

Sometimes the Truth is Stranger than Fiction

In life there are challenges that we must come to terms with that come in many forms. Some intellectual, some emotional, some spiritual, and some that have no rational basis for existence within our world view. Today we are learning to live with a part of our lives that is at least beyond my ability to fathom . . .

Since what we think is in part constrained by our vocabulary defining terms would be useful.

There is a word in German – Weltanschauung which translated to English means World view; philosophy of life; a framework through which to interpret the world.

Each of us engages life through the construct of our “world view”

An individual’s world view circumscribes the perceptual limits of their reality

Sometimes the truth is stranger than fiction -- however, even in a horror film the time between the start of the bad music, the titles, and when something evil this way comes is predictably finite and mercifully short.

In my case I came to know something terrible happened to someone dear to me and my kin, I just did not know when, how, and/or why.

A quote from a character Morpheus in the science fiction film matrix describing the options to chief protagonist Neo comes to mind

“You take the blue pill – the story ends, you wake up in your bed and believe whatever you want to believe. You take the red pill – you stay in Wonderland and I show you how deep the rabbit-hole goes.”

For many the choice of the blue pill offers some comfort.

Before the circumstances of the death of my nephew and former sister-in-law were disclosed my brain raced with a myriad of attempts at rational explanations as to how and why the events could have come to pass.

Indeed, I found some comfort in the uncertainty which allowed me the illusion of less damning explanations.

However, the reality of the “The Red Pill” does not go away just because in some sense we might wish it so.

Humans are capable of both the greatest good and the greatest evil as well as every gradation of action between them.

Ultimately it is the choices we make that define us as human beings.

In my world view the circumstances that would lead a mother to murder her son and then commit suicide is the stuff of fiction.

Tragically, the call from the Montgomery County Police concerning the fate of my nephew and former sister-in-law was all too real.

Alas, the truth remains with us - a person that was welcomed as part of our extended family was not only capable of such evil but did so on a premeditated basis.

The “Red Pill” of reality does not necessarily offer clear answers.

We now know the when and how, and must live with the understanding that there is no rational basis for the why.

In time the details will pass from the evening news into obscurity but the knowledge that such things do not just happen to someone, somewhere else will forever elude our family.

Life is an extraordinary precious gift to be cherished.

One can only hope that as individuals we do not pass so far beyond "fellow feeling" that we lose sight of that.