

My Two Cent's Worth

By: Joseph Andalina

This is not who we are?

How many times have you heard that over this last year? Lots, right?

Every half-assed politician seemingly used it when there is a tragedy or dealing with political hyperbole from one party to another.

I think lame duck Rahm used it in Chicago after one of its hundreds of killings, or maybe over sanctuary cities. Or maybe in his heated rhetoric over his distaste of President Trump.

In the case of killings and attempted murders in Chicago, maybe it is who we are. If you want illegal aliens in your city or state, then it is who we are. If you hate President Trump or Obama or Bush, it is who we are.

I believe President Obama used it during his presidency while speaking to the Muslim community over the belief that America was anti-Muslim.

I've seen a Republican governor from another state use it while speaking about President Trump's volatile words and agenda.

I think Cory Booker may have used it. The "I am Spartacus" senator says a lot of stupid stuff, so I might be correct there. One thing for sure is he is not Spartacus and never will be. Spartacus was a huge Thracian who spoke with his sword and would have sent Mr. Booker's head flying.

The real Spartacus in legitimate history is not quoted to have ever spoken anything. He certainly did not proclaim "I am Spartacus" nor did that ever happen. Purely fictional account by Howard Fast in his 1951 novel and subsequent 1960 movie of the same name.

Mr. Booker would be well served to read these two books: *Spartacus*, an historical novel by Lewis Grassic Gibbon, which portrays Mr. Spartacus as anything but Kirk Douglas or Senator Booker! The second, *Spartacus Wars* by Barry Strauss, an historical and archeological telling of the man (not Booker) and the battlefield in a gripping fact-based context. But maybe that's who Senator Booker thinks he is.

So every time terrible things happens or are said, a politician blows smoke out of his rear end by saying "This is not who we are." But you know, it seems that this is exactly who we are.

People kill each other. People lie and steal. The left hates the right, and vice-versa. We destroy people's careers. It's non-stop racism or the accusations of same. The public, press, and politicians do not like the police. They demonize us. Accuse us of all kinds of nonsense. Cops will forever have huge targets on our backs. Not only does the world want to kill is, they lie about it, too.

I believe the phrase that I came across was first used a few years back by the Arab-American poet and writer Naomi Shihab Nye. It was a post 9/11 analysis on how Arab-Americans fit into American society. A thoughtful piece. Nothing at all how it is used in today's media.

From Vox.com, a liberal website, comes the recommendation of psychiatrists who have proposed putting lithium in our drinking water, sort of like fluoride protects our teeth. The thinking is that this would calm our minds, prevent suicide and violence, and make us all happy. I guess this would make us all unsure of who we really are!

I don't know, maybe it will work. Seems a lot cheaper than going to Colorado or Canada to buy weed. In the absence of this working, maybe this actually is who we are.

And to further prove my point, a crazy guy sends bombs to politicians, and a man who hates kills 11 Jewish people in a house of worship.

Senator Dick Blumenthal then spews out the new buzz phrase, "This is not who we are." Beg to differ, it appears that this is exactly who we are in many facets of our society.

Vita é bella.