

suspects, for example, that a Christian Democratic party in the United States could hold significant appeal for many African-American voters, but not if it wore Republican clothing. So what might be the path of development for a Christian Democratic party in the United States that doesn't involve capture of an existing major party?

One way forward would be to develop a Christian Democratic identity that precedes a Christian Democratic party. This would involve developing a political program for Christian Democrats in America, holding conferences on the subject, starting a flagship

publication, and taking other steps to give flesh to the political identity. At that point, it would make sense to encourage people to think of themselves as Christian Democrats who happen to vote for one of the two major parties: "I'm a Christian Democrat who votes Republican" or "I tend to vote Democrat, but I'm really a Christian Democrat." As the political identity becomes real, then it would make sense to start building an actual distinct party, holding signature drives, and finding favorable places to contest elections. The path is open. †

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## The Wasp and the Snake

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Fred Chappell

Did he perceive the Snake to be  
    His enemy?  
The Wasp, whose motive never was revealed,  
    Lit on the Serpent's head and stung  
        Repeatedly,  
    His victim coiled, uncoiled, recoiled  
        In agony.  
Stabbing at the world his double tongue.

No longer willing to bear the pain, he thrust  
His head beneath the wheel of a passing cart  
    And crushed the Wasp into the dust  
    And stilled his own unshriven heart.

Moral.

*They will not let us be, those episodes  
We cannot unremember or deny;  
They pierce like bitter knives, the words and deeds  
That scar our souls until we die.*