

The Blaze

I'm [Adam Klugman](#) and you are listening to [AM 620 KPOJ](#), Portland's only Progressive Talk Station. The numbers here are 1-866-452-060, (503) 248-0620 or #620 on your AT&T wireless phone.

Last week I got up on my little microphone and said some bad words. Words like [Socialism](#) and [Liberal](#) and I encouraged us to take them back. Well, a right-wing blog called [The Blaze](#) picked up on it and had an absolutely epileptic reaction. Here are some highlights.

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And so, how am I supposed to respond? How would you respond? I mean, nobody wants to be hated like this, no one wants their fellow citizens hoping to gun him down in the street one day because he used a word or expressed an idea that make others uncomfortable, even AM talk show jocks. I mean, a certain amount being hated come with the job, but this is really extreme stuff.

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This is hatred. Pure and simple. And it really highlights the distinction I always make on this show between Mad as Hell and Rage. Between legitimate human anger and animal aggression. You see, my mere mention of the word *Socialism* triggered a fear reaction in them so powerful that they had to attack. Because it's a very quick trip from fear to rage. It's a short, straight line from fear to hatred, from fear to aggression, from fear to violence. And I'll be honest with you, my first reaction to their attack was fear. Even though I wasn't surprised, even though in some ways I welcomed it, it still felt afraid, in a very animal kind of way.

And I was mad. All the way back to [Ronald Regan](#) who came into office on the promise of [Morning in America](#), a place where we can all go back to sleep and wave the flag in our dreams, and snuggle up to our ignorance with a warm cup of freshly brewed lies. Because the truth is that this kind pseudo-patriotism been swelling for thirty years and it has transformed our country into is a place where people now wield their love of America like weapon. And I thought of coming on the show this week and firing back at them. That's good AM radio, man! Get out there and spray 'em down!

But I thought about it for minute. And I remembered something. It was right after 911 and there was this quad split panel on the TV. One person was saying let's go in and blow up Afghanistan tomorrow, another person as talking about sanctions, another person was predicting what the president was going to do... and one person was there advocating for a peaceful response.

But the thing is...of all the people on the panel, he was the most shrill, the most obnoxious person. And I thought, wow, this guy is really getting it wrong. You can't come on and advocate for peace and then embody the spirit of attack. It's bad for the cause, man. Well, I don't want to be that guy!

But which guy do I want to be?

I can't ignore the attack, that would defeat the whole purpose of my monologue - which was to protest the fact that I cannot even use certain words without being labeled as someone who hates America and should be gunned down in the streets.

And a protest that fails to provoke a response, fails. So, in many ways, I succeeded. But everything depends on how I respond now. I think this is an object lesson in non-violence. Because this hatred and violence is out there in America and the worst place for it to be is growing like a mold in the dark places of our society.

Then one day we wake up and it's everywhere and we say where did all of this hatred come from? I thought it would just stay in the closet! Well, it isn't going to stay in the closet, anymore than mold stays in the closet. And the best prescription for mold is Sunlight. Sunlight is always the best disinfectant and so I called it out, I was able to drag some small part of the same hatred that murdered [Dr. Tiller](#), the same hatred made it possible for [Gabrielle Giffords](#) to be shot, the same hatred that is growing and thriving in corners of our country where in places where we don't want to look, and pull out in light of day so that we can all get a good gander at it... and so here it is:

READ QUOTE

So, what do I do with it? Well, I'm going to use another bad word. And this word might piss them off even more than the last bad word I used.

And it might even make the people who agree with me uncomfortable, but I am going to use it anyway, because this word has been, and always will be, the powerful political force the world has ever seen. And that word is... *love*. It may not be not good AM radio but we're going to talk about it anyway.

So just get over squeamishness because I am not talking about the love we have for puppy dogs and bunny rabbits. I am not even talking about the love we have for our families, which real and powerful, but is personal kind of love. I am talking about Love with a capitol "L."

I am talking about what Ghandi called [Satyagraha](#), the Soul Force, the Truth Force, the unassailable power that comes from recognizing that our enemy is not made up of their actions, or their words, but of the very same dignified, noble human substance as ourselves and that if we persist this belief at any cost, if we will insist on seeing that and nothing else, it will finally what is that is left between all of us. And once we know this, really know it, then will we have the courage and the wisdom it takes to walk into the darkness, wake the beast, and hold our ground when he starts to grow

And so I won't back down from what I said last week. I won't. I am still a liberal and still want to talk about building a society that works for as many people as possible because I don't how anyone can love America, but not love your fellow Americans.

And it goes for everyone. It must include the people who hate us and the people we sometimes hate, in spite of our better inclinations.

So, if want to call me a [Socialist](#), [Maoist](#), [Communist](#), pig-squirting enemy of America... go for it. If you want to hate me for it, that's fine.

But I won't hate you back. And I won't back down. But I will stay here until you afford me the same dignity I extend to you—the right to speak freely in a free society without fear.

We'll be right back.

You're listening to “[Mad as Hell in America](#),” with [Adam Klugman](#) on [KPOJ](#).

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