

WHAT WE ARE WATCHING, AND WHOM WE WERE WATCHING

Sid Bernstein

What we are watching is how the knee of a police officer stopped George Floyd from breathing and the scream of "I can't breathe" also heard, coming from the mouth of Eric Garner, and watched self-appointed officers who ambushed Ahmaud Arbery and gunned him down while jogging, and was watching man's worst instinct to hurt, to kill, to murder, to torture, to commit genocide, to lynch, and to declare war.

What we were watching was Trayvon Martin's last moments before they were taken away by a sociopath, Rodney King's brutal beating by four police officers, James Byrd, Jr. dragged for 3 miles as he was tied to the rear of a pickup truck, 41 bullets shot in the body of Amadou Diallo, Abner Louima brutally violated, Sandra Bland found hanged in a jail cell, Emmett Till, hung and disfigured, and so many other attacks on African Americans. And while stretching all the way back to the beginning of these acts of genocide to this day, 3,446 African Americans were seen hanging from a harmless tree.

What we are watching over and over again, are slave patrols, storm troopers, prison guards, racist police officers, bullies, insecure and frightened men from all walks of life, and from plain raw anger and self-hate lashing out and destroying a piece of ourselves. What we are watching are sticks and stones, spears and arrows, patriot missiles and smart bombs blasted on humanity, blasting by humanity, watching and witnessing the human potential to annihilate humanity.

What we are watching, experiencing and feeling, diminishes us all, for as long as this human condition exists -- we are the victims and the victimizes -- who are still standing at the door of the cave.

We watched, we empathized, we rioted, we marched, we cried and damned the offenders. Now, what can we do to stop this insanity -- together? It is terrible, and terrifying. I'm ready!