

Due date: Saturday, 9 October 2010, 09:10 PM

Last edited: Saturday, 9 October 2010, 12:37 PM (1000 words)

Part 1

The one story in part 1 of the Appy book that caught my attention the most was Tran Thi Gung. This story caught my attention because, in my opinion, she had no remorse. She held no ill feelings toward taking another's life. The other part of her story that made my heart sink and evoke anger was when she recalled shooting her first American, she speaks of him falling and his friends rushing to his aid, how "They held his body and cried." As I read this my heart sank, continuing on she says, "From then on we knew that if we just shot one American soldier others would rush to him and then we could shoot many more." This made me angry, angry because they used the compassion the soldiers had for one another against them. It makes me sad and disgusted to see the lack of humanness that I thought we all had.

I believe what she says. I have no doubt that such ugly things happened in such a terrible war. I may have strong feelings come up because of what she said but I am no one to judge. I have never been in a war and have never had to be in her position; to me she has great creditability because she was there. I don't think many could forget such traumatic events. I don't think even small details would be forgotten. I do think she could be slightly subjective because she chose to be on a side and she would be biased toward that side. However, I think that is easy to understand and I can feel my own biases arise as I read these stories.

Part 2

The one story in part 2 of the Appy book that disappointed me the most was Malcolm Browne. His story had many things in it that really bothered me and I found disappointing. War is hard to understand, but the events in his story are especially hard for me to comprehend. He starts his story talking about a town called Dam Doi where the Viet Cong were constantly massacring people there. One of the times that he went there to report on one of these massacres he describes the bloody display that was left for them to find. "The Viet Cong had taken twelve or thirteen of the people they'd executed and laid them out like the spokes of a wheel around a flagpole and on the flagpole they had raised the red, yellow, and blue Viet Cong flag." This made me upset, they massacre these people and then go as far as to make a bloody

display with the bodies. Where is their humanity? How far do they really need to take it just to make a point?

He continues his story with the torture the Viet Cong put their prisoners through, such as sending electric pulses to a man's genitals. I can't believe they could be so cruel and do such things to another human, but then again what have they done that shows they have any compassion at all? It's like they have no feelings, no emotions. Then Browne speaks of the most traumatic event of his story. The Monks and Buddhists don't want to be under the Diem power and they have been fighting for freedom. When they aren't heard they are forced to make the ultimate sacrifice in order to get their point across. A monk sits in the middle of the street and lights himself on fire, burning himself to death. Browne recalls that, "You could see the agony in his expression, but he never cried out." How powerful of this monk to make such a sacrifice and yet I ask myself why? Why did it have to come to the point where someone felt they had to take their own life in a public place just to get some recognition? As I read this, I literally felt sick to my stomach with trying to think about what these people were feeling. Then I was back to feeling irritated when Browne spoke about how everyone tried to start censoring what was put in the news. How he was beaten with bricks and his cameras were destroyed because they didn't want him spreading the truth about what was really going on. They went so far as to charge him with attacking the police, when in reality it was the police that done the attacking. It would be so frustrating to have been trying to relay truth and everyone was trying to stop you.

Although there was so much negative for me in this story, I found hope in knowing that Browne tried his hardest and did his best to let the world know the truth. He did all that he could to show the true colors of the war, show people what was really going on. He had compassion. He had compassion for the troops, monks, and the Vietnamese. The lesson learned is that you cannot believe everything you seen in the news. It is usually bias and censored; it probably isn't even how the journalist wrote it. Truth is an ugly thing sometimes, and there are some people who will go out of their way to try to stop you from spreading it, but you have to always try to do what is right. Another lesson learned in this story is that not everyone is the enemy. He is one of the people who didn't approach everyone as an enemy. He listened to people and made up his own mind about them, he didn't just judge them by race. I think a journalist is a powerful person to listen to about the war because they haven't had it drilled into their head that there is an enemy. They have compelling observations. I found Browne's story moving and haunting, it was a powerful read.

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