

## A word from the editor

*Five year plans and new deals*

*Wrapped in golden chains*

(John Fogerty, *Who'll Stop the Rain?*, 1970)

In these dire times—times of systemic deception and institutionalized violence, of beheaded statues and belittled and beleaguered opposing voices—at *Kervan* we dare to think differently.

We saw the contagion spread from a country once held as a beacon of freedom; caught in awe and bewilderment, we witnessed madness engulf universities and centers of learning, then cross the ocean and spread further, closer.

Countless, unknown colleagues have been and are harassed, ostracized, silenced or fired for expressing their views and opinions in the face of violent mobs—and, all too often, of complicit and obliging faculties and trembling, self-serving academic authorities. Or for not kneeling fast and convincingly enough to the self-styled guardians of a new orthodoxy. Or still, for being branded with the *suspicion* of harboring dangerous, free ideas. Cowed by fear, they wait their turn to be scrutinized for correctness, knowing all too well that any word may be wrong and that few will be saved.

The example has been set, and many others—befuddled, bewitched, bereft of hope—will now obediently bow to the anointed and to a new faith begotten by laughingly preposterous ruminations made into nonsensical—but highly remunerative—theories. Whole academic fields happily teach that facts do not matter and history is a discourse, that truth is an opinion and lies in the eye of the beholder, that languages, like reality, are just a figment of imagination. And that guilt is collective and never ending.

Many will cheer in a false belief to have been set free and will eagerly dance to the music of their new masters.

Again, at *Kervan* we think and write differently.

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