

Wesley Hunt, Speech

Cowdrey Reflection

Source: BlackConservative24; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nH4heWcq7yk>

I loved this speech. I thought it was powerful. I also love the idea of free henna for students and understand how hijabs are controversial in some places, but not in other societies where this type of religious clothing is normalized. I see this as a difference in energy and culture, but these are mostly slight differences rather than radical ones. Americans do not want their culture to change because we fought very hard to have the freedoms and culture that we have, and so any foreign religion is questioned. Americans are especially protective of their children.

Christianity is more of a foundation in our country than any other religion because of ancestry, heritage, and because it was a religion that complemented many of our freedoms and structures. Americans are also protective of educational systems, and even teaching the Christian religion in school is now frowned upon, though many schools in America once began as church schools. There is a great debate regarding prayer in school. The issue is mostly about American rules, standards, and culture.

There has been a fraying of social paradigms with newer incoming cultures, which some Americans are becoming retaliatory about, as they feel that their culture, norms, and standards are not being respected by newcomers. There is a feeling that there is an overstepping of boundaries and freedoms. Many Americans feel they have been one of the most accommodating nations on the planet, and so this overstepping of boundaries feels to them like an exhausting process of constantly beating the drum to keep their cultural norms preserved and protected. They feel that entitlement from other nations is simply too much and that too much is being taken.

This speech was American spirited and full of heart. He was loud, proud, and able to communicate our heritage in a beautiful and enlightening way. His voice is powerful and demands the audience's attention in such a way that you can feel the protective energy he has for the American people. This is why it is so important for Black American voices like his to be heard, because they carry the United States forward in a very special way.

We can relate to and understand that for any religious person, sharing their beliefs and religion is also important and a healthy part of who they are. Religious suppression is just as negative as any other form of suppression. And so, a contradiction occurs, especially where freedom is called into question.

Ultimately, the hosting country and culture reserve the right to protect their spirit and people from social issues that may harm them. This is not to say that religions from other cultures are more or less important, good, or harmful. For example, all religions can be used to commit

acts of harm when they are no longer paralleling peace, truth, and science based concepts. And all religions can be used to promote good, values, ethics, and charity.

When reviewing the pamphlet, my natural instinct was that this seemed like a fun activity for kids, and I can see how kids would enjoy a fun day like this. Henna is cool, and why not teach kids how to become more spiritual? We can relate to these activities as Americans in many ways.

Americans, however, become worried about religious indoctrination, especially foreign religious indoctrination. We can all learn from one another, from our heritage, our cultural religion, and our ways of life. I speak from a Union of Saints standpoint rather than a traditional Christian one, and I feel it is also important to note that we are an interfaith union rather than atheist or humanist, though we see how atheism has grounding aspects as well. We are faithful, but we also see that all forms of religious indoctrination may bring with them spiritual harms.

The goal for us may differ from many traditional religious Americans, as our goal is to keep our minds as open as possible and to remain as peaceful as possible while also promoting protection, science, and truth. We are also fully aligned with American native and ethnic culture and our shared path forward. Ultimately, we feel that parents reserve the right to guard their children from any form of religious indoctrination that may go against the family's ethics or conscience.

This is why we feel that schools must be protected from any ideology, foreign or domestic, that is not science or history based. This includes any extreme far left or far right ideology. Moderate conservatism and logic based teaching structures and education systems are also key here. American classrooms require rules, respect for the current times, and respect for parental consent.

The speaker did a great job. I would also argue that many Americans may be conflicted today regarding the belief that slavery ended. While the era of transatlantic slavery may be long over, we still fight many new and old forms of slavery that continue to exist. For example, certain forms of ideological or religious law may serve as examples where repressive systems replace normal values, healthy ethics, personal freedom, and moral accountability.

Personal boundaries, family boundaries, student and teacher boundaries, and religious boundaries are all a major part of preserving this freedom and the health of the culture that we all share. Without boundaries, these social fabrics do begin to fray. Ultimately, each individual reserves the right to say no to any form of religious indoctrination, and where consent is not present, the community reserves the right to set stronger boundaries and even take actions that ensure those boundaries are respected.

We face this reality together. The truth is many Americans are missing their people and culture, as they have become host to an entirely foreign nation within a nation, with 11 million or more undocumented immigrants who have been asked to leave, yet still remain. It is clear

that our laws, traditions, culture, boundaries, and borders have not been respected or honored. The burden has become too great.

The Union of Saints absolutely and firmly supports upholding the values and boundaries that preserve our community, schools and culture. Thank you to the speaker for “holding the fort” during tumultuous times and within a cultural landscape we would very much prefer to keep rather than change. We love our country, we love our people, and we want to continue honoring the American spirit we share.