

A week or two ago when I was anticipating what I thought was the most remote possibility of standing here at this moment in the aftermath of a victory by Donald Trump in the presidential election of 2016, there were at least two points I knew I would want to make.

First, some of you may remember back when Hillary Clinton won the primary which locked up the Democratic party nomination, she tweeted a picture of her standing in a hallway holding the hand of a little girl with the following message attached:

You too can grow up to become the president of the United States.

And some of you may remember that on the Shabbat after that happened, I mentioned that it was too early and too soon for that type of message.

I certainly was among those who hoped it was true, but I was not convinced it was true, and this past Tuesday proved to me, that it's still not true.

Or at least, it hasn't proven to be true yet, that you can be a little girl and expect to become the President of the U.S.

The other point I planned to share when I thought about the remote possibility of Donald Trump being elected president, is that the election of 2016 continued a trend that I believe actually was recognizable in the 2008 election.

Many of us remember how Barack Obama was considered to be a very inexperienced candidate since he had only been a State Senator and US Senator for a short while before running for President.

Compared to his opponent Hillary Clinton in the 2008 primaries and John McCain in the national election even more so, Barack Obama was quite inexperienced.

Well, experience didn't really matter then, and obviously, it matters even less right now.

For the first time in American history, a person with no previous political experience and no previous military experience has been elected president of the United States.

Obviously people are so fed up with Congress in specific and government in general, that at least in this election cycle, when it comes to electing the president of the United States, previous experience is a disadvantage.

Those were the two points I had thought about making when I considered the remote possibility that Donald Trump would win the election.

But now that he has won I have much more to say about the process.

Donald Trump is my President-elect and I will be supportive of him when he becomes the president, even when he makes decisions or enacts a policy with which I disagree.

When I am unsure about a specific policy or different decision, I will give him the benefit of the doubt just as I did to George Bush when he led us into war against Iran and Afghanistan.

I may eventually change my mind as I did about those wars, but then I will say I changed my mind.

So what else does this election teach us – what can we learn?

What I'm going to tell you now is difficult for me to say:

"It teaches us, you just can't trust the polls (Pohls?)."

Over and over again we heard from most commentators how the polls were indicating a Clinton victory and that how Donald Trump was offering different results from other polls we were told could not be confirmed.

Well, whose results were more accurate?

Obviously, many of the so-called experts are far from being expert in their prognostication and analysis.

As I mentioned last week, much of the media attention is from what the media thinks is supposed to happen, by trying to be early more than being correct, by trying to shape the news which might grab our attention, rather than report the news which deserves our attention.

Clearly there is great division in this nation, geographically (East and W. Versus the Ctr.), by population with nearly a 50-50 split in position and with neither side being very happy.

I am close to believing that the traditional Democratic/ Republican split in this country will no longer be the way politics will do business in the future.

Realize and don't ignore that the Republican nominee won the presidential election without the support and endorsement from many well-known Republican leaders, politicians, and even past presidents.

Realize and don't ignore that as far as my research indicates, Donald Trump won the presidential election with the endorsement of only six small newspapers from throughout this land.

How foolish of me to think this was an indication of a Hillary Clinton victory, and easily so, I imagined.

That to me says a lot about the disconnect between the media, what the media thinks, what the media reports, and most other people in this country.

Actually though, the media will become the winners of the election because the media loves to cover Donald Trump.

People love to watch Donald Trump – that has been the case for many years.

And I believe, that the media is betting on the fact that millions and millions of people in this country have not yet seen enough of Donald Trump on television – even just the opposite now.

Too many just can't wait to see what he will do as president and the media can't wait to start showing us.

What makes this most intriguing is that we have learned that Donald Trump is a man who expects to exceed everyone else's expectations and, more often than not he does.

He is unconventional, and breaks all the rules.

We really don't know what to expect him to do and that makes for great TV!!

Here is an example that is close to home.

Perhaps you also realize that the Israel-Palestinian issue was hardly discussed, at least publicly and openly, during this election campaign, especially once the primaries ended, perhaps since the annual AIPAC convention.

Generally, I think that is a good thing – namely that this issue which is so important to us as Jews was not front and center during the election process.

On the other hand, this is the first time that I can remember when I really don't know – I am not clear at all as to how President-elect Trump plans to move forward or at least address this issue in the near future.

Come to the synagogue on Monday night November 21 and listen to Ira Rifkin provide analysis on this and other aspects of the election.

Ira will speak immediately after the 7 PM Ma-ariv minyan.

A little Torah – The Portion begins: Lech Lecha May-artzecha, Go forth from you Land, to the land that I will show you –

Abraham thought it was the land of Canaan – maybe there was a misprint - Maybe it meant to be read Canada and not Canaan.

In seriousness – Lech Lecha literally means Lech (Go), Lecha (To You).

In order to go outside (Lech) – you have to look inside (Lecha).

The wrong thing to do when you want change or when you react to change is to only look at others, to point at others and not to look inward as to where you now need to change.

This portion is much more about change than tradition.

It is up to all of us to look inward to see if we can create something better out there, if that is what we want.

Undoubtedly, I was very distraught Tuesday night and Wednesday.

However, I honor the system as it is, and I fully accept the results of the election.

In certain ways the fact that most people involved in the process of predicting the election outcome were not correct is in itself a hallmark of the United States of America.

In Palestinian elections, you can predict the outcome, if they ever have elections again.

In Russia you can predict the outcome.

In Iran you can predict the outcome.

But thank God, in the United States of America, as complicated and misleading as the process may be, the outcome is not determined until you get to the finish line of election day, and the votes are actually counted.

Kayn Yehi Ratzon - the will of the people has spoken, so may it be, at least until it speaks again in four years.

Amen