

Hounds From Hell



ISIS - The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria.

J.R.R. Tolkien (The Hobbit, Lord of the Rings) and C. S. Lewis (The Chronicles of Narnia) are well written classic tales of good and evil. These are stories we love to read and find that good eventually triumphs over evil.

There is a very real force for evil at loose in our world.

A couple of days ago I heard K.T. McFarland, who served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense under Ronald Reagan, refer to ISIS as the "Hounds From Hell" and thought how appropriate the name was for this band of ruthless thugs and murderers.

These killers, who practice a vile and hate filled bastardized form of Islam, claim they have founded a new Caliphate in lands "captured" from Syria and Iraq. They kill, mutilate, even behead their opponents and, as of this writing, are pressing into Kurdistan and against the borders of Jordan and Lebanon.

Christians and other "minority" religions they disagree with are told to convert to Islam, leave or die. Tens of thousands of refugees from northern Iraq are suffering and dying on Mount Sinjar between the northern Iraq City of Mosul and Kurdistan. On the news I saw the image of an elderly woman with a walker trying to make her way through the rocky, desert terrain of this wilderness.

Everything known about ISIS shows their beliefs are based on hate and revenge.

Hundreds of Yazidis women, who belong to a minority religious sect, have been taken prisoner by ISIS to be sold as sex slaves or given as "wives" to ISIS "soldiers".

My own Christian faith teaches me not to hate anyone. Even those who would be my enemy.

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Hate is a powerful and destructive force. There is an old proverb that goes something like: "Before you begin a journey of hate and revenge first dig two graves. One for the object of your hate and one for yourself." I strive daily to not hate anyone no matter how much I might disagree with their views or the result of their actions.

It is also true that a faithful shepherd does not have to hate the wolf that he must kill to stop it from slaughtering the sheep the shepherd is charged with protecting.

I find myself grieving for the people of Syria and Iraq who have been driven out of their homes and into hot and dangerous wastelands without food, water or comfort of any kind. Many find themselves dying, seemingly without hope of rescue for their families or way of life.

If I could change it for them, I would. For now all I can seem to offer is my grief and prayers.

I usually try to write with some humor or irony but in these circumstances there is none.

Bob Bandy