

The Time has Come

According to conventional belief, adoption rids a mother of an unwanted child and places it in a loving home, with two parents who can love it as if it were their own. This practise, supported by a society which gives credence to this myth, has developed into a money making industry of mass proportions. In the United States, where statistics are more readily available (www.cubirthparents.org/infant.pdf), around \$1.44 billion are generated annually through adoption. Famous adoptive mothers are described sympathetically in the national press, as warm hearted rescuers. No mention is made of the trauma to the child, which will uncover later in life, nor to the natural mother, whose baby was sold for a pittance as a last desperate means of survival. Angelina Jolie, for example, is reported to have paid around £150,000 to adopt a baby from Cambodia. The natural mother of this baby received £70. As well as being morally outrageous, such a practise is in direct contradiction to the United Nations Charter of Human Rights, which states "The child shall be protected against all forms of neglect, cruelty and exploitation. He shall not be the subject of traffic, in any form" (www.unhcr.ch/html/menu3/b/25.htm). We are living in an era where 'adoption', in its most extreme form, has become a socially acceptable word for child trafficking.

There are many questions that arise from probing into the reality of adoption. Why is it generally assumed that natural mothers do not want to keep their babies? Why is it generally assumed that it is in the best interests of the child to be torn away from its mother, and raised by strangers? Why is it assumed that the child will never know the difference? Why does the government wish to keep natural mothers and their children estranged for life? Why, in countries such as the USA, which pride themselves on freedom of speech and choice, is the true identity of the child kept a secret, sealed in records, with all access denied? The inhumanity of such a practise hits us in the face, but instead of confronting it, as a society, we choose to don our sunglasses, and not see clearly. We choose no action, and in choosing no action, we unconsciously support and nourish the very system which poisons us.

I suspect that the answer to some of the above questions is quite simple. We choose to ignore truths that are painful for us to embrace. It is easy to label a natural mother as someone who does not want her child. The vast majority of natural mothers wanted to keep their children. The vast majority were mothers who were young and without husbands. They had no means to support themselves, let alone their children. They were coerced, sometimes forcefully, sometimes by psychological pressure, into relinquishing their children. It is easy for society to label the natural mother as the wrongdoer, the 'slut' for having become pregnant in the first place. It is far easier for society to remain in its violent ignorance than to accept its responsibility for creating the circumstances in which something as abhorrent and unnatural can take place.

Early psychological studies, dating back to 1940, are clear about the affects of separating the infant from its mother. It is clear that a baby only feels safe in the loving, nurturing presence of the human being who created it. In fact, we do not need psychological studies to tell us this. Each one of us knows it, instinctively. If we know this, why do we ignore our natural instincts? Why do we continue to ignore sound psychological advice, when we become aware of the destruction that ensues when this knowledge is not heeded? If you look at a baby who is hungry, who needs his nappy changing, who becomes enraged when separated from his mother in those crucial early months, during which time this sacred bond teaches him that the world is a safe place to be, it is clear that this tiny infant has an awareness of what is happening around him, that he can already distinguish his mother from other people. And yet, conventional 'wisdom' preaches that the baby will not know the difference. The rage, that is the natural way for this infant to express its unfulfilled needs will be suppressed, and at some point, in order to heal, the adoptee will have to live it out, either in a healthy way, or as is sadly often the case, in a violent way. It is not unknown for this rage to be targeted towards adoptive parents, who are at times confronted with children who

threaten their lives, and cannot understand why children they have loved and raised can suddenly become vengeful and hateful.

I believe that adoption is not only an issue for those directly affected by it. The dynamics at play in adoption are the same dynamics that are at the core of our dysfunctional society. At its core lies a basic denial of humanity, and a misplacement of human instincts. Society has become expert at anaesthetising itself from reality, and has created another multimillion dollar industry from its need to hide the effects of its illness. This en-masse denial, which leads to an abdication of our power, is what I believe has put our world on the brink of destruction. We give our power away to people who we believe know better than us. In fact, these people are quite often waiting to deceive us. The social worker who knowingly misinforms a natural mother that her baby will be better off with strangers, fully aware of the pain and misery that this causes, is no different from the politician who promises us a safe world, and then attempts to create this safety by inducing war.

As we have been born into this culture, we assume that this is the way it has to be, and we somehow assume that more of the same will ultimately change the course of our destiny. Yet, our feelings, our instincts tell us that an alternate reality is possible. Our souls whisper to us, and remind us of something unspoken, of what it really means to be human. We are reminded that we have forgotten to treat each other with respect, with love, with compassion and understanding, as is our instinct. Indeed, we have been taught that we have to forget this if we wish to survive in this competitive, unfriendly world. We have turned love into the ultimate four lettered word. We have been taught by people with an alternative agenda to betray our instincts, and I believe that this is what has caused the world to become the way it is. It is my deep belief that our future lies within us, because each of us ultimately is a part of the whole, and we cannot blame society for something unless we accept our part in the society that we are condemning. So, I believe, we must question the people who appear to be someone who they are not. We must question the intentions of the social workers who promote adoption as loving, and we must question the intentions of the politicians. We must ask if they are misguiding us through their own ignorance, whether they are corrupt, whether they are lying out of fear for their own existence, or whether at some level, evil really exists, and we have become unwilling victims to it. Wherever the answer lies, we will not arrive at it until we begin to ask the right questions. I believe that this time has come.

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