

Raiders

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A raider comes and takes all that is of value, including our homes, our shelters, our belongings, our history, our cherished family values, food and nourishment, and even our people. And then they say that place is barren and no longer worthy of value, that it was full of wicked people, disturbed, sick, and frail, that they burned what was left, and that the people had no spirit.

Yet the people who were raided, full of spirit and soul, despite being hollowed and left malnourished, find their way back to the light and heart through their families' love, the peace of their culture, and their ability to remember as well as dream. This is what a raider does, and a family succeeds through resilience, through memory, and through courageous hearts.

It is not a raider's courage that drives them to seek the goods, values, and spirit of others, but rather their lack of bravery and soul. It is their wickedness, their cursedness, and their hollowness that lead them to prey on the spirit and livelihood of others. And while their bellies and homes may be full following a raid, still their heart is empty, and still karma returns.

A raider does not believe in karma, and he will tell you this as well, for he believes he is entitled, invincible, and aligned with His God. Yet it is in his coldness, his dispassion, his laziness, his narcissism, and his wickedness that God forgets him. He may feel blessed after the raid, for he is nourished, clothed, and sheltered by the labors of another, yet he forgot God, and God forgets him also.

For the partnership with God requires a relationship, it requires us to have love and peace, to have heart and soul. And while we may not always be aligned, God knows our hearts. God will not nourish a forsaken heart in the same way He nourishes a spirited and good heart. This is the karma of life.

And so to the raiders of the past and the raiders of the present, let it be known and remembered that God chooses us by spirit and by heart, not by how much we achieve by stealing from the spirits of others, but by the reflection of God, of our reflection of God, which is shown through giving, heart, and building loving and spirited community.