

Frontiersman

Facing the truth, however great the cost.

December 2024

Better Questions

Sam Aurelius Milam III

A subscriber to this newsletter recently asked me if I have a birth certificate. Such a document probably exists in the possession of some government agency somewhere. However, the document was created without my knowledge or consent, and when I was an infant and, therefore, not competent to make any legal agreements. Thus, I don't have any obligations, nor am I subject to any jurisdictions, merely as a consequence of a birth certificate. For any such legal purpose, the document is void from its inception and is of no legal merit or effect. In fact, there isn't any excuse, except for purposes of enforcement and control, such as in a police state, for any government agency to have, without my knowledge and voluntary consent, any information about me at all. Nevertheless, if I demanded that the agency give the birth certificate to me, then I expect that it would refuse to do so. If I demanded that the agency destroy the document, and remove from its files all other information about me, then I expect that the agency would refuse to do so.

My existence is self-evident and my legitimacy is inherent. Thus, neither of those things relies on a birth certificate. The only legitimate function of a birth certificate is to preserve, as a convenience for a family, information about the time and place of a person's birth, and the identities of his parents. For that, it isn't necessary to execute a mandatory, formal, legal document that becomes the irretrievable and exclusive property of a government agency. People can preserve the informa-

tion in other ways, such as in a family Bible, for example. I have a little "[baby book](#)" with my information in it.

I can remember when universities, hospitals, libraries, and so forth, issued their own ID cards and numbers. I can remember the first time that I objected, at a college, to having my Social Security number, which I subsequently cancelled, used as my student ID. I can remember the first time that a dentist refused to accept payment from my employer's benefits program because I wouldn't provide my Social Security number as my patient ID. I can remember when Social Security cards bore the statement, "For Social Security and Tax Purposes — Not for Identification".

It's been 60 or so years since I went through the process of acquiring government ID. I no longer even remember the process. It's been about 40 years since I cancelled or otherwise rejected all such government ID. I suspect that, nowadays, a person without a birth certificate might have some difficulty acquiring government documents that have become prerequisites to participating in anything that the government controls, and the government controls everything.

Nowadays, mandatory government ID establishes the government's control over people. Control proves ownership. In effect, the government owns the people. Thus, whether or not I have a birth certificate is the wrong question to ask. There are better questions. Why are people so willing to let a government own them? Why are they so ignorant of their status as property, and of the significance of government ID? Why is government ID required at all? Government ID is a tool of a police state. Do people even care? ✎

Additional Reading

- *The Number of a Man's Name*, in *Pharos*, first completed on Thursday, April 26, 1990
http://pharos.org.uk/Miscellaneous_Essays/Number_of_Man-s_Name/Number_of_Man-s_Name.html
 - *The Lone Raver Writes Again*, in *Pharos*, first completed on Friday, April 12, 2002
http://pharos.org.uk/Ravings_Essays/Writes_Again/Writes_Again.html
 - *Cancellation of Social Security Number*, in *Pharos*, first completed on Saturday, November 26, 2005
http://pharos.org.uk/Social_Contract/Cancellation_of_SSN/Cancellation_of_SSN.html
 - *Outward Bound*, in *Pharos*, first completed on Monday, December 11, 2006
http://pharos.org.uk/Adventures_and_Misadventures/Adventures.html#Outward_Bound
 - *Birth Right*, *Frontiersman*, May 1998
http://frontiersman.org.uk/1998/1998-05/1998-05.html#Birth_Right
 - *Another Separation*, *Frontiersman*, June 2024
http://frontiersman.org.uk/2024/2024-06/2024-06.html#Another_Separation
- ✎

Dissent and Disloyalty

from *A Report on Senator Joseph R. McCarthy*
March 9, 1954, by Edward R. Murrow

We must not confuse dissent with disloyalty. We must remember always that accusation is not proof and that conviction depends upon evidence and due process of law. We will not walk in fear, one of another. We will not be driven by fear into an age of unreason, if we dig deep in our history and our doctrine, and remember that we are not descended from fearful men — not from men who feared to write, to speak, to associate and to defend causes that were, for the moment, unpopular. ∞

Excerpts from *The Dispossessed*, 1974

by Ursula K. LeGuin

The individual cannot bargain with the State. The State recognizes no coinage but power: and it issues the coins itself.

—Chapter 9

You cannot buy the Revolution. You cannot make the Revolution. You can only be the Revolution. It is in your spirit, or it is nowhere.

—Chapter 9

Sacrifice might be demanded of the individual, but never compromise: for though only the society can give security and stability, only the individual, the person, has the power of moral choice.

—Chapter 10

We are not subjects of a State founded upon law, but members of a society founded upon revolution. Revolution is our obligation: our hope of evolution. “The revolution is in the individual spirit, or it is nowhere. It is for all, or it is nothing. If it is seen as having any end, it will never truly begin.” We can’t stop here. We must go on. We must take the risks.

—Chapter 10

Welcome to Documentaryland

And the Rest of the Story

Sam Aurelius Milam III

On an episode of *Ancient Aliens*, I saw an astronomer suggest that aliens might hide their facilities on the dark side of the Moon.

And now for the rest of the story. Different parts of the Moon are dark at different times. The darkness moves around the Moon as the Moon moves around the Earth. Sometimes the dark side faces us. Sometimes it doesn’t. The astronomer should have suggested that aliens might hide their facilities on the far side of the Moon, not on the dark side of the Moon.

It’s a stupid mistake for an astronomer to make. He probably also believes in the Big Bang Theory, the Doppler explanation of the Red Shift, and the molten glob myth about the origin of our planet. 🦉

Worldometer Population Clock

<https://www.worldometers.info/world-population/>

U.S. Census Bureau Population Clock

<https://www.census.gov/popclock/world>

Typical Population Curve

<http://frontiersman.org.uk/Population/Curve.html>

Time Enough for *On the Beach*

Sam Aurelius Milam III

Sometime during the 1970s, I started trying to write fiction. I wasn’t very good at it, at the time, but I tried. There was at least one short story that I started, but didn’t finish. I don’t remember much about the plot but I do recall two of the plot elements.

First, the story was set in a future in which the world was littered with what I called brush wars. There wasn’t a large, general war, just dozens of little wars. Today, there are reportedly 56 such conflicts going on in the world, involving 92 countries. The number of such conflicts is reportedly increasing. So, the situation that I described, about 50 years ago, has turned out to be a reasonably accurate prediction.

The second plot element that I recall related to resource depletion. Near the end of the story, I commented that the parties to the various conflicts had squandered the last of their resources by fighting over control of the dwindling remains. That might also turn out to be a reasonably accurate prediction.

Why didn’t I finish the story? I don’t remember. I don’t even remember if I gave it a name. Anyway, Nevil Shute wrote a better story, and gave it a name. Who knows? Maybe even his predictions will turn out to have been better than mine.

Only time will tell. 🦉

Letter to the Editor

Dear Sam.

As always, your *Frontiersman* [*November*] is a good read. I enjoyed “[Lost and Found](#)”.

I can’t remember where it was that I searched, perhaps the Gutenberg classic literature saved sites. But online, I found 2 old dictionaries. One from around 1150 AD, and another from around 1580 AD. Both were Old English. They were interesting in the fact of how words meanings have changed so drastically over time. You should check them out.

Have a good day, —S. H., a prisoner

Stray Thoughts

Sam Aurelius Milam III

- If a man can rid himself of cars and women, then he can live on almost no cash flow at all.
- Simplicity is a great virtue. Complexity is a sign of incompetence. 🦉

The Mattel Scenario

Sam Aurelius Milam III

I've watched anthropologists, archaeologists, and other such people present their discoveries. They proudly present the exquisite religious icons and sacred objects that they've excavated from ancient sanctuaries of religious worship. They never hint that the places that they discovered could just as well have been a little girl's bedroom, and that the things recovered could just as well have been toys and dolls. That's because careers aren't built, and funding isn't granted, based on the excavation of a Barbie Doll. 🐦

Silence is Golden

Sam Aurelius Milam III

Listening to the ramblings of nitwits and the ravings of evangelists is a waste of my time and might also be an insult to my intelligence. I'm willing to teach, but not to debate. In a debate, I can't penetrate the brainwashing. Consequently, I learned long ago to avoid debates. More recently, I tend to avoid conversations of any kind. I'm not particularly interested in hearing what most people have to say. 🐦

Despair

from [the weird stuff collection](#), by Sam Aurelius Milam III

Written sometime during the 1970s.

Now is the time to try to remember what it was that I was thinking the last time I went out for a while. I had a chance to fly away with a very dear friend who used to know all things that were within the realm of time and space, except for those few articles of faith that are reserved for the lofty of heart and mind. Those were the days. I would rise early, feed the lizard, and march into the marsh amid the hooting and calling of the millions. The days were long then, and cool, with the fragrance of jasmine and wild spices which abounded among the rocks. Gypsies would sing, and I would smile as I climbed the rocks, frisking with the clouds. I could be lost for days and never know it, or be missed. People expected me to disappear and some were of mixed feelings on the effect it might have on the river, which was my responsibility. I kept the river. I preserved it. I loved it. Without the river, my people would have had no place to swim. We were different people then, alive and filled with the peace of our chosen place. We knew our land and ourselves, and we were satisfied. That was before I came upon the new things of today. After that we pursued other goals, and sought other pleasures. Now, we hardly remember the old things, and our lives do not flow from here to there as they did before, but run in random

Insecurity as Job Security

Sam Aurelius Milam III

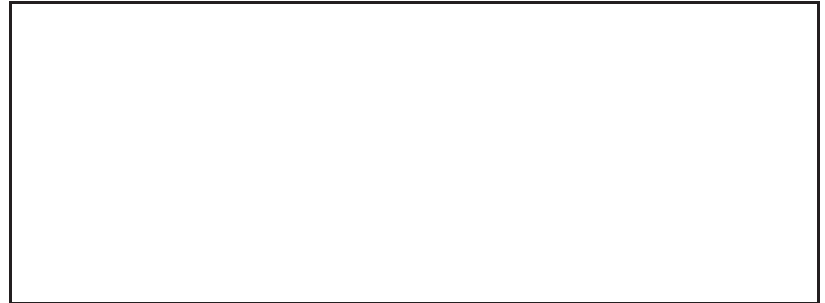
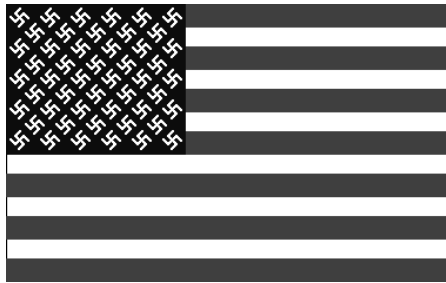
There are many people in the world who have real problems, people starving because there isn't enough food, people drinking from rivers that are being used as sewers, people trying to pull other people from under the rubble of destroyed structures, people living on the streets or in refugee camps that are as big as towns, adolescents who've spent so much of their lives in refugee camps that they don't know any other way to live, people who can't plow their fields because of unexploded munitions, and more.

In spite of all of those real problems, alleged "professionals" are still expending a lot of time and resources coddling befuddled people who don't "identify" with their gender. Maybe those befuddled people should just check between their legs, accept whatever they find there, get over themselves, and get on with their lives. The "professionals", who claim to be helping them and who, it seems to me, are merely enabling the commotion, should find something that's actually useful to do with their expertise, and do it. 🐦

channels which are all at cross purposes with the world. Now, if I leave for a moment, the world collapses around my absence. I am needed, but not for myself. I am needed because I do things. My people have scattered around the world and made great names and reputations for themselves, because no others can do what we can do. That is because no others have had what we have had, and lost. We have the wisdom of despair. We work within the world to hide the things which are no more and could be again if we would allow it. Others call us great. Men see our works and have no notion of the value of play. Since the elder days, I have seen many changes in the world, and have watched the magic, and the warlocks, and the demons vanish. I could imagine them again, but what's the use? I could never keep them to myself, and others would hate them, fear them, seek them out, and destroy them. Why should I create a wonder for others to destroy? I will keep the knowledge to myself and cherish it. Beyond all else, I must remember myself, and hold myself true to all those old and dear values that I learned in my youth. The things my father knew. Then I can tell my children of the wonders that I saw and loved. They can tell their children, and they theirs. Thus the useless progression of wasted knowledge can travel throughout all the ages of the world, even to the end of time. —Amen



Nation in Distress



Acknowledgments

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Websites

<http://frontiersman.org.uk/>
<http://moonlight-flea-market.com/>
<http://pharos.org.uk/>
<http://sam-aurelius-milam-iii.org.uk/>
<http://sovereign-library.org.uk/>

A High Standard for AI to Meet

Original Source Unknown. Forwarded by El Dorado Bob.

Back when computers were first coming into use, there was an individual in a company where I worked who had the title of “Technology Supervisor.” One of her first projects was to make sure that there was a computer on everyone’s desk. She decided to purchase the

model that had the highest rated power supply because she figured those would be the most powerful computers.

She also submitted a request to upper management to rewire the division’s building to run on 220 volts, instead of 110 volts, because it would make the existing equipment perform better. ∞

Signs That You’re a Hillbilly

Original Source Unknown. Forwarded by Don G.

- You’ve never been too drunk to go fishin’.
- You clean your fingernails with a stick.
- You think that the Styrofoam cooler is the greatest invention of all time.
- You have to remove the toothpick for wedding pictures.
- You have to go outside to get something out of the ’fridge.
- You barbecue Spam on the grill. ∞.

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—Sam Aurelius Milam III, editor