

Current Affairs

Why Did Chicken Cross the Road?

By Anil Shrivastava "Musafir"



I think that I may have found the right answer to the age old question of why the chicken crossed the road. The chicken was in “danger of violent death” and her life on this side of the road was “solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and short.” Therefore, the chicken took the chance hoping that li fe would be ameliorating on the other side.

The chicken represents Syrian refugees. (Many of them are radicals and dangerous but that is a topic for another day). These despondent human beings are the victims of a civil war going on in Syria. These men, women and children see their fellow human beings slaughtered everyday and they live in terror like chickens in cages waiting their turn to be

massacred.

Just last week Syria’s leader, Assad along with his co-conspirator, Putin of Russia declared victory over Aleppo, once the largest city of Syria which is now totally annihilated. Aleppo once was rich in history and was the most vibrant city in the Middle East along with Beirut, Lebanon. Now it’s an open death chamber, a victim of our indifference towards its citizens. If there be a hell on earth, it’s there; it’s there; it’s there.

For more than four years, Western governments and the United Nations stood by, watching, as Assad and his backers ostentatiously ignored the laws of war. The rest of us watched their extermination on live TV and social media. Now, with tens of thousands



of civilians dead, the credibility of the powerful countries and institutions that could have helped them remains dubious, to say the least.

In addition Syrian and Russian aircraft spent the past few months dropping leaflets over eastern Aleppo, warning that anyone who didn't leave the area would be wiped out. But the unfortunate citizens there had nowhere to go, except into government-held districts, where they would be detained, tortured, and killed. The leaflets continued to rain down on them. "You know that everyone has given up on you," the leaflets said. "They left you alone to face your doom." That's the perfect state of nature described by Hobbes in Leviathan.

Any person having kindness should wonder what were the international community and the UN thinking during this Syrian apocalypse? The displaced citizens of Aleppo have the right not to believe in any institution anymore. So, before you break bread with your



loved ones on this Christmas Eve, think about those chickens crossing over to our side of the road in desperation. Some of us talk about creating a safe area for them in their own homeland with a no-fly zone. Whatever be the solution, let's not forget them. Tell our leaders to do something about them. Merry Christmas to all!