

Space Settlement Minus Human Evil

by Allen Scott Harper

Editor's Introduction: Allen Scott Harper's body was found at the foot of Roseburg, Oregon's Mount Nebo on 2 July 2007 by two teenage hikers. There was no identification. Condition of his remains indicated that his death probably occurred about one year earlier. Virginia dental records made the identification during July 2007 at which time The Douglas County Sheriff's Office notified the family.

As Allen's Aunt and Uncle, who had shared his life over the last eight years, Sue and I had his confidence. And we had helped him purchase a 1992 GM bus/van that he renovated to be his mobile home. He departed our home in Fallbrook, California in April 2006, heading his van for Roseburg, Oregon. His purpose was to help a Vietnam veteran colleague who needed help due to a serious medical condition. On May 24, 2006, Allen sent an e-mail to the family stating his intention to depart Roseburg on June 1, 2006 and return to Oceanside, California. That was his last communication. Allen's military Memorial Services were conducted at the Willamette National Cemetery in Portland, Oregon on December 28, 2007.

The following article is by Allen Scott Harper. Almost every sentence in his essay is a direct quote from his e-mails to me from 2003 to 2006. He seriously studied evil, moral leadership, politics, psychology, mental pathologies and the improvement of the human condition. I remember his stories about his Roseburg experience. This article documents for readers Allen's conviction that there was evil in the world and, specifically, in Roseburg, Oregon. We consider his murder as evidence. Allen and I had many chats about the future of humans in Space with hypothesizing how settlements could be created minus human evil. *Bob Krone, PhD.*

Evil exists. Evil people killed me in Roseburg, Oregon on 26 May 2006. I ask readers to reflect on my understanding of evil. Following that I'll give you my personal story and my thoughts about human Space settlements free of evil.

Understanding Evil

The key to understanding evil is to understand that it always lies within what is unseen. Some of the unseen places are in the blind spots of the human mind, the shattered places of the mind where repressed, dark personalities live. Hidden are the imprints of acts of omission, indifference, projections, criticism preceding abuse, and self-righteousness. Myths of demon possession or Satanic ritual abuse deceive humanity into thinking evil is not in the mind of the common man. But Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn said: "*The line dividing good and evil cuts through the heart of every human being. And who is willing to destroy a piece of his own heart?*"¹ In his brilliant 1995 *Lucifer Principle*,

¹ Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, *The Gulag Archipelago* (London: Collins, 1974), 168.

scientist Howard Bloom writes: “*The Lucifer Principle contends that evil is woven into our most basic biological fabric.*”² It is a very old argument made by Thomas Hobbes, anthropologist Raymond Dart, and Saint Paul. The enemy is within us and Nature has placed it there.

The Merriam-Webster Definition of *EVIL* is:

- a: morally reprehensible: sinful, wicked <an *evil* impulse>
- b: arising from actual or imputed bad character or conduct <a person of *evil* reputation>

Good and evil are ubiquitous subjects in literature, religion, philosophy, military history, entertainment and the media. The most popular films in history have been the Star Wars series where the Force (good) and the Dark Side (evil) are creatively pitted against each other.

On Earth those who kill innocent people and children are evil. Hitler’s, Stalin’s and Pol Pot’s leadership directing mass killings was evil. Genocide is evil. Moral ideologies, societies, and cultures repress much of the evil that was added to humans in the Garden of Eden. But evil in individuals, groups, and even nations persists as the 21st Century begins. I was a victim of evil in Roseburg, Oregon, U.S.A.

My Story

I was born in 1949 in Frankfurt, Germany. My Father was a U.S. Army career officer who had fought with Patton in World War II and later in Korea. His role modeling was a reason I volunteered to be a soldier in the Army’s tank forces in the Vietnam War. In many ways combat in Vietnam set the stage for the events that led to my death.

On combat tank patrol, an explosion burned 70% of my body. The next few years of treatment at the Army’s Burn Center in San Antonio left permanent physical and mental scars and some learning experiences. I wrote the following about one of those:

“To Live,” by Allen Harper

The most important experience of my life occurred on a ward. There was a patient on the ward who was a triple amputee and had been in a trauma-induced coma for over two months. I was walking back to my bed, which was next to his, when suddenly I realized he was awake. Then I saw a beautiful aura around him. It was a profound, loving, beautiful, spiritual presence. When I came close enough for him to notice me, he looked me in the eyes and said, “It is good to be alive.” For many years I got goose bumps when I thought about that. I now realize that I had witnessed divine mercy. I saw some of the beauty of God.

When I moved my wife and two children to Oregon in the 1980s, the negatives of my injuries in Vietnam were still with me. I had discovered that pot helped and believed the myth at the time that it was harmless. That and the fact that I knew a couple of the

² Howard K. Bloom, *The Lucifer Principle: A Scientific Expedition Into the Forces of History* (New York: Atlantic Monthly Press, 1995), 3.

Vietnam vets in Roseburg, which gravitated me to a small group of them who were into drugs and alcohol. I soon discovered that they were not only involved in underground illegal activities, but that they had protection from someone with political influence. When reciprocating evil action is compounded by all the members of a group and that group has political power, the result is not pretty. My history studies had convinced me that power elitism and tyrannical oligarchy has been a juggernaut throughout history.

In retrospect I failed to act in time. I knew too much about the evil in Roseburg and was unwilling to participate. I had reached the belief that people are only worth what they are willing to sell out another person for. I had experiences in the military when I was sold out by others. I did not sell out my group. I also believed that Christian theory is a way to counteract evil and that doing no harm will never get you into trouble. Unfortunately most religious theory gets warped by those with evil intentions. It happened in Roseburg.

I was threatened. The threats became more frequent. I told the group leadership, "*Don't count on me going down with a whimper.*" I began to realize that my bravado was not enough and realized that security for me and my family was at stake. I moved to Southern California. The group told me: "*If you ever return you're a dead man.*" From my studies, I had also learned that society creates and nurtures the formation of mental illness to meet its need for scapegoats and when push comes to shove it will exhibit a good deal of blood lust. I was their scapegoat.

Years later my Roseburg best friend was ill and in need. In April 2006, I drove my 1992 GM converted bus north. While in Roseburg I read Job, which brought me much peace. "*There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job and that man was blameless and upright, one who feared God, and turned away from evil*" (Job 1:1). I was reminded of a poem I had written in 2003:

*See it
In the eyes of fiends
See it above the fields
Of horrid dreams
Bursting through
Tidal waves of screams
Vile and foul
It beams
Fascination
Ends all means*

All this brought to mind a conclusion I came to during my burn recovery. I have a purpose and that is to be a better person myself and to help the world live better. I had forgotten this until I got "myself back" during the 1990s in California away from the evil I had endured from that group in Roseburg. And I was fascinated with the vision of my Uncle, Dr. Bob Krone, whose work with the global Space Community at the University of Southern California (USC), 1975-2003, and the editing of the book, *Beyond Earth: The*

Future of Humans in Space,³ beginning in 2004, included the observation that since humans have no history of living in Space, humanity has the exciting option of creating future Space settlements minus the evil that some humans have practiced on Earth throughout recorded history. *Allen Scott Harper*.

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Editor's Notes: Readers will accept my inclusion of this personal family story which illustrates the definition and criminal nature of evil on any level – personal to global. The subject needs serious research within the Space Community. The eradication of evil for future human Space settlements ranks as one of the most complex and difficult topics for design and decision making. If it is ignored: 1) the success of future of Space settlements is in doubt; and 2) the probability of humanity's survival beyond the 21st Century will be dangerously low. *Bob Krone, PhD*.



Allen Scott Harper, Christmas 2005



Military Funeral Service in Portland, Oregon, December 28, 2007

³ Bob Krone (ed.), *Beyond Earth: The Future of Humans in Space* (Toronto, ON: Apogee Space Press, 2006). See #7 in this Spring issue of *The Journal of Space Philosophy*, "Roots of Kepler Space University."