



At night I watch the television news and wonder what makes mankind tick. Mostly it's sad and violent news with the occasional good news story to offer some balance about the day's events. It seems we crave the ugly and dwell on the anger of humanity, at least with the news of the day. We show dismay at just how far man has fallen and just how bad society has become. There is no shortage of grotesque and horrible events and in a perverse way we seem to see it as entertainment. That's odd really as once entertainment was associated with happiness but now we even train our kids to play extremely violent computer games from a young age. The age of aggression has crept on us because we have allowed it to. We have encouraged it as though we are spectators in a modern coliseum watching gladiators fight to the death. The more shock and awe the better, or so it seems.

I also notice the many tribes and clans of people doing whatever they do across the world. Reference to tribes and tribal law evokes a picture of primitive people with a defined and structured culture where the security of a few is the security of the many and perhaps not so primitive at all. A tribe is a group of people with traditions and structure where kinship and family is most important. Nonetheless, contemporary tribes to day around the world crave a homogenous and cohesive society. In fact the less consolidated the society the more problems there are because the things that bind us are fractured and broken. We look for like minded people to be with and to lead us. We applaud the common goal and the worse society becomes the more we look for common sense, belonging and direction. Anything that disrupts our clan is not in harmony with our tribe and ultimately poses a significant threat to the way we live and the things we value. There is a reason people speak different languages and appear diverse because over time they have formed tribes both large and small and built societies accordingly. Some work better than others and like attracts like.

So why then are we surprised when large numbers of people, from very different tribes to ours, travel here and begin to force their way upon us. Have no doubt this can become a cultural tragedy as our value system unravels and our sensibilities are assaulted. When those from another tribe join ours and we don't expect them to take up our ways, we almost guarantee trouble as those invited should support our cultural system that attracted them here in the first place. The Australian tribe is a good tribe and our system has worked well in the past as people coming here have **integrated** at a rate our society can cope with. Actually this is more than **integration**, it's really **assimilation** and there is a big difference. Stepping into the river and standing while the water flows around you is **integration** while **assimilation** is entering the river and becoming part of the river and its flow. Now we find that folk from other tribes with their own religion, their own food and customs and even their own laws are coming here for the best our tribe offers with absolutely no intention of **assimilating**. In fact it appears they are unfairly building their own tribe within using the resources we have so valiantly created and willingly shared.

The problem we have, in my view, is that multi-tribalism or multi-cultural roots are ok and even desirable, if those who come here adopt our customs and add to them positively without wanting to change it selfishly to the culture they left because if their old ways were sound they wouldn't have moved. Over many years Australia has created a fine monoculture but now incorrectly believes a multicultural society is fine, where clearly it's not. Multicultural roots are good if balanced and create an inclusive society but be warned Australia, if we don't insist on **assimilation** into our own unique tribe there will be trouble. Surely even the optimist can see it at our doorstep now as the new tribe chooses to arrive and take root and spread a message and culture which is the antithesis of our ours and the peace we have enjoyed. Be warned Australia that the drums of intertribal warfare have sounded and we can lose that which we value so highly. It shouldn't come to this and when we feel threatened it's not in this nation's interest or the future of our families. Ours is a land and system based on Christian beliefs and has produced a peaceful inclusive culture. Move away from that or let another religion overwhelm us and you potentially have the Middle East and all the evil it purveys. The **Tribes and Tribulations** of today's world are avoidable if we learn from the past. It seems however that the only thing man learns from history, is that he doesn't learn from history.

**Until next time this is Kent Bayley**