



## A PERSPECTIVE ON HUMAN DEATH AND COVID 19

It would be a grave mistake to read this article and think that I do not believe that the more than 200,000 US deaths (986,000 world wide) from COVID19 is a horrible tragedy for all, especially for those who have lost loved ones in this ongoing pandemic.

I do, however, want to step up to the 10,000 foot level and make a couple of observations and then try to bring it down to how we as human beings live our lives. I am well aware that I have selected items to make my point, and you might prefer looking at different data. That said let's take a stab at it.

As of 2018 about 700,000 people have died from the HIV epidemic in the US, and 33 million have died worldwide. The H1N1 virus (Spanish Flu) in 1918/1919 took 675,000 American lives, and 50 million died worldwide. In 1952 more than 3,000 people in the US had died from the poliovirus. It is estimated that 90% of Native Americans died from the smallpox virus. In the early 1900s Typhoid claimed more than 12,000 lives per year. In 1957 the H2N2 flue caused 116,000 deaths in the US. In 2009 there were over 12,000 deaths from H1N1 flu in the US.

UNICEF says that some 3.1 million children worldwide die from under-nutrition each year.

New estimates put the death toll from our Civil War at 750,000. The number of American lives lost in: WWI (320,000). WWII (1,076,000). Korean War: (more than 128,000). Vietnam War: (211,454)

In 2016 the CDC reported 623,471 legal abortions in the US. In the years 1978 through 1997 there were 1 million abortions each year. It has been estimated that in the US from 1970 through 2016 over 47 million babies growing in the 'protected' environment of the womb were killed. Worldwide, from 2010-2014, the Guttmacher Institute estimates there were 56 million abortions each year.

Wikipedia lists more than 70 events labeled as genocide events, which have taken over 100 million lives.

Some 60 million Africans died as a result of the slave trade (war and destruction in Africa, slave ships, camps at both ends of the sea journey, and murder while a slave).

I have spent my professional life as a physician trying to bring healing to people suffering from illness and injury. And that was a full time job. But what about the unbelievable loss of life at the hands of those who have the power, and claim to have the 'right', to decide another persons fate. Far more humans have died at the hands of another person, than from disease or famine or injury. I ask myself: "Have I fought for the victims of that kind of injustice?"

For those who believe we humans are the pinnacle of the evolutionary process, or for those who believe we humans are God's creation... we have not done well when it comes to treating our own species. I am unaware of any other species that treats its own kind the way we humans do. "When it comes to murderous tendencies, humans really are exceptional" (*Nat. Geographic* Sept 2016). Disease we can fight with medicine and vaccines. How we treat humans from conception to natural death takes a change of heart, a commitment to protect the life and rights of others. My challenge to you is: **"What will you do?"**

## THE Music LADY FOR THE LOVE OF MUSIC



## A TRIBUTE TO CHARLIE CHAPLIN

One of the most memorable characters ever created in the silent film industry was Charlie Chaplin's the "Tramp." With his small mustache, wearing a black suit with baggy pants and a derby hat while twirling his cane, the "Tramp" was a gentle man, who lived in a world of poverty and was often treated badly, but remained kind and upbeat. It is said that his humor did not come from bumping into a tree, but from his lifting his hat to the tree in apology. Chaplin himself was born into a life of poverty, but the creation of this character, along with many other movie roles, won Charlie Chaplin world-wide acclaim, and made him such a wealthy man that by 1918, at age 30, Chaplin was able to build his own Hollywood studio.

Chaplin proved to be a multi-talented genius in every aspect of movies and the theater. He was a rare comedian who could not only finance and produce all his films, but he was also the author, actor, director and soundtrack composer. After all, he owned the studio and had complete control over the many movies he made. He became very wealthy and lived in a mansion in Hollywood.

Most of the music he composed served merely as a background for all his silent films. But a few of his compositions were masterful enough to stand on their own, and to stand the test of time.

The song entitled "Smile" is considered by many to be one of the most brilliant songs ever written. Chaplin composed this masterpiece in 1936. The words of the song send a message of cheer, because there is always a brighter tomorrow, as long as you just smile.

Chaplin also wrote the Petula Clark hit "This Is My Song." Despite the fact that Petula Clark never liked this song, it was one of her top selling recordings in 1967.

"There's Always One You Can't Forget" and "You Are My Song" are two other Chaplin compositions that have sold many recordings, but are lesser known.

Today we pay tribute to Charlie Chaplin, the composer, not just because of the quantity of songs he wrote, although he did write the scores for many Hollywood films. We honor him today for giving us the song "Smile," an everlasting gem that rises to the top tier of all songs written in the 20th century.

When you next have the opportunity to enjoy listening to the silky smooth marriage of music and lyrics of "Smile," close your eyes and picture the "Tramp" as he waddles off into the sunset optimistically to continue his journey.

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