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The Equinoctial Line



# VILLAINAGE



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## CHAPTER THREE

### *Villain*

The word Villein or villain, in the 1300s meant a peasant, farmer, commoner. Early in the 1400's, it was a reference to a feudal class of half-free peasants. From a medieval term meaning "farmhand" it is quite the opposite of its usage today! Villains now are presented as knaves, scoundrels or evil doers, but always remember, in the beginning there was no one more noble than a villain!

A Villain in every story... did you ever wonder why? When we first get a book, we just cozy up and can't wait until the good guy gets the bad guy. But then there are times that the good guy is the bad guy... or sometimes the bad guy is the good guy. What if I told you that there was a conspiracy switching the words defining "villain" and "noble?" So that every tale, historical and folklore; was manipulating a reader's perception? Where "nobility" was in reality villainous... and villainy was absolutely noble? I discovered this whole thing some years back, but I just couldn't put my finger on its implications. Yet the more I looked into this bait and switch, the more I had to consider my own motives for revealing it. Did you ever wonder where the term villain even came from? For starters, this is what Wikipedia has to say about villains, and it wasn't surprising...

*"A villain (also known as the "antagonist," "baddie", "bad guy", "heavy" or "black hat") is an "evil" character in a story, whether a historical narrative or, especially, a work of fiction.*

*The villain usually is the antagonist (though can be the protagonist), the character who tends to have a negative effect on other characters. A female villain is occasionally called a villainess (often to differentiate her from a male villain). Random House Unabridged Dictionary defines villain as "a cruelly malicious person who is involved in*

*or devoted to wickedness or crime; scoundrel; or a character in a play, novel, or the like, who constitutes an important evil agency in the plot”*

So here is the deal, I will give you some answers to the questions that I have already asked; like why the conspiracy? And answer some of the many questions you conjure up as we proceed. And we will proceed... but only after laying out some ground-rules about history. Now as soon as you mention “history” someone makes a wise-crack... you know, about the victors (or vicars) rewriting history? It is a claim that war victors rewrote history to paint their picture as they pleased, this same thing is said about the Bible. Claiming it has been rewritten as a cover-up. However the Bible’s teachings seem the most condemning to those said to have rewritten it! So what would the changing of a few definitions do to leave a skewed view of history? And this is the conspiracy we will be exposing.

*“History is always written by the winners. When two cultures clash, the loser is obliterated, and the winner writes the history books-books which glorify their own cause and disparage the conquered foe. As Napoleon once said, 'What is history, but a fable agreed upon?’”*

— Dan Brown, *The Da Vinci Code*

Dare I suggest, that after history is written by the winners, it then seems subject to being rewritten again... under a pretense, by authors much like that of the Da Vinci Code, or other *Dan Browns* of this world! Well, let’s not get too hung up on that last statement, lest we end up biting our tongue in cheek. But it seems true, that history may be less agreeable to those who worry about their future; and try to change their destiny by re-imagining their past; rather than their obvious submission to its repetition. I submit that villains are necessary to each story, but that they have been redefined, or misrepresented to hide the true nature of what is being called nobility. That is, if Dan Brown wanted to uncover true Catholic conspiracies and atrocities; he should have exposed Jesuits as an ongoing saga... with the best/worst episodes yet to come! Just as globalism (world domination) has us living a global serfdom; this group has done their part to see us slaves to global villainage.

Words villain or Villein, came from the Latin word villanus, meaning "farmhand". It was a particular peasant class under feudalism, related to tenure and land maintenance. It was a condition of slavery. This spread during the Middle Ages; lasting in some European countries until the mid-1800's. In this sense, it is in reference to someone who is in bondage to the land of a village, like that of a plantation. The Villein, or villain; denoted a "farmhand" who was bound by law to a master or lord of the land. Their social class was between that of a free peasant "freeman" or slave. How villains came to have such bad reputation is because they were by birth lacking nobility. Having less than Knight Status, it came to mean a person that was without chivalry. As well, no person of

nobility would or could ever bear accusation of “villainous” acts being beneath them, because they were simply born into a higher class. These acts included treason, theft or rape; only considered likely of such lower-class peasants “villains” in the modern sense of the word.

Villeins did have more rights than slaves, but they had restrictions that kept them from the status of free peasants. Unlike slaves, villains could rent small houses including land. By contracting with the landlord, the villain had to work the fields of the landlord some of the time. Usually seasonal planting and harvest work, but the rest of the time they could work their lands under lien (in debt) for profit. These villains/villeins could not just leave said lands without the consent of their landlord. They also required the acceptance of the landlord to whose lands they intended to go. A thing to note is that Villeinage wasn't just a one-way street to the benefit of the landlord. The land held by lords provided for parties, wealth and survival. Also, villains were rarely evicted because of their work, seeing that villeinage was beneficial to both parties. Also it was better than being just a vagabond or slave.

That said, some villains wanted to be free from the land and the lien placed on their lives. Hoping to escape such class restrictions; a villain could get freedom if they escaped to a town or city. That is if they didn't get caught within a year. But, this would definitely end in the loss of land rights and profits. Not usually the best option, unless life in the village was too oppressive. For some, contentment of status and class was a given. Someone raised as a rancher, would pass on to the next generation the ranch and its culture. Our modern day class system differs little from feudalism from medieval times. The distinct differences are our technology; and that the military class seems peasantry. Being nearer to those in poverty... if not by wage, then definitely by lack of any privilege. It is these class structures many are trying to escape. Most for better pay; while a very few try to escape the upper class, for the “romance” of mere survival! Unfortunately things haven't changed much from those dark ages. People still trying to get ahead, or escape their lot in life. It is eerily similar that those in our society that work the hardest, have the most debt against them, and seem the most oppressed... while others sit back and get a (socialistic) free ride!

Interestingly we don't often see those of nobility, that were born in a life of luxury, kicked to the social media curb. Rather they seem idolized, or envied as ones to aspire to. People tend to want to rub-shoulders with those rare mucky mucks, hoping that their wealth will also rub off. Such is not the case for those who have made it into the upper-class by business. It seems that if anyone has made it by smart business sense, surely they must have *cheated* someone, walked on people, or stole their place in life. These villains have stepped out of place. They have disrupted order... unless their nobility was earned by some *hunger games*, American Idol, or some prestigious fraternal organization. If not, they get villainized! This is a stereotyping that those moguls of invention and marketing

get painted with. Let me put it this way... rarely do you have people despising Prince William, or other royalty like they do with guys like Mark Zuckerberg or Bill Gates. Yet even the media gives them a break, that the average working stiff won't give them. But there is one kind of villain most won't tolerate. This is that one who not only escapes the prison... but leaves the door open! These are those rare brothers that help a fellow-villain out!

I say, whenever the media is demonizing someone you need to ask why? I think it would be safe to say that some of the unscrupulous sorts in our society are the paparazzi; led by networks that send them out to draw that last remaining drop of tragic blood from its victims. Like they say "If it's red, it's read!" or "If it bleeds, it leads!" ...and oh how we like the dirt, as we wallow in the mire. That is until it is our own blood or dirt that gets plastered on the front page, or social media screen. But when it comes to someone blowing the lid of such corruption, they spare no expense to see them punished. So that others may see and fear. It is not just whistle-blowers that get threatened, it is anyone who makes a "price war" and cuts into the profits that gets targeted. Because then collusion cannot continue, and price fixing is impossible.

I have had that experience years ago; when I had a gas station. I just wanted a bit of publicity, so I started a price war. Let me tell you, my supplier told me that I was going to change my gas price immediately! Or we would both be out of business! Also, I had a Realtor tell me that those guys (and he knew a few) played rough. He said that it is hard to sell gas when your place gets burned to the ground! These big-dogs will eat you for breakfast. But for some that want to fight this crooked system, they kick the dog in the teeth and take what comes! Because it is not good enough for them just to escape their socioeconomic class; no, these guys want to make it possible for others to follow in their footsteps... and I like their style! But ask yourself, who profits most by price-fixing on gas? Isn't more taxes collected the higher the price? This is why government says they "fixed" the problem.

But lets get back to these farmhand/villains who want the little guy to get the big deals! They want to bust-up business-bullies who force everyone to buy from their monopolies, so that they won't have to pay exorbitant prices... or be forever dependent on their services. By nature these so-called villains want freedom for everyone! And what is better, they don't mind losing money to do it! This kind of example is what the establishment wants squashed. Because once word gets around, everyone will expect that kind of a bargain. And that my friend, cuts into the ruling-class profits! BUT, can these villains do all this and remain untouched by greed and corruption once they make it to the top? They say "power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely". So I want to know is, will these rogue warriors remember their roots; or will riches corrupt the purest villain?

# Justin Tukletter

