

RELEASING JUDGEMENT

April 18,2007

I was speaking with one of my brides-to-be this morning about the tragedy in Blacksburg , Va. this week, as most of us are right now. She has quite a few members of her wedding party that were graduates of Virginia Tech or even knew some of the victims. One of them, as so many do, told her that she could no longer even believe in a God who could let these kind of things happen. I listened to her, as I have listened to so many others in my journey as both a spiritual student and teacher over these many long years. How, indeed can a loving God "allow" such things to happen?

This is a judgment. We judge these happenings as good or bad. I wrote an article after Katrina, and preached a sermon after 911 that shared a concept about love that I would like to also share here. It's a hard concept to grasp, but a necessary one, if we are to advance at all upon this planet toward any sense of enlightenment.

I'd like to begin with this statement about any tragedy -- "there are no victims here". ("here" meaning upon planet earth) Do not dishonor the fallen and their sacrifice by judging their sacrifice as a worthless tragedy. It was not worthless. It has helped us raise our awareness -- consciousness if you will - to many issues.

One being mental illness in our country; the other how we treat one another. The latter many times leading to the former. When we are in our formative years, how we are treated as babies, toddlers and children shape us emotionally. There is much research to support this.

Since so much of my work involves the power of the mind, I have done extensive research in this area. Some books of interest specific to this would be:

Murphy, Michael: *The Future Of the Body*. New York: Tarcher- Putnam, 1992.

Pearce, Joseph Chilton: *Magical Child*. New York: E.P. Dutton, 1977. & *The Biology of Transcendence*, Rochester, Vermont: Park Street Press, 2002. Just to get you started!

When children are not heard, are ignored, pushed aside into day care, shoved in front of a TV as a baby sitter, allowed to play video games full of violence -- they develop a level of disconnect that shapes them.

We are seeing this more and more as these children are growing into young adulthood. I have a niece and nephew who have been in daycare since they were 7 months old -- they were raised with Sponge Bob and Angelica of the Rug Rats -- and they speak "cartoon".

Children don't know the difference between what's "real" and what's on TV - when they "kill" someone in game or "kill" someone with a real gun - this is where the disconnect begins. And this is where the problem begins as well. With parenting -- real parenting.

I have been counseling as a minister for over 20 years now. Over and over again I see people in pain and the pain can be traced back to childhood and how they were treated or mistreated as children - by parents, teachers and other children. And the mistreatment is more often than not emotional, mental and spiritual abuse. This is far more insidious than physical abuse, because it can't be seen. And it festers and goes deep, and if not taken care of, can indeed, develop into mental illness. Just as it does in the case of many of the serial killers we have

seen throughout history.

We need to pay attention to the messages we send to our children!

These children were murdered and others are committing suicide because we are not paying attention. This young man was in pain. And his pain turned to anger. And the anger turned to hate and then to mental illness that ultimately led to this tragedy.

- Start paying attention to your children instead of paying for stuff!
- Take away the violent video games
- Refuse to let them play the "trash-mouthed" rapper music that disrespects anyone because of their race, gender, religion or sexual orientation
- Tell your bosses that your family comes first!
- Empower your children and treat them as a person
- Teach them about ethics, values and principles - get back to basics -- it's not about who has the most stuff!
- Its about how we treat one another - "above all else - love one another"

And above all: **TELL YOUR CHILDREN YOU LOVE THEM AND THAT THEY ARE SAFE**

word count: 763