

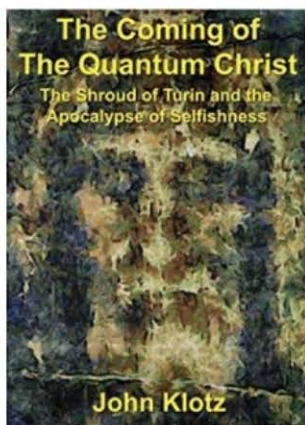


John Klotz – A Tribute

If, as a producer, I went to Central Casting and asked for a classic New York “defender of the underdog” lawyer willing to go the extra mile for justice, even, if necessary, at his own expense and they sent round John Klotz I would have been well satisfied. But, not only did John look and sound the part, in my experience, he *was* the part.

Some are born with a musical ear. They know a dissonance when they hear one. John was someone who knew an injustice when he heard one. I suspect that is what took him into his branch of law. His battles were legendary, yet rarely chronicled — fighting against the poverty barons of the South Bronx, crooked real estate developers, mobsters, the discriminatory machinery of the Education Department — and his specialty was pushing insurgent political candidates through New York City’s arcane and tangled election laws¹.

Perhaps his best-known client was pro bono - the man depicted on the Shroud. Whoever he might be, John sensed that his “trial” had been a travesty of justice. Despite the best of intentions of the main protagonists he knew from experience that events, misunderstandings, egos, financial outcomes, and politics could distort even the most important legal cases. He also knew that to argue his case, with the weight of a secular establishment against him, he had to dig deep into all the evidence and leave no stone unturned in his quest. The result is set out in his masterful account of everything that led up to the test. I commend it to anyone who really wants to understand the background. (Available on Amazon.)



¹ Acknowledgements to John’s son Dan’s [obituary](https://tinyurl.com/yxlh7s5b). (<https://tinyurl.com/yxlh7s5b>)

The second part of the book is an extended plea for an attenuation of our species' tendency to want more, and more. I hesitate to indulge in what could be perceived as millenarianism. However, we cannot ignore that we are coming up to the 2000th anniversary of the crucifixion of Jesus. John saw in our rapacious abuse of the planet's resources the antithesis of Jesus's self-sacrifice. He sees us, much like an Old Testament prophet, heading towards an apocalypse of our own making. It is easy enough to be persuaded of this argument from the relative self-restraint of the UK but, living in the dystopian gilded towers of New York, it must have been "Trumpeted" loud into his ears.

Speaking of Trump, his second home is in Florida. On my first visit there decades ago I could not believe that the gas log fire in the hotel bar was blazing away in summer with the aircon going full blast to counteract it. (Please tell me that this is no longer acceptable.)

I also commend to readers the article John wrote for this Newsletter, Issue 87. He also supplied the essential first person authority in his interview and general consultation for [A Grave Injustice](https://tinyurl.com/y3k97asc). <https://tinyurl.com/y3k97asc>

DR
