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writer, lawyer, human

## Pulling the Emergency Brake

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Thoughts.

We're not even a week into 2020 and America already has its back against a wall after killing Iran's equivalent of our Secretary of Defense. On Twitter, I'm seeing fear about a renewed military draft, about how the U.S. indiscriminately murders brown-colored people, and Tweets about religious folks elevating a man who couldn't quote a Bible passage if his life depended on it.

I'm also thinking of parents, spouses and family members who are afraid for loved ones in harm's way. This wasn't at all necessary; we had found a compromise with Iran, but someone who clearly hates our former President was intent on destroying all that he touched.

Hatred magnified by extreme ego, racism, and ignorance, isn't a good combination at all. This isn't stuff that we can ignore, of course.

For sure, I'm a unifier and not a divider and very much I want to bring together people of all persuasions. Our country needs to get past rhetoric and fear; we must do much, much hard work toward healing. I think we're capable of it—because my work shows that we care for each other far more than the media would lead you to believe—but it requires leadership and truth-telling. Right now, those leaders are few and far between.

Me? I'm just a little person. Yes, I'm good at what I do but I don't have a PR entourage behind me. It's just me and my message about compassion for others and for one's self. It's a fantastic message but then again, I'm invisible and the message gets buried.

I'm also a former railroad lawyer. How do you stop a runaway train? See from Wikipedia:

#### **How to Stop a Runaway Train?**

1. Locate the emergency brake in your car. ...
2. Pull the cord and brace yourself for the jerking action when the brakes are actuated, and the cars slam together at their couplings.
3. If the **train** does not begin to slow down, something might be amiss with the emergency brake system in your car.

We all need to collectively pull the emergency brake. It's that serious. And difficult.

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