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TERRORIST ATTACKS IN USA

On a sober note, we have been moved by the horror of the USA tragedy.

It was in the aftermath of the destruction that I became aware of the trend in reporting to associate people by their commonality; for example:- as passengers on the aircraft, as Firemen, as Policemen, Construction Workers, Office Workers, by nationality, and most relevantly as New Yorkers. The ingredient of tragedy has created a different kind of blood - bond. A modern version of what is at the heart of traditional Clan life.

There are many mundane and jingoistic expressions of human commonality. However, in this disaster and at other times in modern history, the attempts to 'associate people' and 'identify with' become more significant and earnest. It was expressed in empathy for victims, workers, survivors, and the grief of their families. We all, at some level, search for a thread of association to say with heartfelt love, "here is my hand (cloak, sword and shield), and I am at your side". Old Clan bonds, Scot or other, are not as anachronistic as some might suggest.

Aspects of tribal behaviour, (blood ties in particular), have evolved and are still alive, finding expression in people's search for meaning and belonging.

This is evident in the resurgence within indigenous cultures, identifying strong blood relationships and totems (dreaming). It is the essence of the Christian Faith (forgiveness through the sacrifice and blood of Jesus). This week it is in the brotherhood of New York Firemen, or with the airline passengers who overcame terror. It is the bonding of grieving families, and in giving by blood donors who have purpose in the midst of tragedy.

Our widespread Clan, "holds fast" to its ancient and modern ties, and is therefore able to reach out its hand to our Clanfolk and others, both in times of need and in joy, and say "Here is my hand, (cloak sword and shield) and I am at your side".

We have communicated our sympathy, and encouragement to our clanfolk in the USA, to "Hold Fast to what is good, and that We Shall Hold A Light of hope, and respect for their grief".

Alex McLeod