

WORKING WITH FATHERS IN FAMILY VIOLENCE

GENERATIVITY IN PRACTICE

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PARALLEL JOURNEYS

IN

ETHICAL STRIVING

ROB'S STORY

Moral imperatives



Ethical Realisations

A FOCUS FOR ACTIVIST INTERVENTION

VIOLENCE & LOVE

AFFECTIVE - **What makes a body move?**

POLITICAL - **How do bodies relate?**

POLITICS OF INTERVENTION

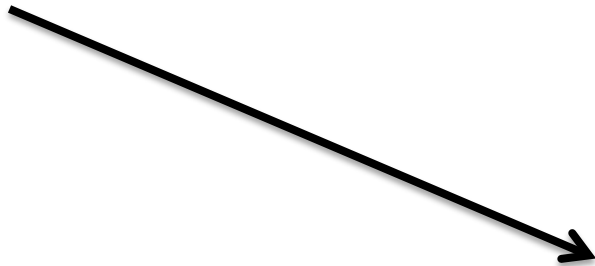
MORAL IMPERATIVES



ORDERING JUDGEMENTS

You're a perpetrator

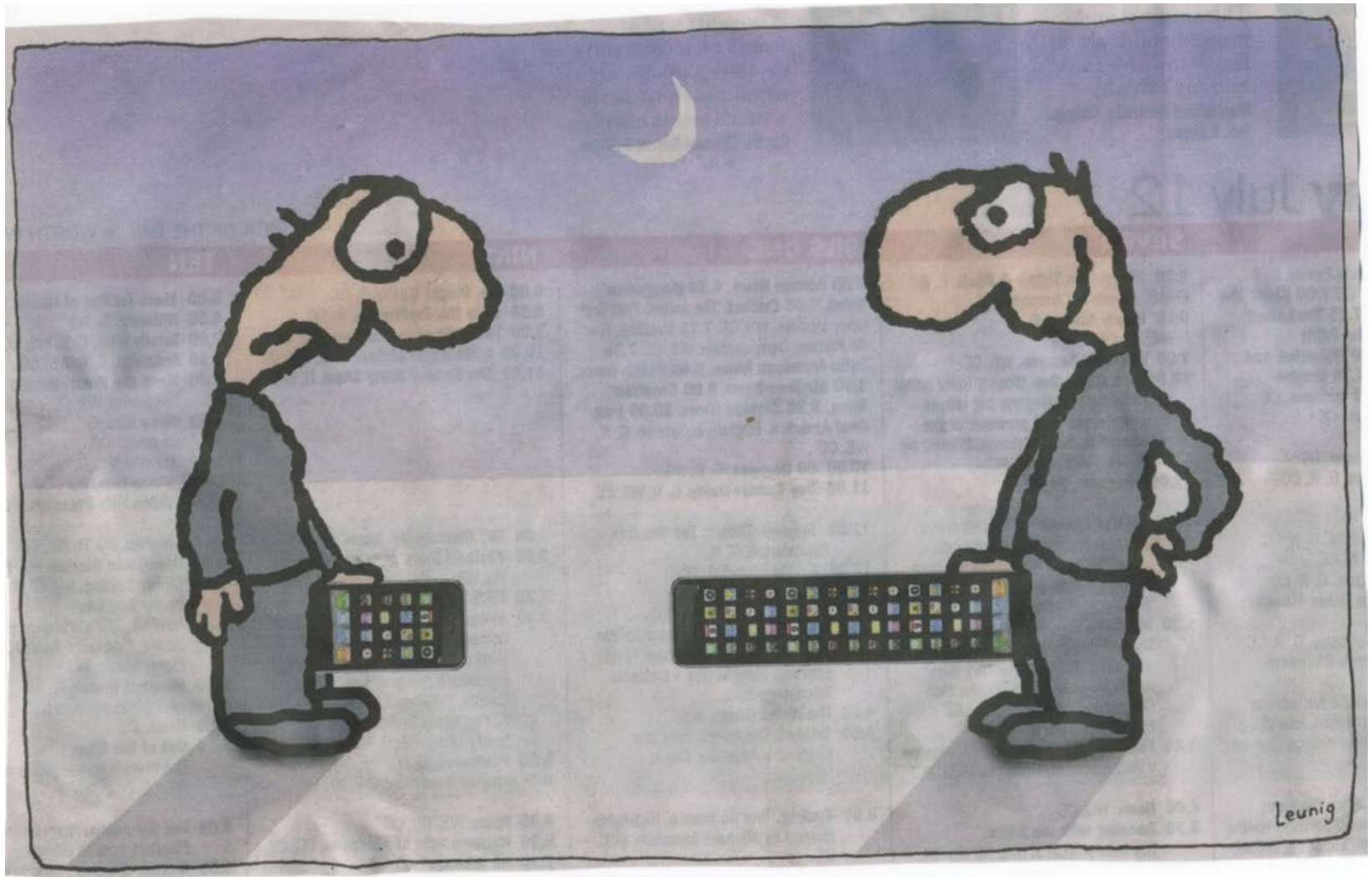
Man up and take responsibility



(felt as)

You are weak / pathetic

You're not a man



***Be careful when you fight monsters,
lest you become one.***

Nietzsche

'There is no road to peace – peace is the road' - Gandhi

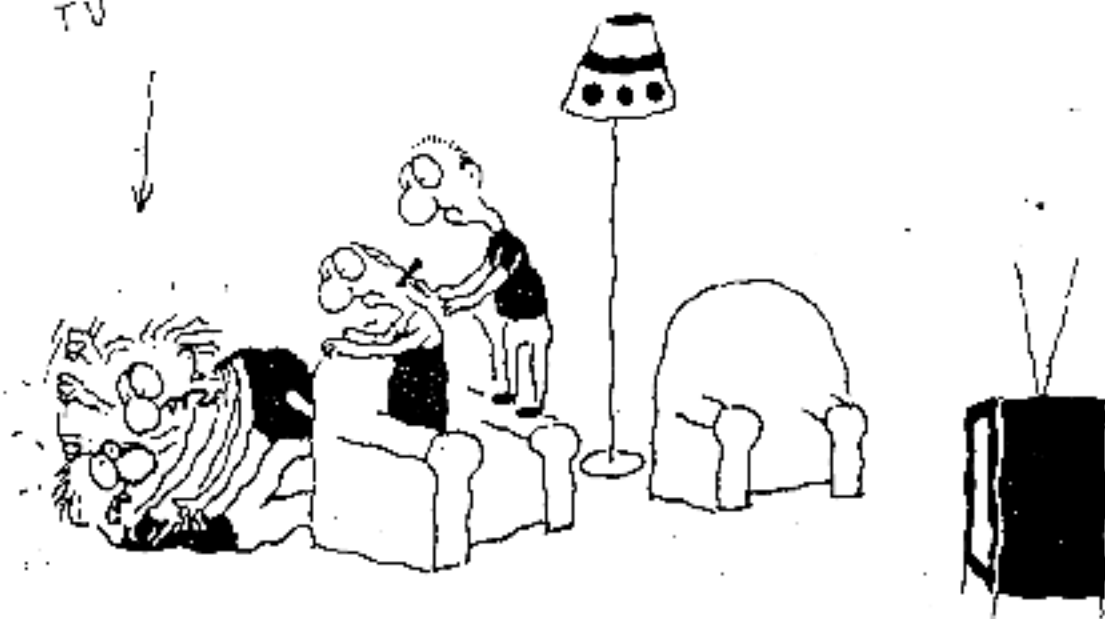
Father,
what is
peace?



Peace is what
people kill each
other for.



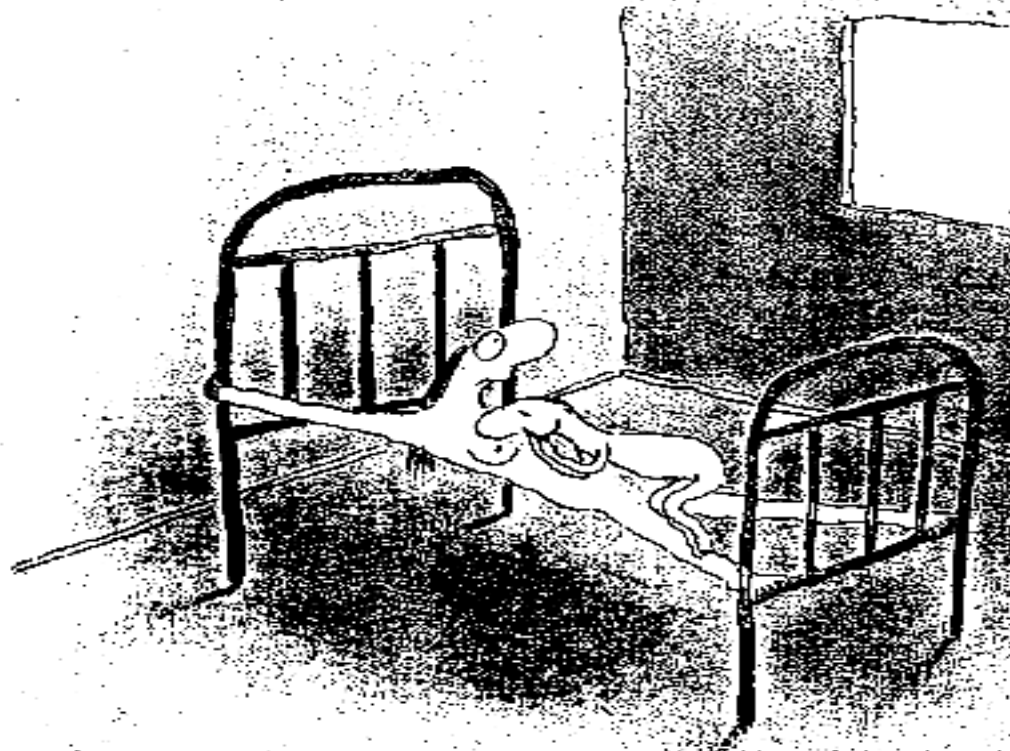
CONCERNED PARENTS 'DISCUSSING'
WHETHER OR NOT THE CHILDREN SHOULD
BE ALLOWED TO WATCH VIOLENCE ON
TV



Motif

A passionate interest in otherness

as the antithesis of violence.



Leung

AFFECTIVE POLITICS

REGISTERS OF AFFECT – LATE LIBERALISM

BELONGING – ABANDONMENT

- Fragility of connection and belonging
- Generative legacy?

BECOMING SOMEBODY – BECOMING NOBODY

BECOMING WINNER – BECOMING LOSER

- Ongoing presence of loss – vulnerability
- Shaming injunctions – lives not grievable
- Imperatives for endurance in adversity

TOM

EMPATHIC UNSTTLEMENT

PANKSEPP - SUBCORTICAL AFFECT SYSTEMS

Panksepp. J. (2012) 'Archeology of Mind'

SEEKING

FEAR

RAGE

PANIC / LOSS

CARE

PLAY

LUST

PANKSEPP - SUBCORTICAL AFFECT SYSTEMS

PANIC / LOSS

The jolt of PANIC felt sub-cortically before it is thought
wince
shock
cringe

TOMKINS - AFFECTS AS AMPLIFIERS

*Tomkins. S (1962-92) 'Affect Imagery
Consciousness'*

INTEREST - EXCITEMENT

SURPRISE - STARTLE

ANGER - RAGE

FEAR - TERROR

DISGUST

DISMELL

SHAME - HUMILIATION

AFFECT REGULATION & SHAME

Allan Schore (2003; 2012)

Attachment and affect regulation

Role of shame in infant neural development

Resonance – Rupture – Repair

TOMKINS - AFFECTS AS AMPLIFIERS

Regulation social connection / boundaries / affect regulation

INTEREST - EXCITEMENT

(SEEKING – CARE – PLAY)



SHAME

withdrawal – turning inwards

Incomplete reduction of INTEREST

SUB-CORTICAL AFFECTIVE REACTIONS TO SOCIAL THREAT

PANIC - LOSS

Jolt / shock - toxic pain

I cant bear it

I'm losing it



SHAME

Wince – wanting to belong but feel unable

I'm not good enough



DISGRACE

Cringe

What have I done?

How could I?

JACK'S PRESENTATION

Sense of injustice – blame

She can't do this

She is not thinking about the family and Paul

She should come back where she belongs

You people are always on the woman's side

Sense of desperation

She should be here too to sort out this mess

JACK – REACTIVE AFFECT

RIGHTEOUS INDIGNATION

BLAME



DESPERATION

HOPELESSNESS

CONTEMPT



HUMILIATION

A POLITICS OF ACTIVISM

ATTUNEMENT – RESONANCE – EMPATHIC UNSETTLEMENT

Curiosity - Interest in otherness

Seeking excess - *What else might there be?*

Promoting resistance

Holding a collective history of resistance

ETHICS FOR NON-VIOLENT RELATIONSHIPS

ETHICS

PRACTICES

PROTEST

Fairness

REMORSE

Restitution

GENEROUS LOVE

Respect of difference

VITAL INTERESTS – LOOKING FOR EXCESS

BELONGING

CONNECTION – REMORSE & LOVE

GENERATIVE LEGACY

ENDURANCE – PERSEVERENCE IN ADVERSITY

LIVES THAT MATTER – GRIEVING LOSSES

PROTEST

REACTIONS – JACK

‘You people are always on the woman’s side’

How does this affect me?

What might Jack be anticipating/feeling?

- passionate**
- desperate**

How might I attend (affectively) to Jack?

REACTIONS – JACK

'She's not thinking about the family etc.'

'Can you talk to her?'

How does this affect me?

What might Jack be concerned about?

- passionately**
- desperately**

How might I attend (affectively) to Jack?

ETHICAL THEMES – JACK

DESIRE FOR RESPECTFUL FAMILY

Care, concern & loyalty for Sue & Paul

Wanting to provide belonging for Paul

‘the only woman I’ve ever cared about’

when Sue pregnant - ‘this is it...a family for the first time’

‘all the things I want to give my son’

ETHICAL CLARIFICATION

Others feeling

secure / safe

belonging / wanted

loved

understood / listened to

accepted / believed in / supported

trusted

respected

partnership

What are you trying to give?

How are you wanting to love?

GENERATIVE STRIVINGS – DEVELOPMENTAL CONTEXT

What hopes and plans have you had for your family?

- *about you and Sue?*
- *as a father to Paul?*

How have you wanted it to be different to the family you were born into?

Did you / your mum feel safe with your Dad?

Did your Dad think about these hopes?

ETHICAL THEMES – JACK

ETHICAL CLARIFICATION

Looking out for yourself

Not a quitter

Wanting something better for Paul

Feels Like he belongs

Safe

Cherished

Talk to each other – listen - work together

Stand by each other

Feeling respected

Feeling safe – cared about

FACING SHAME WITHOUT SHAMING?

2. Ethic of REMORSE



Connection with humanity of the other

Practices of RESTITUTION

Interest in otherness – BECOMING OTHER

REMORSE (Gaita, 2004)

‘a pained, bewildered realisation of what it means to wrong someone’

‘an awakened sense of the reality of another.....through the shock of wrongdoing the other’

‘When it is lucid, remorse is an astonished encounter with the reality of the ethical.’

EXERCISE 5a) ETHIC OF REMORSE – JACK-PAUL

What are you seeing?

“the fear in his eyes”

Who is he scared of?

“his dad”

How might we respond;

- **enable a productive, responsive form of shame?**
- **prevent reactive blame and avoidance?**
- **promote a sense of agency and competence - restitution**

RE-POSITIONING SHAME

INTEGRITY THROUGH FACING SHAME

**What would it say about you if you could,
see Paul terrified of his Dad
and you didn't feel ashamed?**

What is it taking for you to stand your ground?

Would Paul have any idea that his dad can see and feel this?

RE-POSITIONING SHAME

CONNECTIONS THROUGH DIFFERENCE

Did your dad ever stop and think about what it was like for you?

What difference would it have made if your dad had opened his eyes and saw what you are seeing now?

PRACTICES OF REMORSE

ACTS OF APOLOGY

- **A means towards achieving self-centred goals of absolution and pardon.**

ACTS OF RESTITUTION

- **A process of extending oneself through consideration of the experiences and feelings of others. Enabling reparation.**
- **Requires a level of political realisation about the nature of abusive behaviour and its effects.**

POSSESSING OTHER → BECOMING OTHER

3. Ethic of GENEROUS LOVE



Connection with humanity of the other

Practices of RESPECT OF DIFFERENCE

Passionate interest in otherness – BECOMING OTHER

ETHICAL CLARIFICATION

RESPECT

Wanting your son's respect / admiration or fear?

How are you wanting to show respect?

How might you show leadership in respect?

ETHICAL CLARIFICATION

LEADERSHIP

What example are you wanting to set?

How showing leadership right now?

What kinds of self-discipline lead to responsibility?

Doing as you do or as you say?

ETHICAL CLARIFICATION

MATESHIP

How are you wanting your son to look back at his dad when he is older?

What kinds of leadership & respect lead to mateship?

ETHICAL CLARIFICATION

INTEGRITY

How do these ideas about leadership, respect etc fit with how you want to be as a man?

How much is this being true to yourself?

SIMON - POINT OF INFLECTION

I talked to my mate's girlfriend

She's been through a violent relationship

I asked her what it was like for her and her kids

It made me think how I stood over her

How I'm much bigger and stronger

She was powerless – I can see her all collapsed and like broken

I don't want Jay to have a father who is like that

SIMON - POINT OF INFLECTION

Reflection after handover at Police Station

Jay wanting to make plans for his birthday with his parents

I could see him upset because I can't come in where his mum is

I could see him caught in the middle.

I know how hard that was when I was a kid.

SIMON - POINT OF INFLECTION

Reflection after handover at Police Station

Simon's brother didn't talk to Jay's mum whilst facilitating handover

Jay asked his Uncle, 'Do you hate my mum?'

I challenged (my brother) about transferring hatred to Jay

– 'It's about Jay'

My brother is stubborn. I got emotional about it.

- You should understand he's 7 years old

- Especially because we have both come from a broken family

I asked my cousin, what do you think? She was silent through all this

SIMON - POINT OF INFLECTION

Reflection in the context of a new relationship

Most of my life has been about sport. I could get girlfriends because I was good at sport. I was really taking women for granted.

I wouldn't change myself – I would change the girl when there was a problem and it was me that was at fault.

I realised I was starting to talk sarcastically to (new partner) I apologised and we talked. I would act on impulse and try to end it

I would only make changes if she changed.

We are now being straight with each other. She will let me know if I'm being a dickhead.

This will sound really gay. We were on the trampoline looking at the stars. She talked about making wishes.

My first thought was I wish I had Jay 50:50

Then I thought, that's about me, I want Jay to have a happy life.

"We're all lying in the gutter but some of us are looking at the stars"

