

Note: Typically, I write about events on the Rez. Those events are no different than what plays out everywhere else in our nation. Just that we are running out of Indians in a system of slo-mo holocaust.

I see policies, politics and government on the rez as damaging and unsustainable. However, much the same can be said about our Nation as a whole.

When you read about Indians, especially in this blog, I want you to think about who you are, where you are and how you have seen this same thing played out in other aspects of our lives. Indians have been demonized by Churches and government since Contact. The wreckage upon their communities and their culture, has been vast. Yet, to this day, they survive. Those who survive carry the strongest voices of Common Ground, most universal messages of Brotherhood and healing. Those who don't survive, are the losses that leave us less in touch, less connected.

What has been done to Indigenous people the world over, is now being done to us all. What we allow(ed) to happen to Indians, is now being done to the rest of us. The message I give you is not only what is wrong, which most people do not want to see, but what we need to do to fix it, not just in Indian Country where the government and churches experiment with genocide and oppression; but in all corners of this world.

We can start with ourselves. We must start with ourselves. We all must find a way to reconnect to one another, all the while those who have power seek to keep us divided and mistrusting. They want us to continue to hurt one another, neglect one another. That is how they gain and keep power. That is how we lose.

March 5, 2010

Stacked Like Cordwood

"Bring Out Yer DAY-ED!" That cry was common in Europe when the Plague was killing people faster than they could be properly buried. People were dying at an alarming rate, and no funerals were held. Rather, a Bell Ringer, the town Crier, and a wagon went through town calling for people whose households had a newly dead member, to bring them out to the road where they could then be piled onto the wagons and taken to the burial pits.

In some places, bodies were stacked, like cordwood, their numbers too many to count.

Back then, everyone, including Governments, knew they had a problem. They knew they could not ignore it. They did not know what to do, but that did not stop them from trying everything, making mistakes, learning from those mistakes, and eventually, recovering.

The cause, of course, was rats. Too many rats. They got into everything. Too many rats because some moron with power decided to foster a fear of cats in the general public. Cats, of course, had no lobby and no influence and could not defend themselves against cat-haters. Cats were the political target of the day, and they were wiped out.

Then came the plague.

Cats were targeted by religious zealots who claimed that because cats were not

in the Bible, they were evil! It was easy then, and still is now, to target an entity, create a fictional liability around them, demonize them, attack them. All for Political Power.

It took a long time, and a lot of dead bodies, before people realized that their hatred and fear of cats was their own undoing.

What they failed to see then, as now, is the mechanism that underlies our own undoing: Toxic Politics.

Some would argue that we need politics to have government. I would agree. But there are too many who believe that "anything goes", including lies, demonizing entire segments of our citizens--the more vulnerable the easier, and as long as you win, it matters not how much damage you inflict, now or in the future.

We have that today. We don't have Town Criers ringing bells for us to bring out our dead, nor do we have slow horse-drawn wagons carting off the corpses. What we have instead are mindless wars, hunger and poverty, a nation where the futility quotient is increasing as the economy falters not only under the past bad acts, but under a system that vilifies those who are working to stabilize it, and help those in need in the meantime.

We have Toxic Politics, replete with lies and manipulations, steering us to fear people of color, Immigrants, people of religions different from ours, people of no religion, people who are sick, and people who are in need. We are told to fear and resent those who are educated. Instead of admiring them, we sneer and call them "elitist", not even knowing what the meaning of that word is.

As people are suffering more and more, instead of reaching out to help one another, we are, generally by MSM (MainStreamMedia), being told to hate, denounce those whose efforts to bring us all better living through better health. We are told that those who have been denied healthcare or who have lost their jobs, homes, savings because of medical bills are "Bums trying to steal from us and make us pay their way in this world." Or words to that effect.

We are being told that by people who are sponsored by and paid millions of dollars to tell us that. People who say they care about us. People who convince us through fear, and suspicion of one another, that we are not safe if everyone gets healthcare.

The same people who stand silent as mindless, illegal wars rage on at a cost of more than \$80 Billion per month. People who say nothing about the outrageous profits of Oil Companies who raid our resources and destroy our environment, extracting without compensation to those of us whose lands and waters are being ruined--- and that is all of us, and then sell back to us a product at billions of dollars in profit, and who not only pay no taxes, but also get billions of dollars in "Credits" and other government bonuses, while raising the cost of our daily living

beyond our means to keep up.

The same mindless yammering about healthcare 'robbing us' while they say nothing about the war profiteers who rip off taxpayers by hundreds of millions of dollars per month.

Healthcare, especially if it was Medicare for all, would not only strengthen Medicare, whose resources and surpluses have been raided by successive administrations to compensate for huge tax breaks given to the wealthiest 400 families in the nation... 400 families, mind you, that control 85% of the nations wealth, paid for by the poor and by raiding that which was intended for the common good.

Women are told that they cannot seek abortions for rape, incest rape, or life threatening conditions. They are told that they are using abortion for "birth control" by politicians who get the backing of Churches who seek to keep women in the most powerless positions. Women are dying, needlessly, for lack of health care--because some religious zealots can use that to keep them down.

How dare anyone assume to know what any woman is going through if she is desperate enough to seek an abortion. How dare anyone! Yet, it is commonly accepted that we can demonize women, especially pregnant women; most especially poor women who are pregnant. Women are dying. Children are left motherless based on the insane belief that a fetus is more important, has more value, than that of a living, breathing person.

Even a 9 yr old child is condemned by the church for being raped by her father and becoming pregnant with twins that would kill her. Do you really think the church values lives? They condemned the child and her mother who sought an abortion for her in order to save her life. The father was given penance and forgiven. Doesn't this at least make you think about what is really underlying all this anti-abortion rhetoric?

This same Right to Life group does nothing to improve the safety, well-being of mothers and children. They still condemn women who are beaten by their spouse, and ignore the dire conditions of children in these abusive situations. They spend billions to oppress and prevent women from even seeking safe abortions, yet not a dime to saving women or children from abuses, neglect or disease. So what life do they value? Certainly not the living!

Pregnant women who seek abortions, for whatever reason, are demonized. No one in media, no one in churches, no one defends them. No one helps them. Their clinics are bombed. Their physicians are murdered as they are defenseless in their church on a Sunday... Their cowardly killers hailed as heroes.

As more abuses and poverty increase, we refuse to see what bad policies are in place that create this ever increasing downward spiral. We continue to demonize

others and split apart instead of uniting to save ourselves.

We are supposed to be distracted from the damage done and ongoing. We are easily distracted. We know something is wrong, but don't really know where to direct our anger. Racism is easy. Mistrust anyone that is not like us. Especially a black president. A calm, thoughtful man. A highly educated man who has devoted most of his life to helping the poor, uplifting the poorest segments of society.

Yet, he is portrayed and described in venues such as FOX news, as "Angry Black Man", and "Out of Control" and all the stereo types of gangs and ghettos. Look at your so-called "Tea Party" morons. Look at their signs. Especially those with uneducated misspellings. Look at the Swastikas, Look at how they portray him... now, look around. How many in that crowd are brown? How many are Black? See any Asians? See any Indians? Me neither.

We are being distracted by those who seek to gain and hold power by use of Toxic Politics.

Drug abuse, addictions, do not happen by accident. They are the only logical outcome of a system that is toxic and destructive. We drive away, run off those whose work would help us to heal and to be well. We rage at fictional divides as if we are 'doing something'. Indeed, we are.

We are stacking up like cordwood, and no one seems to think there is anything wrong. We lack the critical thinking to assess how bad policies, created biases and prejudices, have fractionalized us so that we cannot come together, as a whole, to see what the problems are, where or how they started and what we need to do in order to change course and save ourselves.

We feel sorry for ourselves and we blame others for our plight. Instead of seeing how we have more in common with one another and what we can do better together, to fix it, we divide. Those who want to fix things, and to talk reason are seen as the enemy. Those who want to unite and heal are seen as the enemy. Those who are different in color, religion, lifestyle, are seen as the enemy.

We have surrounded ourselves with enemies. We cannot see that we have doomed ourselves, our children and our grandchildren, by our prejudices and our belief in things that make no sense. We condemn instead of understand. We scream slogans instead of listening. We fear instead of realize.

We outnumber those who rob us. We outnumber those who raid our resources and pollute our environment. We outnumber those who mislead us. Yet, we allow ourselves to be used by them, all of them, all of the time.

Hate is not a Christian Value. Hate is not any religion's value. Hate is the toxin that is being fed to us by fear mongering, power hungry toxic politicians and their

henchmen. If we fail to save ourselves it is because we chose to listen to hate and ignorance, racism and intolerance, fear and self-pity.

But if we wake up, realize that we can learn and do more; realize that we can work together, we can turn off the hate, then and only then can we regain our strength, our national health, our sense of Brotherhood and our Will to thrive.

Soldiers are dying because of our ignorance. Mothers are dying because of our ignorance. Children are dying because of our willful ignorance.

Addicts, the walking dead amongst us, are not criminals for being addicts. They commit crimes to support their sickness. Yet, we spend more on wars, give billions to Oil Companies, watch Insurance Companies with double-digit quarterly profits, raise our rates by 35-150% (depending on where you live) while cutting off more and more people from benefits entirely.

Yet the Noise Machines on TV and Talk Radio spew endless streams of hatred in the name of "Patriotism" and they demonize the sick, the weak, the disabled-- all those who can barely get by and have nothing left over to fight back. They demonize the very people they should be standing up for, and yet remain silent on the obscene profits made by War Profiteers, Insurance Companies and Banks.

Wake up. Do you think these loudmouths care about you? They don't. Yet many of you will carry their hatred, their fictional statements, as if you yourself are one of them.

You are not one of them. You are one of us. And we need you to wake up now. We are surrounded by our failures. Bodies are stacking up like Cordwood. We need help. We can only get that help from one another.

The Plague never would have ended if the people had not realized the lies about the cats are what did it to them. Cats had no voice. But their value was only realized after their absence. When the most vulnerable amongst us are demonized, it is out of ignorance. Ignorance is a Nation Killer.

You know where to find me.

~Cat