe at home with Aunt Em and Uncle Henry, simple farmers.