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THE \$95 KNIFE

A Government That Starves Its Children While The Rich Feast

By Love

November 10, 2025 – The Shutdown's Malicious Machination



What makes this shutdown so cruel is not just the hunger or the unpaid bills; it is the silence of those who could stop it. The people who once spoke about caring for humanity,

who filled stages and screens with words of reform and compassion, are now quietly watching from their high places while the poor struggle to survive. How dare they remain silent, since the Trump administration's decision to fund only 50% of November's SNAP benefits was not a budgetary necessity; on and to the contrary, it was a political maneuver, because the average SNAP recipient receives about \$190 per month, or \$6 a day. Cutting that in half means a

loss of \$95 per person. For a mother of three who is receiving \$800, that is a \$400 loss. What a devastating blow to survival!

Since SNAP covers up to 80% of grocery costs for the poorest families, this cut forces them into life-or-death choices: groceries or insulin, heat or food, rent or survival. It is not just a financial wound; it is a knife to the margin of existence. And while the poor bleed, the rich celebrate.



Stratified Suffering

In other words, the shutdown does not affect the rich. It does

not touch celebrities, athletes, billionaires, or politicians; nevertheless, the problem is not that the rich exist; it is that they do not care, e.g., Elon Musk might receive a trillion-dollar pay package, if it is approved by Tesla shareholders. He celebrated on stage while 40 million Americans faced food insecurity. The media called it “historic.” But it is not history; it is hypocrisy. In other words, Elon Musk’s silence during this shutdown is not just absence; it is revelation, because he was once championed as a visionary, a reformer, even a potential leader. He made speeches about improving government, working with Trump, and “helping the people.” But now, when 40 million Americans face hunger and federal workers go unpaid, he’s nowhere. No public statement. No donation. No rallying cry.

Just a trillion-dollar pay package and media applause. When power seeks attention, it performs compassion. When attention is no longer needed, the mask drops. Therefore, the powerful continue their lives uninterrupted. They accept awards. They chase trophies. They post vacation reels. They do not wait in food bank lines. They do not choose between groceries and medicine. They do not feel the \$95 knife.



This is not shared suffering. It is stratified pain. And the silence of the rich is not neutrality. It is complicity.

Therefore, this shutdown exposes something deeper than political division; it exposes the collapse of conscience, because the wealthy and powerful are not in crisis; only the people who serve them are ... That is the quiet injustice that no one in the media seems eager to address. Furthermore, if the measure of a nation is how it treats its weakest citizens, then this shutdown has revealed America's moral poverty.

Poverty as Public Humiliation

"Poverty programs are designed to humiliate. People endure that shame just to eat, only to have the government slash their dignity in half as a political tactic."

Poverty is not just hunger. It is humiliation, because applying for food stamps, standing in line at food banks, navigating

bureaucratic programs—these are public rituals of shame. The poor must perform their need to receive help. They are labeled, segregated, and made to beg for what they have already earned.



This is how poverty becomes permanent. When services are designed to mark people as poor, they do not elevate; they entrench. If you want to lift someone out of poverty, you treat them like everyone else. You offer dignity, not delay. The shutdown magnifies this cruelty. The government did

not just cut benefits; it forced people to reapply, re-justify, and re-suffer. And while the rich feast, the poor are made to prove that they deserve crumbs.

The Father That Starves

“When a leader truly cares, nothing stands in their way. But when they claim concern and still allow preventable suffering, their words are nothing but empty promises.”

The word Congress comes from the Greek root meaning “father.” A father feeds his children before himself. A father sacrifices. A father protects. But this Congress, this president, this system—they talk. They posture. They delay. And they let the children starve. This is not governance. It is abandonment.

Final Reflection

“When Trump wants something, nothing stops him. When he does not, everything becomes an excuse.”

supposed to use it to serve others. If he does not, he is a sorry excuse for a man.”

Trump said he would be “honored” to fund SNAP. But honor is not a tweet. It is action. And when Trump wants something—whether it is attacking drug dealers or redirecting Pentagon funds—he acts. He does not wait for permission. He does not cite legal ambiguity. He bulldozes through barriers. But when it comes to feeding the poor, he stalls. He performs concern. He makes excuses. This is not indecision. It is strategy. It is the politics of pain. And every man with the ability of power who chooses not to serve others is not a leader. He is a monument to selfishness. He is a sorry excuse for a man.

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