

Stand with the Good

I sat on this piece for about three weeks now and undoubtedly some of you are going to tell me I should have discarded this writing completely. Using or hearing the word “good” in the moral sense has always seemed to me naive, immature and uninitiated. I mean really, “good and not good” or if you wish “evil”? As we age, we generally discard these words and we begin to believe that life is not so simple, so black and white. And this gives us the opening to start shaving the truth to fit our personal reality or create our reality to fit the truth. Good is a word taught to us by our parents or our religion and then relegated to childhood training as not usable for the adult world. Or at least I thought so.

Oh and by the way, the impetus for my writing this was a movie called *What Dreams May Come*, starring Robin Williams. What a beautiful, loving tale. I highly recommend it.

The other day my brother came across this quote, “The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing” attributed to Edmund Burke, an 18th century statesman and philosopher. He apparently didn't say this exactly but something similar and over time his words were distilled to the quote. My brother and I both laughed that this is something we might of heard in a John Wayne movie...although we both clearly understood the meaning and agreed.

I quickly brushed up on Burke and I was amazed that so eminent a person was throwing the word good and evil around in his writings so easily. As were others of his time. And as others had throughout written history.

Yup, men throughout the ages have known there is a battle on this Earth between Good and, let's say Not Good. Evil has connotations of intent and we know so many actions of this world are not good but lack such intent. We are just human. We often do so many not good things for blind, selfish reasons. We forgot what it means to be and do good because we allow ourselves to be inundated in a sea of materialism, hedonism, self-worship and especially our penchant to rationalize.

Been there, done that. Fuck that. I am moving on. Ask yourself this question:

What is it that can give the utmost meaning to your life regardless of whom you are or who you might think you are on this Earth?

What is it that can make you feel each and every day as though you are part of something so much larger, so much more important than anything you could possibly do on your own – ever? Something you can do each and every day and have the greatest peace of mind this life can offer?

You can stand with the Good.

Doing so will bring the greatest joy to yourself and all those you encounter each and every day. And, we all know how difficult each day can be. The tragedies, greed, jealousy, lust, envy...no doubt this raging battle has been known to some people for thousands of years.

It is simple to do. Each and every day you wake up, look to do something good for someone else. Maybe it is as simple as telling your child you love him or a coworker you like their hair or just listening to someone whose problems dwarf your own.

And that is the key...don't focus on you. Do not fall inward and live a life that is only about you. Be part of something much larger than yourself. The Good needs you. It is a battle that will never end and it is real no matter how idealistic or simplistic or naive it may sound. There are so many things in this life that are Not Good and are prevalent.

We can all do our own part given the skills and strength we own. Our warriors keep us safe, our doctors keep us healthy and our ideas keep us free. But too often though, we forget and fall back into ourselves for selfish and needy purposes. Be stronger and better than that and understand that if YOU don't do it, who will? And as each and every day we all do our small part, our world, our life, and our happiness will grow and grow.

The tools are gentleness, love, compassion, caring, concern and especially communication.

I use them in my own way. Find your way. Know who you are. And it's not about obtaining fabled everlasting happiness in some next life. It is about now.

Fame and fortune are right before you but not in the way you ever thought.

And it is so damn easy.