

Plight of a Parent – Fear

*It seems that I'm not the only one afraid; yes, fear has been induced in the children.
This "fear" is one of those Devices that I wrote about in the previous letter.*

- Kirk Rainer, a dad of four children

This forth and final letter of this series is written as the only means presently to show the extent and which one parent will go to be Father against a prevailing stigma or profile that perpetrates fear. Again, the letter is not formatted or structured to legal standards – because I am not a legal representative – but only a dad who has tried desperately to have some semblance of relationship with his children. I have titled this letter, *Plight of a Parent – Fear*.

Fear is a very real and underlying theme of my long term alienation from my children. This word was in the Charging Affidavit – or the document used to initiate my arrest; and has since become the subject of my story, *A Season of Fear*, as well as this final letter to the courts.

On the possibility of some parallel, the image that comes to mind is one of those windshield sun visors (or other labeling) that read “No Fear”. Does the label suggest that the driver or wearer does not fear anything – or does it mean that the observer is not to fear them? Maybe you know the real meaning to the label – but maybe not.

Before I present the content or confession of Charging Affidavit, let me say that my purpose in this series has been to address the *Plight of a Parent* in an objective way – or using actual or referenced evidence with some liberty to express my opinion on consideration and concern from the reader. Central to that purpose has been the perceived need of both parents in my children’s lives – ideally working together rather than extremes as has been the described case. Such a purpose might seem impossible considering it takes two – just as marriage – to make it work; but aside from all the past and present obstacles, the perceived need remains of highest priority to me.

Leading to an excerpt (and the essence) from the content or confession, let me offer some background: in 2006, I sent two cards addressed to Ben and Brian-Wesley, my youngest children – but the cards actually addressed their mother with personal thanks for her care of them. Copies of the cards’ content are provided for your perusal. This is the only such confession (as far as I know) leading to my arrest, jail, Florida’s Baker Act, and the present status of a warrant for my arrest.

In the Charging Affidavit, an excerpt from the content or confession:

Upon reading the letters, I am once again in fear of this man. The letters have some kind of religious references, they do not make any sense, they are disturbing, they are written in bold black marker all capital letters – they appear very strange. Mr. Rainer has been ordered by Judge Tygart to undergo a psychological evaluation. He has not done that...

There is more to the confession, but let me address each given statement below – leaving the subject of fear for last of this letter.

First, “the letters have some kind of religious references”. Yes, the letters do have some religious references; but more specifically, the references are scriptural or Biblical and, as a matter of personal knowledge, the references are well-known to be Biblical...and not vaguely religious. I believe the intent in the description was aimed as suggesting or implying some religious fanaticism bordering-on deranged despotism – neither of which was my intent nor is my disposition. Biblical references were used because I thought that the recipient would understand and accept such language as intended with well meaning and thankfulness.

Second, “...they are written in bold black marker all capital letters – they appear to be very strange.” Yes, they are written in uppercase letters because I always print in upper case; yes, they were written with a felt-tip marker; no, the content was not intended to be strange but to a first-step at trying to bring reconciliation to this family through affirming recognition of my children’s mother.

Third, “Mr. Rainer has been ordered by Judge Tygart to undergo a psychological evaluation. “ I addressed this comment in a previous letter of this series, but to repeat: the confession fails to acknowledge that the psychological evaluation (or more accurately, Parental Fitness Evaluation) was performed in 2003 per the order of the Judge. So in other words, the confession is not presenting the truth – yet was likely the impetus for the District Attorney’s decision to order Florida’s Baker Act. Now, let me continue on with the central matter of fear.

What would drive such a confession so that Biblical references are simply religious, that bold letters are strange, and that psychological evaluations – or more accurately, allegations of mental or emotional problems – take precedence and remain at-large over the court-ordered evaluations of professional physicians, past and present? The answer to the question or questions, and the motive behind it, is fear.

When I saw my children this last year, the most prevailing image that I could assign to each and all was fear. These children have been well indoctrinated in such

emotions and conditions, with the object or objects being myself and any member of my family – or my children’s paternal family. They have been lead – as I have observed or witnessed – to run away, to hang-up the phone, and to otherwise avert any contact or communication with me, with us. In one observance, my oldest told his grandfather that if his sister new of my grandfather’s presence, she would tell their mother and I (their father) would go to jail. What would cause a child or young person to express – and to live with – the possibility if not certainty that his father would go to jail under such conditions? The answer to the question, and the motive behind it, is fear.

I think about the early years: my presence at births, my care for my babies, my participation as a parent, and my love that has not faltered through all the years. I think about all the times my parents came to visit – and to take in their care – my children; the crafts that my mother made with them and for them; the events that my parents participated and paid; and the favor that they and other family granted in their fellowship and acceptance. I think of the surgeries, the sleepless nights, and the sacrifices that were made as the responsibility of parents and the hospitality of grandparents and other family. In this thought or thoughts is the tragic realization that these children – my children – have been taught to fear me, to fear us. Why have they been taught to be “in fear of this man” – or more generally, to fear us?

I cannot question or comment on the confession, or the statement “...I am once again in fear of this man”; except to say that I do not have any reason or basis to believe the statement in view of the confession as a whole. As I write about in *A Season of Fear*, the confession is simply “blowing smoke” – to include the central concern of personal fear. As yet another device (as defined earlier in this series), the confession is written under the influence of fear – but not “in fear of this man” – but in fear of the truth!

Should these children – my children – ever discover that their fears were for naught, what would they do? To answer that question accurately is not possible; but ideally, the children (as adults) would try to understand, to forgive (us), and to accept our forgiveness and warranted redress. Such an ideal outcome would be more possible now than at any other time in the children’s lives – simply because age can bring resentment and bitterness. Delay and disregard for truth will leave a legacy and generational curse on undeserving children: that those whom they most-trusted can not be trusted and therefore, no one or nothing can be trusted; at the risk of inheriting distrust – rather than a desirable trust - my children need to know that they are loved by

both us. Not in words which are “blowing smoke”, but in our actions both with and toward our children.

To live in fear – whether directed toward a parent or any other thing – is not healthy – as religious (or should I say Biblical) references instruct again and again. If our purpose as parents is to raise our children in the nurture and instruction of the Lord, such fear has no place or is without legitimacy. As a parent, I question the very practice of this form of fear, regardless of the view and interests of the courts; and have the foresight to know that injunctions, confessions and all the other devices will mean nothing to my children – they just want to be loved as they deserve to be, both now and beyond.

I stand ready to be parent to my children – not because of any qualification – but because of my responsibility and right to be so. Recent attempts to interject this position have failed – not because of the meaning or method – but because of the use of fear to subvert truth and to control and manipulate both the powerless children and the powerful courts. Children grow-up and courts go-on; and I stand ready with the borrowed label, caption on the sun visor, and firm belief that we should have “No Fear”.