

Snow On The Desert

Date : December 19, 2014

This morning I was visited by a memory of watching the movie *Jeremiah Johnson* as a kid. Something that stuck with me was how there was snow in the desert. Until then, I imagined the desert as a hot place with snakes, spiders, and sand dunes. Finding out that there is snow even in "the desert" hinted at the fact that there was more to the story. I was compelled to look deeper.

...which somehow reminds me of the beauty and spirit of 'merica. "The greatest country on earth." Hmmm. While I am not a fan of a building the collective ego, there are strains of truth to that label as there are in the soul of every person that loves their heritage. It seems like the *feeling* of those real, pure, and truth-full values are just what the world needs. But stagnation is always a danger. I might rephrase that proclamation to "Loving your heritage is one of the greatest things on earth." The kingdom of heaven within, yada yada yada. After all, a political state is just a blink in history's eye, while love for one's heritage endures well beyond the person's death.

AMERICAN VALUES

- Forging one's own destiny. Work hard, be honest, and you will succeed. ADD: Owning the responsibility of your own experience. Loss (an fear) of community. FAULTS: Egocentricity; The belief that "we've made it". Inability to rely on (and trust in) others.
- The vastness of the West. Expanse of the unknown. Charging into darkness. Opportunity. The wild west and ADD: It's easy to get comfortable. Snow in the desert (of the west); Watching Jeremiah Johnson. Alaska is the new west FAULTS: Loss of the past. Less than 3 generations of cultural memory.
- The "United States". Connection, Unity, Harmony. ADD: Islam also means 'Peace'.
- Simplicity. Country. "Folks" ADD: Less is more. Stick to the core.
- Demanding Proof. "Show me the money". ADD: FAULTS: Stuck in the concrete. Loss of the irrational.

Some soul:

<http://tinyurl.com/o954t2f>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=94h2L9oBOHM>

Snow On The Desert

A Study of Natural Systems

<http://snowonthedesert.com>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DbgfQ48hWuY>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ExAM8D7cfbll> find it entertaining and heart-warming that the topic of *American soul* always brings me back to Hunter S. Thompson's search for the American Dream in *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*. While his search was tragic and sometimes nauseating, he was looking hard for the truth. And boy, I'll buy that for a dollar in a styrofoam cup....