

Fish and Fascism

Dave Hill

If it looks like a rotten stinking fish,
if it smells like a rotten stinking fish,
if it acts like a rotten stinking fish,
if it stinks like a rotten fish.
Then it is a rotten stinking fish.

If it looks like a fascist,
If it sounds like a fascist
if it acts like a fascist,
if it smells like a fascist,
Then it is a fascist.
Even if the label on the box
says democratic
and it dresses in a pin-striped suit.

Bolsonaro, Orban, Trump, Erdogan, Salvini
the Law and Justice Party in Poland
all say they are democrats.
They stir hatred.
They stir violence.
They stir suppression of critical thought.
in universities, schools, in minds.
They intimidate those of us who protest.
They threaten.
They enact.
They destroy civility.
They peddle fear,
and hatred

They normalise dehumanisation
they desensitise cruelty
—they kill
Pavlos Fyssas, Jo Cox, Heather Hayer ...

There is a road,
travelled in the past,
and being travelled now,

through the beatings and the killings
Of the subhuman,
“The Other”
the Outsider,
the immigrant,
the minority,
the LGBT,
the feminist
the homeless,
the impoverished,
the ‘alien ideology’,
the internationalist,
the trade unionist,
the communist

It is that road we,
we here,
we elsewhere,
we everywhere,
must work to block,
must work instead,
in opposition,
to build the road
to social justice,
to economic justice,
to equality

It is not easy.
Many of us have the scars.
We have to do it.
We must do it!
Like in the 1930s, the 1940s, the 1970s,
In different places, in different times,
like in past and recent history
We have to do it

With our words, our hearts,
our minds, our bodies,
our political and social organisations and parties,
our solidarity, our compassion-
our humanity!
our hard political analysis and understanding
Our leadership of experiences and analysis and action
Our leaderships not ossified but open

Fascists, pre Fascists, post Fascists,
proto Fascists, quasi Fascist... Fascists
No Pasaran

Like stinking fish,
they belong
in the dustbin of history.

Throw them there

Author

Dave Hill is a Marxist political and trade union activist, a working-class professor based in the UK. Email: dave.hill35@btopenworld.com



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