
Rwanda Genocide

Posted by Desert Girl - 2009/06/27 07:07

I watched a documentary on abc I think called Coming Home or something. It was about the Rwanda genocide from the eyes of a man who survived and went to live in England and US and then returned. He searched and found his mother after all those yrs. Both of them believed the other had been chopped up for dead. Anyway it was so disturbing, truly unbelievable, and utterly shocking to watch that I felt sick to my stomach and thought I would throw up. Especially after seeing the rows of old corpses stored in the school buildings where they tried to hide. The Hutus found them and machettied 40,000 people in that school alone in one night. I sat on the couch in shock for half an hour afterwards unable to move. It was like watching Earthlings for me all over again. Not the best bedtime viewing. Upon waking in the morning, all the images came back to haunt me and the same tension returned in my stomach. It was difficult to concentrate at work that day without wanting to cry or vomit!

I'm so sensitive to all this violence!

=====

Re:Rwanda Genocide

Posted by Suasoria - 2009/06/27 14:28

I recall similar feelings in school watching films about the Holocaust. I can still "see" in my mind's eye the skeletal corpses being dumped in a mass grave.

=====

Re:Rwanda Genocide

Posted by Koshiro - 2009/06/28 13:28

Darwins Nightmare.

=====

Re:Rwanda Genocide

Posted by Willow - 2009/06/28 16:00

I was vegetarian for many years until I worked in Rwanda for 2 years (2002-04). After a while of living there and working with people who'd been through so much, I noticed that I couldn't feel anything other than a vague sadness for the fact that I was starting to eat animals again. I couldn't understand why I'd changed so much... It had been so important to me before. Watching this film, it's like I've woken up again to what it is that we are doing to our fellow creatures. I think I must have somehow numbed myself because it's just so much to take on, to really look at humanity clearly and deal with the reality of what our global civilisation is doing. I must have closed down because I couldn't cope with it all I guess- Rwanda was too much. It's so strange what we do to cope with reality- how much we can kid ourselves... Thanks so much to the film makers for bringing me back round. Feel so so sad. But glad to have been slapped in the face...

=====

Re:Rwanda Genocide

Posted by Charlie Vagabond - 2009/06/28 19:22

Survival instinct...both fascinating and possibly tragic (that would be my sweet pessimism shining through) how we--living creatures all--cling to this life despite ourselves, despite the pain. I think that for some, having to shut ourselves down for bits here and there is pretty normal. It's how we make it through.

What intrigues me most is those of us--again, living creatures all--who, despite their personal experience of the horror, the terror and the pain, are able to respond to this life, this world and those in it with compassion and love...as opposed to what their experience has shown them.

According to Greek mythology, when Miss Pandora opened her infamous box (we won't go into how our Greek friends decided to blame this on a woman...goodness knows they're not alone), releasing all of the sorrows into the world, the last thing that emerged from this box, following all the sadness, all the madness...was hope.

Cheers to all you guys who keep it alive.

=====

Re:Rwanda Genocide

Posted by Desert Girl - 2009/07/04 08:01

Hey I loved your post Charlie. Especially about Pandora's box! I cannot explain how in the midst of all our self created madness and violence in the world, I still harbour so much hope! I am helplessly optimistic!

Gary believes it is because I have children and it's instinctual for parents to be optimistic because they have to be! But I don't think so. I've always been hopelessly optimistic, along with being acutely aware of the nasty truth.

=====

Re:Rwanda Genocide

Posted by T.C. - 2009/07/05 14:37

hopelessly optimistic...

sounds funny, quite like hopefully pessimistic (more my thing)...

language is so cool.

but as long as there are humans on this planet there will be genocide. for mankind tends to be intolerant to ideas which are not their own or they're afraid of because they could cause change. and they 're always trying to find someone else to blame for things going wrong. in the worst case you can blame violent behaviour and injustice on "them" (it was ...s will).

humans are illogical.

just for once I wish that people have the guts, especially politicians and the big kahunas of industry and worldeconomics to take responsibility for the things they f... up.

but there seems to be always an excuse for incompetence, ignorance and failing humanity.

if this sound frustrated, yes I am, maybe more disappointed of the lack of "humanity" among humans and towards their fellow creatures.

let's face it we ARE all animals.

=====

Re:Rwanda Genocide

Posted by Vishika - 2009/07/05 16:57

I wish everyone was as sensitive to violence.

Great job on opposing views by the way Desert Girl. :)

Since many people have said their opinion on this I will too. :P

I feel that, between feeling pessimistic and optimistic, is being realistic.

I think that this optimism/pessimism lens that you choose to see the world through predisposes you to think and by extension, to do certain things.

I prefer to be realistic, and to not dwell on the the past, things out of my control or the future, with the exception of planning and reflection.

Hope is something I choose not to have.

Here is a quote I like for this situation:

"Dr. King once said that the arc of the moral universe is long but it bends towards justice. It bends towards justice, but here is the thing: it does not bend on its own. It bends because each of us in our own ways put our hand on that arc and we bend it in the direction of justice...."

Personally I'm not a fan of the word justice, but nothing is perfect. :)

I don't think that for as long as humans live there will be genocide, or for that matter animal exploitation. As long as this "civilisation" maintains some sort of shared knowledge, I believe it will eventually come around like it did with sexism and racism.

=====

Re:Rwanda Genocide

Posted by Suasoria - 2009/07/06 10:08

Vishika wrote:

As long as this "civilisation" maintains some sort of shared knowledge, I believe it will eventually come around like it did with sexism and racism.

When did that happen? Did I miss it?

Sexism and racism are still creating injustice, hatred and violence. Or are you drawing a distinction between a "civilized" society/culture in which racism and sexism don't exist and "uncivilized" societies in which they do? Which are those civilized cultures, in your experience/opinion?

I like your thoughts on realism existing between optimism and pessimism.

=====

Re:Rwanda Genocide

Posted by Vishika - 2009/07/06 16:23

I think sexism and racism in the western society are generally frowned upon among the educated population. I don't we will ever get 100% there until other problems are addressed: Capitalism, exploitation of animals human or non human, population growth, fundamentalist religions, etc.

I mean we have made some progress; humans don't enslave females or other humans in most of the world. You're right though they are far from abolished, I guess I should have said slavery, for me that's just an extreme application of racism/sexism.

=====

Re:Rwanda Genocide

Posted by Desert Girl - 2009/07/09 07:02

Thanks for your support Vishika! I was working hard over there at opposing views! I had time on the weekend to do it, but having a break while at work. I get a little obsessed about it actually and it's all I want to do -write write write! Debate debate! I always try my best to show that I am friendly and calm. I am so used to hearing the same arguments that nothing ever phases me! I never get upset about anything. I just keep on talking -telling the same message again and again to different people. I used to have such debates on earthlings but there hasn't been much activity lately. Usually a public screening somewhere brings in some fresh posters.

Although I'm an optimist, I'm also very much a realist. Sometimes people can think they are realists but actually they are pessimists! Reality has both negative and positive aspects to focus on. It is the optimist who acknowledges both, but chooses to focus on the positive. It is in no way a denial of the negative, on the contrary, it uses that information wisely to fuel positive action and change. One can be optimistic about the small things too. The world could be about to end, but you can still choose to focus on the positive, hug your neighbours and look at the beauty of the last sunset.

xx

DG

=====