

## **Crying Over a Dead Ape - Ron Stullenbarger -**

A terrifying scene unfolded at the Cincinnati Zoo on May 28. A 4-year-old boy tumbled into an animal exhibit occupied by a giant 400 pound gorilla named Harambe. Zoo officials and law enforcement officers determined that they had to shoot and kill the gorilla in order to save the boy's life. The animal died quickly. The boy was rushed to a hospital where he was treated for non-life threatening injuries. A happy ending to what could have been a terrible, tragic story.

But the priorities of the zoo workers and police officers on the scene are not shared by everyone. We are living in the days of neo-paganism where thousands of depraved souls seem only capable of mustering compassion for wild beasts. As for human beings, they feel only contempt and indifference.

Starting almost immediately, we've been treated to another round of *"national outrage."* People have been creating petitions and venting their seething rage on social media. A Facebook memorial page was immediately created, with a picture of Harambe accompanied by the caption, *"I was someone, and my life mattered."* Heartbroken citizens planned a candlelight vigil. Others left flowers at a statue of the beast, borrowing a page from the pagan animal worshipers of ancient times. Some protested outside the zoo, claiming the gorilla should not have been shot. But zoo officials called the decision to use lethal force a tough but necessary choice. They explained that a tranquilizer would take several minutes to work, and during that time the animal would be even more agitated, further endangering the boy's life. But that's a risk worth taking, according to a lot of people.

More than 2,000 people signed a petition on Change.org that sharply criticized the Cincinnati Police Department and the zoo for putting down the animal and called for the child's parents to be *"held accountable for their actions of not supervising their child."* A Facebook page titled *"Justice for Harambe"* had more than 3,000 likes by Sunday afternoon,

Others have been blunter. If you make the mistake of reading the reactions on Twitter or in the comments section under articles about this incident, you'll find that a good number of people think this should have been settled by *"survival of the fittest."* Let the preschooler and the quarter ton beast work it out between them! If that means a child is ripped apart, so be it! A guy on Twitter wished that humanity would become extinct so that gorillas and other creatures could finally reign in peace. His comment received almost 1,000 *"likes"* in the space of one hour. In my opinion, only a person with contemptible, perverse values would, even for a moment, question the decision made by the police and the zoo. And anyone who struggles with it is disturbed on a deep, spiritual level.

Think about this: On May 28, while the media obsessed over an ape and thousands of people cried that they will *"miss"* a zoo animal they didn't even know existed on Friday, there was about 125,000 abortions (murders). On a daily basis, a group of human beings twice the population of Wheeling and St. Clairsville combined are systematically exterminated! None of them are given a name, and there will be no candlelight vigils for any of these victims!

The outrage over the death of a jungle beast is far more typical than we would like to think. And this was a beast directly threatening the life of a child. One can only imagine how most Americans would react if a demented zookeeper decided to abort a baby gorilla by dismembering it and crushing its skull.

These are the consequences when a culture severs itself from reality and rejects values that are rooted in a love of God and recognition of moral absolutes. It doesn't take long before a large percentage of this kind of lost and detached culture plunges into barbarism, paganism, and insanity.