

Questioning war, villains and the true definition of hero

Dear editor:

On one hand wars can be celebrated and seem so noble, as compared to the savagery of it on the other. Isn't it disappointing that our media act like they are too afraid to tell the many sides of issues, instead they repeat endlessly what too many 'experts' say, all sounding like they hum from the same song sheet? Don't we wonder if the experts are short of information or just withholding it? Don't 'ordinary' people so often have knowledge and experience but do not get media time or space, resulting in a loss to the public of valuable information and answers to tough questions? Would eye shutting and silence hide thoughts and truths? Is it any wonder so many people tune out the media?

Haven't we all heard who train and arm 'terrorists' and teach them to hate, and where they spring up from so conveniently, and why it's down with one 'terrorist' group and up with another? What would the world say if the trillions of dollars spent on wars were to be used to reverse the trend of hate, injustice, greed and man's inhumanity towards man for the sake of power and more wealth upon the already great wealth taken from the many by the few? Would the chickens then come home to roost in love instead?

And if coming home in body bags signals heroism shouldn't we see the sons and daughters, and spouses of the elites, including members of governments, becoming 'heroes' of war and occupying the National Military Cemetery like the ordinary sons, daughters and spouses? What if we were to change the song to 'highway of family members coming home dead from wars'? Do families want dead 'heroes' on the 'highway of heroes'? Does an attempt to brainwash, and glorify wars, spring to mind? How are the soldiers treated when they come home maimed instead of dead and gone? Wars to sort out differences in this day and age? Are we to think that anything goes for jobs and revenues, and profits that the multi-billion-dollar arms industry is known for providing to those who are well protected and safely out of danger zones? Haven't we heard our Prime Minister saying that to clean up the environment would be an economic disaster? Are we to gather that if it were not so controversial he would clearly state that to end wars would be an economic disaster? Is this why his knee-knocking fear of 'terrorists' hatched bill C-51? (and his latest revelation that he might be fascinated by the idea of guns on the run in Canada?)

In view of the fact that more people die from causes other than 'terrorism' are we to conclude that the word 'terrorist' is being used to give continuation to the giant economic benefits the arms industry provide for some? So will 'fighting terrorism' give licence to continue the maiming and slaughtering of innocent men, women, boys, girls, toddlers and babies, as long as they are in far-away places, and against people who are different in many ways? And are we to justify it all as 'collateral damages' and 'hero' making? Is the fixation now on young men and women who are 'leaving Canada to join terrorists groups' used for political gains? Is anyone listening to their concerns that they are tired of seeing their people massacred and their resources plundered while they are driven from their homes and homelands, facing enormous dangers and inhuman sufferings and rejections? And without being 'sympathisers' aren't decent human beings feeling their pain and not know what to do about it all? How much can they endure without it having negative effects on them? Don't we see in other cultures people weep because they break a finger nail, or because their hair dye turns out unexpectedly? And then we are to expect others to suffer indefinitely? Have we ever stopped to think, if we were blacks or Muslims, (please, not Moslems) how we would feel to see our people bludgeoned endlessly as if it were a world conspiracy? And how would we feel when an inhuman specimen like Boko Haram is left free to continuously slaughter those 'different' people like it were art? Would we feel it was deliberate 'ethnic cleansing' being facilitated?

And who do they pick on to kill and terrorize in wars? North Americans? Europeans? or those who are most helpless and very different, and far away? Would it suit folks to continue hearing the words, 'Oh, those people are always fighting?'. Should they be armed for eternity and 'let them kill each other'? Who enjoys the profits from it all? Aren't we seeing in plain view the situation in the Ukraine where a certain 'leader', rumoured to be a billionaire one hundred and forty times over, longs for more wealth and power to the point where he arms people and set them against each other openly when they previously lived peacefully side by side? How much worse is it covertly? Who says one man is entitled to 140 billion dollars worth of personal wealth for doing nothing but 'leading' the country 'to misery'? Is this just another example of global parasites on the loose?

Are we so self-assured that we in the first world are immune from this slaughter and therefore able to close our eyes to it all, while barbarians instigate the worst of people and prey on them for personal gains?

Gloria Ramnath

Shelburne