

‘Who is to Blame?’

Who is to blame for globalization’s blunders and misdeeds and September 11? I am to blame. Put the handcuffs on me and take me to jail. I am responsible for what happened September 11/2001 when two Boeing jets crashed into the twin towers of the World Trade Center causing the deaths of over three thousand people from America and sixty other countries around the world, a third one plowed into the side of the Pentagon causing the deaths of one hundred and eighty four people and a fourth one that went down in route to the capitol with all passengers aboard losing their lives.

I am also responsible for the cold blooded murder of the young man in a Long Island gas station a day after the tragic event occurred. The sad part was that this man was not even Muslim but Hindu, and from India and not from any of the Middle Eastern countries. Unfortunately, he lost his life because of his brown color of skin and the fact that he wore a turban which was part of the tradition of his Hindu faith.

I am also to blame for the injury and death of innocent children and adults when the United States began their bombing campaign in Afghanistan. Not to forget the soldiers killed at the hands of their own troops. I’m further responsible for the young American who traveled all the way to Afghanistan to fight along side the Taliban forces against alliance troops.

I am also responsible for the later invasion of Iraq and the deaths of soldiers on both sides, plus the deaths of thousands of Iraqi troops in the first War who were buried alive during a massive bomb attack after they had surrendered.

I am also to blame for Saddam Hussein’s first invasion of Kuwait and the slaughter of hundreds of thousands of Kurdish people after chemical weapons had been sold to Saddam Hussein’s government by the United States.

As for the gross inequities that have been created between the world’s rich and poor because of globalization’s failure, I claim responsibility for this as well. It’s me, I am the guilty party. I’m also the one behind the deplorable working conditions in the sweatshops in Bangladesh. The damage to the environment, the gapping hole in the ozone, depletion of the rainforests and the many oil spills in different parts of the world. Yes, and don’t forget the Aids epidemic spreading the world and the recent SARS incident as well as the other killer diseases yet to strike our global community.

So, if you have not recognized by now, I’m the one responsible for all the problems that have existed in our world and exist now in the world. I also take on the burden for every wrongful step, and word that has caused misunderstanding among people everywhere from the United States, Middle East, Russia, North Korea, Ireland and Latin America etc., to the corner grocer and parking attendant, the conflicts existing between Christian, Muslim, and Jews, between white and black, Chinese and Philippine, Indian and Pakistani and the assorted scandals coming out of Wall street, the Corporate sector, CIA, Interpol, FBI and governments throughout the world.

BUT SO ARE YOU....., and everyone else on the planet, from Washington D.C., Peking, Moscow, London, Sydney, Madrid, Dubai and Bogota and Istanbul. Because as long as we share space together on this earth and participate in its functions and cycles, natural or manmade, we also have a stake in the problems and the challenges that come to us through it.

No, of course were not the ones who hijacked the planes and flew them into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. No, we are not the ones who killed the innocent Hindu man whose only crime was that he looked Arabic because of his color of skin and his turban.

No, we are not the ones who made some bad mistakes in managing the World Bank and other international financial institutions that caused an additional billion people in the world to fall into despairing poverty. No, we are not the American ‘Market-Mongers’ who maneuvered and manipulated other countries flow of goods so as to free up their own.

I could go on and on as the list gets longer and more detailed but, I see no reason for this now. The point here is that we are all responsible, both directly and indirectly for the goings on in the world; some more than others.

We can cast blame out and on to the others throughout every region of the world. We can blame

ourselves. We can blame the tax-man and the TV anchorman and woman, the politician, corporate boss, schools and the United Nations. Men can blame women and woman can blame men. The youth can blame the adults. We can blame our (and others) heritage and ancestry and our family upbringing. We can even blame Mom and Dad for being less than perfect. If this is still not satisfactory we can reach to our higher powers and hold Allah and God at fault with the Atheist blaming history itself. We can further hide under tons of excuse, we can deny our part and dive deeply into the safety of our unconscious realms and we can simply lie to ourselves and others; telling little ones and bigger ones. But, eventually we have to finally realize that we are part of everyone and everything, as Chief Seattle reminded us before. Thereby, in this situation we are facing today, together. We are also part of every event that happens no matter the cause or the outcome. Hence, with every breath, jerk or spasm the world takes and makes, we can feel our own and everyone else's too. Until we understand this, our lives are led by shadow and an unconscious sense of reality that keeps us half awake and half alive in our existence on this earth. We can be part of the solution or we can be part of the problem. Either way we will share and live with the consequences of the path we decide to take.

We all know that transition is a part of life. We experience this from birth into this world until the end when we make the biggest transition of all, Death. To begin this chapter I have chosen to share two experiences from my life that relate strongly to the transition theme. One of them speaks to the hardest transitional kind of experience I have ever had in this life: My bout with a life threatening illness, cancer. The second one describes an experience I had once after awakening from a heavy night of dreaming. The first one's called 'Resurrections power and Grace'. I wrote this piece about the lessons of my illness towards the end of the three and a half years with the disease.