

# **Demons of the Heart**

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I believe in demons. I believe in good spirits, too, but also demons: selfish spirits, dynamics that are destructive to others, even to life.

If “angels” are messengers from our better nature, demons are their shadow side: the messengers from those selfish parts that have always been with us as well, hiding right there in our hearts.

Today’s sermon is blatantly political: not partisan, but definitely political. It’s about the scripts, the demons, directing and defining who we are and what forces seem to be loose among us and growing in strength, both abroad and, more troubling, at home.

Much of this presentation derives from a book by an author confessing his role as one of those who served the greedy interests. The book is called Confessions of an Economic Hit Man, by John Perkins.

For over ten years, Perkins was an economic hit man, and he describes the plan in great and disturbing detail – and even hints at bigger and more current places in our own country where these demons have operated.

To cut to the chase, an economic hit man is an economist employed through a consulting firm paid by major corporations, but working hand in hand with the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the U.S. government, to reshape the economic profile of the world in ways that benefit us at the expense of everyone else. It is an attempt to dominate the world, one economy at a time.

When a country has oil, cheap labor or strategic location we want, some of these economists do a study to prove to the leaders of the target country that they are on the verge of a huge bonanza from oil or exports, that could make an unbelievable amount of money – figures they often used were a 15% return on investment for the next 25 years. It’s the chance of a lifetime. (assume an annual 15% return)

Normally, they said we wouldn’t much care what happened to your little country. But with that kind of money to be made, a lot of people would be willing to invest in it. And the World Bank and International Monetary Fund might even be willing to provide loans.

The loans are necessary, very big loans. Because before the target country can take advantage of the bonanza that awaits them, they must develop infrastructure: roads, electricity, water facilities and so on. That’s expensive, and of course not the sort of work they’re able to do. However, there are corporations in the US that can and will do all the work to give them their needed infrastructure, and it can all be paid for with the loans from the World Bank. The corporations in-

clude Bechtel, Haliburton, and other big ones you may have heard of. So most of the money never leaves the U.S.

If the economic hit men are persuasive enough, the country takes the loans. Yet without exception, the bonanza never turns out to have been there after all, and the country always defaults on the loans. That's not a failure; it's how the plan is supposed to work.

An Economic Hit Man's (EHM) job is "to encourage world leaders to become part of a vast network that promotes U.S. commercial interests. In the end, those leaders become ensnared in a web of debt that ensures their loyalty. We can draw on them whenever we desire – to satisfy our political, economic, or military needs. In turn, they bolster their political positions by bringing industrial parks, power plants, and airports to their people. The owners of U.S. engineering/construction companies become fabulously wealthy." And the foreign leaders also become wealthy by selling out everyone else in their country. In fact, this whole scheme depends on finding a few leaders who are willing to get very rich by selling out everyone else. History seems to show an unending supply of such people, in all countries.

Ecuador provides a typical and revealing case of how the process works.

Because of the work of John Perkins and other Economic Hit Men, he says, "Ecuador is in far worse shape today than she was before we introduced her to the miracles of modern economics, banking, and engineering. Since 1970, during this period known euphemistically as the Oil Boom, the official poverty level grew from 50 to 70 percent, under- or unemployment increased from 15 to 70 percent, and public debt increased from \$240 million to \$16 billion. Meanwhile, the share of national resources allocated to the poorest segments of the population declined from 20 to 6 percent.

"Nearly every country brought under the global empire's umbrella has suffered a similar fate. Third world debt has grown to more than \$2.5 trillion, and the cost of servicing it – over \$375 billion per year as of 2004 – is more than all third world spending on health and education, and twenty times what developing countries receive annually in foreign aid. Over half the people in the world survive on less than two dollars per day, which is roughly the same amount they received in the early 1970s. Meanwhile, the top 1 percent of third world households account for 70 to 90 percent of all private financial wealth and real estate ownership in their country--much as they are beginning to do in the U.S.

"For every \$100 of crude oil taken out of the Ecuadorian rain forests, the oil companies receive \$75. Of the remaining \$25, three-quarters must go to paying off the foreign debt. Most of the remainder covers military and other government expenses – which leaves about \$2.50 for health, education, and programs aimed at helping the poor. Thus, out of every \$100 worth of oil torn from the Amazon, less than \$3 goes to the people who need the money most, those whose lives have been so adversely impacted by the dams, the drilling, and the pipelines, and who are dying from lack of edible food and potable water. And yet, among the options facing the targeted countries, the Economic Hit Men are the kindest.

When they fail, an even more sinister breed steps in, known as the jackals. "The jackals are always there, lurking in the shadows. When they emerge, heads of state are overthrown or die in violent "accidents." And if by chance the jackals fail, as they failed in Panama, Afghanistan and

Iraq, then the old models resurface. When the jackals fail, young American soldiers are sent in to kill and to die.”

So first, the false economists are sent in to dupe the country’s leaders. If they fail, the jackals, the older-style hit men, are sent in to kill the leader, as we did with Allende in Chili, Roldos in Ecuador, Torrijos in Panama and others. And if the hit men fail, our military forces invade, as we invaded Panama to kidnap its leader, and as we invaded Iraq, twice.

Some of the major corporations that pull the strings to make this scheme work include United Fruit Co. (owned by George HW Bush), Bechtel and Halliburton. When Perkins worked this scheme, Bechtel’s president was George Shultz, Nixon’s Secretary of Labor. And Bechtel was loaded with Nixon, Ford, and Bush cronies. And of course, we know that Dick Cheney was CEO of Halliburton before becoming Vice President.

Religion is involved in these demonic activities, as well. Perkins talks about how a front organization called the Summer Institute of Linguistics, an evangelical missionary group from the US, was in collusion with the oil companies. The organization had entered Ecuador, as it had so many other countries, under the pretext of studying, recording, and translating indigenous languages.

But whenever seismologists reported to corporate headquarters that a certain region had characteristics indicating a high probability of oil beneath the surface, SIL went in and encouraged the indigenous people to move from that land, onto missionary reservations; there they would receive free food, shelter, clothes, medical treatment, and missionary-style education. The condition was that they had to deed their lands to the oil companies.

While the sophistication of the economic hit men was new, nothing else about the scheme was, for we have used hit men and soldiers to serve the bidding of large corporations for a century or more.

Seventy-five years ago, General Smedley Butler gave a speech about this to the American Legion convention in Connecticut – later included in his book War is a Racket. The speech was given on August 21, 1931, when he said:

*“I spent 33 years ... being a high-class muscle man for Big Business, for Wall Street and the bankers. In short, I was a racketeer for capitalism....*

*“I helped purify Nicaragua for the international banking house of Brown Brothers in 1909-1912. I helped make Mexico and especially Tampico safe for American oil interests in 1916. I brought light to the Dominican Republic for American sugar interests in 1916. I helped make Haiti and Cuba a decent place for the National City [Bank] boys to collect revenue in. I helped in the rape of half a dozen Central American republics for the benefit of Wall Street....*

*“In China in 1927 I helped see to it that Standard Oil went its way unmolested.... I had ... a swell racket. I was rewarded with honors, medals, promotions.... I might have given Al Capone a few hints. The best he could do was to operate a racket in three cities. The Marines operated on three continents.” (from Joel Bakan’s The Corporation, p. 93)*

## **An EHM Failure in Iraq**

Perkins wrote his book because after our illegal invasion of Iraq, he again saw Bechtel and Haliburton getting unbid contracts, and realized this was simply part three – the military invasion – of the same scheme he had served for a decade.

We wanted Iraq for many reasons. It is important because of oil, because it controls the most important sources of water in the Middle East, and because of its strategic location. It borders Iran, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Syria and Turkey, and has a coastline on the Persian Gulf. It is within easy missile-striking distance of both Israel and the former Soviet Union. Today, it is common knowledge that whoever controls Iraq holds the key to controlling the Middle East.

By the late 1980s, it was apparent that Saddam was not buying into the EHM scenario. This was a major frustration and a great embarrassment to the first Bush administration. Like Panama, Iraq contributed to George HW Bush's wimp image. As Bush searched for a way out, Saddam played into his hands. In August 1990, he invaded the oil-rich sheikhdom of Kuwait. Bush responded with a denunciation of Saddam for violating international law, even though it had been less than a year since Bush himself had staged the illegal and unilateral invasion of Panama.

Bill Clinton continued pressuring Saddam into following US interests, by placing the sanctions on Iraq that prevented them from getting the chemicals needed to make their drinking water safe. As a direct result, over a million Iraqis died during the 90s, including over half a million children.

When, near the end of Clinton's presidency, his Secretary of State Madeline Albright was asked about the deaths of those half million children, she told the press "We think it's worth it." In fact, while the two Bushes invaded Iraq, Clinton's sanctions caused far more deaths than those from both Gulf Wars combined.

So that's how the plot works. It's political, though not partisan. But you know it can't end there.

Let's take it a step further to consider what has happened in our country since 9-11, and indeed what happened on 9-11.

As many of you know, there is a tremendous amount of data on the internet now about 9-11, with photographs and essays that paint a very different picture than the one our leaders and our media have taught us.

For example, you can just Google "twin towers" + "explosives," and find over 200,000 sites with arguments that sound a lot like the plot of John Perkins' book, but now being directed against the citizens of our own country. I want to summarize some of them, to paint some broad patterns. Patterns you may want to reject immediately, as I did.

In September of 2000, before George W. Bush was selected by the Supreme Court the first time, a far right-wing group known as the Project for the New American Century published an eighty-page paper called "Rebuilding America's Defenses: Strategy, Forces and Resources For a New Century."

In essence, the paper is a blueprint for the invasion of Iraq, mentioned specifically in it, for America's imperialistic takeover of the world, and the conversion of our society to a permanent

war society geared toward obedience and away from individual rights. The authors become nearly glassy-eyed describing all the wonderful weapons of mass destruction they plan to unleash. Then they added, sadly, that even though these were wonderful plans, they would take a long time to effect, unless there could be some “catastrophic and catalyzing event,” a new Pearl Harbor, to unite the American people against a common enemy and urge them to allow the command-and-control government needed to support these imperialistic ambitions. In fact, the paper is a plea for a new “Pearl Harbor.”

Cheney had tried to sell this to the first president Bush, and the group had tried to sell it to Clinton, but neither would buy it.

Some have wondered why on earth this group would seize upon Dubya as the president who could permit them to do this. He’s not the sharpest knife in the drawer – even the spoon drawer. But there are reasons that seem compelling.

Bush has failed at every business venture he has undertaken as an adult, always being bailed out by his father’s rich friends, including the Bin Laden family of Saudi Arabia. He has never shown the ability to succeed at anything, and if he were merely on his own, he wouldn’t be wealthy at all.

He’s like a post turtle. You see a turtle on top of a fence post, and you know that thing didn’t get there on its own, doesn’t belong there, can’t do anything useful and needs to have someone get it down.

Now George Bush, having never earned his wealth or position, is eager to prove he belongs in the club of the rich and powerful. He spent his first fifty years being supported by his daddy’s rich friends. And he was put into the White House to repay them. He’s done that, following plans made by others, rewarding the rich with trillions of dollars of tax revenue, while taking great strides to crush the middle class, and reduce America to a two-tiered society like those in the countries John Perkins talked about. He was also seen as the sort of man who would dare to make some bold, dark, decisions; they fit the adolescent macho-image of dressing up in soldier uniforms to declare “Mission Accomplished” after having dodged real military service himself.

Bush’s honeymoon didn’t last long, and by the summer of 2001 his inflated ratings were already falling, which could make it impossible for the plan from the Project for the New American Century to be enacted. Then in June of 2001, eleven weeks before 9-11, new owners took control of the World Trade Center. More on that later.

What happened on 9-11 was almost certainly not what we have been led to believe. For instance, some eyewitness accounts from firefighters that were suppressed for a long time have revealed that firefighters said they heard a series of explosions in the towers that sounded like the explosions used in the controlled demolition of buildings.

Some web sites show photographs of those explosions happening on many floors of the buildings, and they are quite easy to see. Not the black smoke of the fire, but grey smoke blowing out all the windows and steel beams on one whole floor at a time.

One photo taken by a photographer who was killed by the debris shows dozens of sixteen-foot sections of the steel support beams being blown out the sides of the building, and several engineers have identified this as just how controlled demolitions work.

Still others have seen the pulverized concrete dust blown everywhere, and said that concrete can't become pulverized like that just from collapsing, but only from explosives.

And more have noted that no building ever collapses into its own footprint, unless there have been a lot of controlled demolitions expertly planted, so it will fall without destroying the surrounding buildings.

Others have measured the length of time it took for the buildings to fall, from the available footage. Both towers fell at nearly free-fall speed, which is not possible unless controlled demolitions took out all the floors below. Why? Because if the buildings had just collapsed on their own lower floors, most of the energy would have been absorbed by the floors they hit, and they would have taken much, much longer to fall, and would not have fallen straight down into their own footprint.

These things reminded Loehr of an odd paragraph from John Perkins' book. After 9-11, he says,

“I recalled reading that the World Trade Center was a project started by David Rockefeller in 1960, and that in recent years the complex had been considered an albatross. It had the reputation of being a financial misfit, unsuited to modern fiber-optic and Internet technologies, and burdened with an inefficient and costly elevator system. Those two towers once had been nicknamed David and Nelson. Now the albatross was gone.”

Ever since 9-11, America has followed the plans laid out in the Project for the New American Century back in September of 2000. Our economy has been raided to transfer trillions of dollars from the middle and lower classes to those who control the money. Social programs have been abandoned, as the military budget has metastasized. Civil rights have been attacked and in some cases destroyed. We arrest people without warrants, and export them to other countries where they are tortured and sometimes murdered. The president has claimed the kind of power that only goes to dictators, not presidents, and our long-term plans to remain in Iraq are widely known, as are the speculations that we are already planning the invasion of Iran – some say it will happen in March. The President says we are at war. But we're not in a war with Iraq. We illegally invaded Iraq to take their oil, their money, and occupy their strategic location – something we failed to achieve through economic hit men or the jackals. (Loehr fails to mention one likely motivation for the invasion of Iraq and the pending invasion of Iran. Both countries have offered to sell oil for Euros, thus threatening the dollar's "hegemony". See Rep. Ron Paul's paper)

A growing number of websites and books are now claiming that 9-11 was an inside job, done under the direction of those who run our country, and that it might not have involved any Arabs at all. Is this possible?

Loehr thinks it's possible. I think it's possible. Given what we know of the fabrications and outright lies that led to the invasion of Iraq, it seems quite plausible that the attacks of 9-11 were orchestrated by people following orders of those who rule our country, and that they may not have involved any Arabs at all. It is the scheme of deception, thievery and murder we routinely

use in other target countries around the world. 9-11 was modeled after – not Pearl Harbor, but the Reichstag fire of 1933, when the Nazis burned their own government building, then blamed it on terrorists, declared an unending war on terror, suspended civil liberties and began their own reign of terror.

These are not new schemes. Right now, these demons are out in force. They have done horrible harm, both abroad and at home. They lie, they steal, they kill people. They award unbid contracts in Iraq to the usual suspects.

Their fundamental flaw is not political, but economic. We have been persuaded that the greedy acquisition of money and power is a high moral objective, rather than an example of the selfishness of low character. Since we fail to understand that economics is supposed to be the talent of empowering the majority of our people, we have actually exalted and rewarded those raiders and pirates – the sharks, as one book put it – who feel entitled to take whatever they can take however they can take it. All of our imperialism, our hit men, and our unconscionable ability to say, of a half million children's deaths we caused, that "We think it's worth it" – all of this comes from worshipping greed and selfishness rather than respecting the humanity of others. If profits count for more than people, all the exploitation and inhumanity of history follows logically. But if profits count for more than people, then we are serving demons rather than gods, and there is, in the long run, no life in that path at all, just degradation.

The demonic forces loose in our world have turned their sights on our own country. They have made great strides in eliminating real elections here – neither the 2000 nor the 2004 elections were honest or fair, and there's no reason to suspect that 2008 will be any different (if indeed there is an election in 2008—Doug's comment). There's just too much money at stake to let the will of the majority mess it up. It's political, but not partisan. We have only one party, the party of money.

The future doesn't look bright, but that's because the story isn't finished yet. The vast majority of Americans are still asleep, still hoping these demons are only bad dreams that will go away on their own. But they won't sleep forever, and the story's not finished. It's not finished because there are signs that the sleepers are waking, beginning to become aware, outraged, organized and determined to exorcise the demons that have come to define America. The story is not finished. We are not finished. If we are lucky — and courageous — we are just beginning.