



FIGHTING THE GOOD FIGHT

Kathlyn Q. Barrozo
Class of 1991, University of Santo Tomas
B.S. Medical Technology

Acts of terrorism always get the greatest condemnations. They inspire many among us to shout to the heavens for retribution on the heinousness and inhumanity that such acts spawn. Unimaginable as they may seem, the anger and condemnation that acts of terrorism incite are proofs of how evil and cruelty will never be accepted by humanity.

Take the September 1, 2001 attacks, otherwise referred to as 9/11, launched by al-Qaeda, an extremist Islamic terrorist group. Four passenger jets were hijacked and flown into targeted buildings in coordinated terrorist attacks. The World Trade Center's North and South Towers in New York City were rendered to rubbles by two planes, while a third plane caused damage to the Pentagon. The fourth plane, originally meant to target the US Capitol in Washington, DC, was crashed into a field. Lives were lost, and along with the toppling down of one of America's greatest symbols of global supremacy, economies all over were shaken down.

Although the 9/11 attacks had been targeted at the very heart of the world's most powerful country, the fact remained that the attacks brought down the whole world to its knees. Mercifully, the United States was able to recover, which brought forth independent efforts by other nations to rise up to the challenge of working towards their own economic redemption. Many countries were soon able to pick up where they had left off, while the US has gradually but surely rebuilt itself as a new nation with fresh hopes and dreams. The terrorists may have plotted the 9/11 attacks as a mission to bring the planet's most powerful nation to its knees. But what those masterminds of the attacks have failed to consider is the ability of people to get up and fight with renewed vigor and greater strength. Fall seven times, get up eight. That's how powerful the human spirit is.

Many of us around the world might still be reeling from the after-effects of the 9/11 attacks till now. We may still have dollar-dependent economies that have been severely affected by what happened on that one fateful day. We may still be feeling the pains of what those terrorist groups inflicted onto our nations' economies. But let us not cease to remember one thing: the human spirit is infinitely more powerful than any act of terrorism that is conceivable by man. The power of prayer and positive thoughts will always win the day and the battle for the greater good will continue. No act conceived through evil means will be a source of triumph for very long.

There is a Higher Being, a Supreme Creator Who will be able to help us pick ourselves up and restructure whatever needs to be rebuilt. This time, what the world will witness are stronger, fiercer and bolder individuals whose one true mission is to thwart further attempts at terrorism. Our relationship with God, once it is built strong enough, will enable us to face down terrorism and all its forms. No more Mr. nice guy!

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Describe the events of September 1, 2001. Do research if necessary. Talk about how the attacks affected your own country.
2. Has your country recovered from the 9/11 attacks? Describe the journey that this has taken.
3. Why are acts of terrorism to be condemned at all costs?
4. What are other possible acts of terrorism that extremist groups can do in the world? Is there a way to put an end to them?
5. Why is terrorism so destructive? Cite examples as needed.