'Humans find violence deeply satisfying, but remove satisfaction and the act becomes hollow' (The Imitation game)
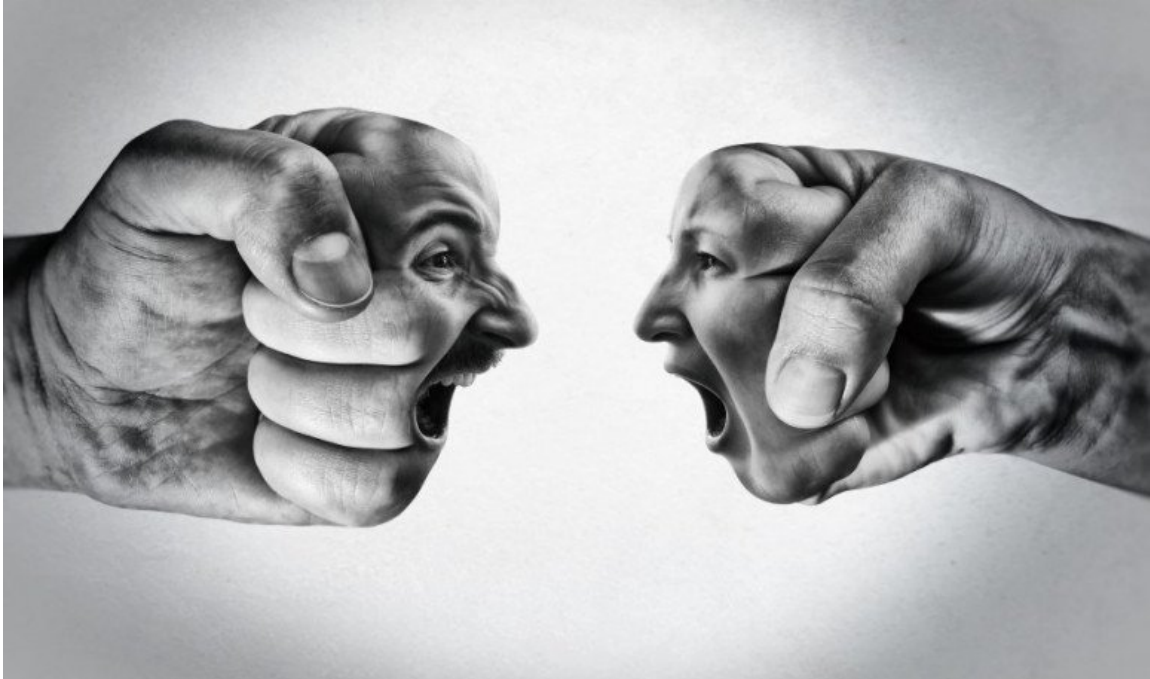

1. Humans are violent by nature. How do you think our ancestors would have survived if they hadn't been aggressive? Violence is an inherited survival response against danger. But when did that danger become a way of satisfaction?

Many people try to answer this question, though very few find a satisfactory one. However, it is quite simple. Violence became deeply satisfying when societies had to find a way to release their own pain and frustrations, so they felt better about themselves. People realized that seeing others suffering made them feel less miserable and their insignificant lives made then some sort of sense.

So violence emerged as an inherited response against society's own problems. The act of violence lies in the need of releasing frustration, not just the mere act of defense. That's why removing that satisfaction just makes the action hollow, senseless. How is the act of kicking someone going to make sense if it is not relieving emotions such as anger or hatred?

The problem comes when that act becomes a habit, so every time you commit it, you need to do it more and more frequently or intensely, so to avoid the act becoming hollow again. It gets more and more violent until the person gets no satisfaction from his acts and life stops making sense. That dissatisfaction can become even more dangerous than the violent act itself.

So, are we less humans if we are violent? Or being violent is something we are born with? I consider being violent as something natural, but turning that violence against others is just miserable and makes us less human, less conscious beings. We shouldn't let our emotions overcome our rational side. But, as Hobbs said, "Men's natural state is to follow the lead of their passions"

Paula González 1º Bach

2. More often than not, we come across articles on newspapers where an act of violence is narrated. Sadly, many people nowadays use it to solve conflicts or to claim justice. However, is it right?

Communication is essential when it comes to social relationships. A dispute can be solved by talking, discussing, and there is no need for anyone to take justice into his or her own hands. Nevertheless, many people tend to reject the idea of having a conversation, and opt to fight, using physical and psychological violence. Frequently, these people who decide to act violently get a lot of satisfaction out of it. However, how long does this satisfaction last?

To me, solving a conflict in a violent way, shows a lack of wisdom. As I see it, words are the best weapon to solve problems and only those who are mature enough to have a proper conversation are aware of the fact that whereas the satisfaction of punching someone is limited, the ability of winning "wars" with words is forever.

Having said that, I find people who try to solve a conflict by holding a dialogue much braver than those who believe that threatening the opponent by showing some sort of violence is the best way to settle disputes. Just as the quote says, *once the satisfaction removed, the act becomes hollow...* and immoral. If all of us acted in a violent way to work out disagreements our society would be a horrible place to live, and every value and ideal which make us truly humans wouldn't exist.

To conclude, I believe that it's extremely important to think twice before using violence, even the most violent person in the world was once a peaceful one. We shouldn't allow any situation, dispute or difference turn us into the wrong person.

Julia Calonge 1º Bach