

Shakespeare on Trump?

Michael K. Cantwell

Ever wonder what Shakespeare, if he were alive, would have to say about Donald Trump? I do. In fact, I'd argue that Shakespeare *is* alive, and that he's already said it.

Might the Bard have had Mr. Trump on his mind when he created Falstaff, antihero of three plays, an inveterate braggart and liar: "***these lies are like the father who begets them, open, palpable, gross as a mountain.***" Okay, not exactly. . . Falstaff was a loveable rogue and a formidable intellect with a gift for language whereas Trump is a hateful and grotesque buffoon incapable of framing a sentence that consists of more than 140 characters.

But what came back to me the moment that Barrack Obama, the most scandal-free and decent occupant of the White House in decades, if not ever, was succeeded by Donald Trump was the moment in *Hamlet* when the young prince compares his dead father to the uncle who succeeded him: "So excellent a king/that was to this, Hyperion to a satyr." While I'd stop short of calling Obama a sun god, and while reportedly Trump is significantly less well-endowed than your average satyr, the metaphor works for me.