

36 South Views

BY RICHARD "JERRY" HAWORTH



Saturnalia – the world turned upside down

Taking a tangential slant on Christmas...

Saturnalia was a festival in ancient Roman times upon which many of the traditions of Christmas are based. The holiday was in honour of the agricultural god Saturn, "who was said to have reigned over the world in the Golden Age, when humans enjoyed the spontaneous bounty of the earth without labour in a state of innocence"¹.

It was a period of general merrymaking and partying, with a carnival atmosphere which upturned Roman norms. It was a time when all reason and logic was turned on its head for no other purpose than to suspend reality for a time in a common delusion where all was right in the world. Gambling was permitted; masters waited on their slaves.

Lots were drawn to appoint a King of Saturnalia or 'Lord of Misrule' within a household, who was in charge of making mischief and "issued commands of a playful and ludicrous nature to his temporary subjects."² He was generally a lowlier member of the household, and the idea was "that he ruled over chaos, rather than the normal Roman order"³.

I love the phrase "spontaneous bounty without labour". It is a delusion I think mankind will forever be hopeful about. Unfortunately for most, the festival has to end as reality compels us back.

The last couple of years as a global macro pundit, one could be mistaken for a sober voyeur in a Saturnalia festival, sensing that it would not last forever and would probably end just as prognostications about it lasting forever had become ubiquitous.

And so it seems that markets are starting to realise that things might not be as rosy as they would appear. Rising interest rates, like the rising sun at dawn after some serious partying, bring not more elation but a thumping headache!

We have kicked the proverbial debt can down the road for 9 years and I can't help but get the sense we are hurtling towards a singularity, a big bang, a moment in time where, as the last snowflake settles on an unstable snowfield, the avalanche begins.

DISCLAIMER

Unless otherwise stated, all commentary and views expressed in this document are solely the opinions of 36 South Capital Advisors LLP.

An investment with 36 South Capital Advisors LLP is for professional investors and qualifying investors only. Prospective investors will be required to certify they are qualifying investors upon application and must certify their awareness of the risks involved in the investment, in particular, the risk of losing the sums

¹ Wikipedia, accessed at <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saturnalia>

² *The Golden Bough*, Sir James George Frazer, accessed at <https://www.bartleby.com/196/145.html>

³ *Saturnalia*, History.com, accessed at <https://www.history.com/topics/ancient-rome/saturnalia>

invested. Offering documentation and fund literature is only available upon request. As part of the subscription process the fund administrators check the eligibility of investors.

An investment with 36 South Capital Advisors LLP will involve a significant degree of risk of loss, which each prospective investor must carefully consider.

36 South Capital Advisors LLP is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FRN: 477881).