



CIVILIZED? OH, COME ON!

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Civilization is fundamentally an essential manner by which people come together. It is vastly different from an itinerant way of life in that a civilization has a group of people putting down roots at a certain area and establishing their legacy. Mankind has had a number of civilized societies that have established a way of living, education, writing, trade, literature and many other societal components in order to become recognized as an organized structure.

We are fortunate to be called “civilized beings”. We no longer beat each other up for no apparent reason nor consider hunting as a means to survive. We no longer waste our resources nor dispose of whatever trash we accumulate in the most unlikely places. We no longer use primitive means of communication and gibberish to express ourselves. We no longer have to fight for supremacy and survival nor claim our rights through barbaric methods. Oh, really?

Many eons after the species of Homo erectus gave way to a much more superior species, Homo sapiens remains as ignorant as the day when fire was discovered. Countries have fought endlessly for territorial sovereignty, with already large countries openly contesting for theirs against smaller, weaker ones. People get killed everywhere like chickens, while the criminals run free because the arm of the law is not long enough. We throw trash everywhere; even the oceans protest because of the amount of garbage that’s heaped on them. Couples, families and friends end up with broken relationships because of “miscommunication” and “missed communication”. You can’t even understand what many politicians who aspire to become actors and actresses, or vice versa, try to say on TV, mainly because of reasons that have nothing to do with static. Family feuds are nothing of the game show sort, with vendetta being carried out under the most barbaric means. If you come to think of it, where have we come, O Homo sapiens? Are we any farther from where our ancestors started many, many civilizations ago?

We have undergone millennia of evolution from the time of the monkey to the year of the dragon. Weren’t dragons slain by knights long before the advent of electricity? Have we slain our dragons yet, or do they still continue to haunt us within ourselves? Are we any better now than our ancestors were during their time?

I’d like to think that the movement we have taken has been nothing less than cyclical: we keep going back to our less-civilized, barbaric ways. If we look at the vitriolic means by which quarrels are waged on social networking sites and TV, can we aptly claim that man has become more civilized?

Can today’s modern civilization be magnitudes different from yesterday’s?

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Define civilization.
2. In your honest opinion, has today’s modern man become more civilized? Why or why not?
3. What are the essential elements of civilization, in your own opinion?
4. How has today’s civilization become worse than before? Be as specific as needed.
5. Do you think there’s hope for today’s modern civilization to become truly modern? Do you have any suggestions?