

THE BEST KNOWN DEATH BY ASPHYXIATION IN HISTORY

I've suffered from "writer's block" for a few weeks now. I have unsent pages written while we were still in Corvallis. Now I am in my cabin "office" which looks down over our camp. I see Jean and Karen by the fire-pit...with a fire still going in late morning. I see the tide going out, water smooth, Olympic mountains shrouded in mist-filled clouds. The flag over my far deck waves in a light breeze.

I've read the morning paper...the Tacoma News Tribune...published in Olympia...actually printed in Oregon! I'm most interested in the "Siege of Seattle" and the threat out of Washington DC to re-establish law and order with the National Guard.

No comment.

So I'm sitting here at my lap-top determined to send out a page before noon. I have 5 previous pages with this page on top.

As I was walking up on the road a few minutes ago (with my face-mask on my neck in case I met someone) I wondered what this time in history would look like in another 50 years.

Would it be like the telling of the crucifixion of Jesus? The reports in the Gospels began to be written 40 to 70 years after whatever happened, happened. Four gospels with notable additions, revisions, interpretations of how and why Jesus was executed.

What had Jesus done? A march on Jerusalem? A peaceable protest while Roman troops also entered Jerusalem to keep law and order during the Jewish Passover? Or was it the whipping of money-changers out of the Temple and upsetting their tables? Who gets the blame?

The execution stories have been repeated emotionally for almost 2,000 years with unimaginable detail. Only one among several thousand such Roman executions of Jews by crucifixion. Death by crucifixion was a form a bodily asphyxiation. Jesus was said to have "breathed his last." One version reports he said "I thirst." None reports that he said "I can't breathe."

We don't know to this day what really happened or what it means. John's idea that "*God so loved the world...*" that Jesus was sacrificed to save us, left us with a primitive idea of God. The death of Jesus is the best known death in history. Often celebrated with crosses worn as jewelry. What kind of life did Jesus really live and what kind of society suppressed its people by such brutality?

A final line that Luke slipped into his version of the story...apparently referring to the soldier-police who restrained and executed him--- was:

"Forgive them for they know not what they do."

So here I am...no certain or comforting word. At this point I do not see how this period of pandemic histories will work out. I reframe Luke's words of Jesus at the time of his death...

"Father, forgive US for WE know not what WE are doing."

11:58 a.m. I promised myself that this page would go for better or worse, written from right here, right now. If anyone knows for sure what is happening or going to happen, please let us know.

--- Art Morgan, June 17, 2020