



Straight Talk

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Final Scene of Tragic Morality Play

22 March, 2005

Greetings, Gentle Reader,

Terri Schiavo's food and water tube has been removed, again. Judges who take children from parents on little more than a rumor seem uninterested in keeping her husband from killing his unwanted wife.

If this woman were on life support; if she were brain dead; if her husband hadn't waited seven years before reporting she said she wouldn't want to live this way; if independent neurologists had concurred that she is in a persistent vegetative state, rather than aggressively contesting that diagnosis and insisting she is capable of great improvement with therapy, then pulling a life support plug would be logical.

She isn't on life support. She is as alive as our returning, quadriplegic soldiers, many of whom must be cared for much like babies. We care for both completely, and wouldn't let them be taken off food or water, even if their parents were to decide they wanted them dead. We would call that murder and charge them criminally.

Her husband hasn't permitted her to have needed therapy to make her functional, nor divorced her so he could marry the woman with whom he has shackled for years, and by whom he has fathered two children. He hasn't allowed her loving family to take responsibility for her, though they have begged both him and the courts to do so.

"Professionals" repeatedly tell newsmen that her upper-brain has been destroyed and replaced by spinal fluid, but her husband has forbidden tests needed to verify or refute such diagnoses.

The courts say they must abide by her husband's desires. They don't, of course. They can do anything they want, as activist judges have shown us in recent years, but it sounds so very noble.

How did we get here? Americans used to revere life. We used to put millions of dollars toward growing more and better foods, worldwide, because they were needed by the world's growing population. We graduated many scientists

who worked to feed the world's unfortunates.

In the 1990s that all changed. We had a new administration with a different outlook on life. Feeding the world's hungry ceased to be a priority. Reducing the world's population became the goal. So, Americans' money stopped going toward feeding and began going toward killing. That's how and when we arrogated to our judges the power to decide which innocents are worthy of life and which are not worth the bother and expense. So, now our laws, and especially our judges, tell us murderers are worth every effort and expense, and innocent, but severely handicapped, people are not.

At this writing, Terri Schiavo's food and water tube hasn't been reinserted. Since the judge who ordered it removed also ordered that she be given no water by mouth, she is well on her way to dying by dehydration.

Additionally, a young Minnesota boy has shot and killed at least 10, including himself, and injured more than that at his school. The lawyers who express horror over the heroic efforts being expended to save an innocent woman, a woman who has had no exams since 1993, would have willingly defended him. Had he not killed himself, he would have been in the court system for decades. He would be tested by every professional known to modern America. Every appeal would be exhausted, then he would be imprisoned for life for mass murder. Maybe. His potential fate would cause great heart-burnings in the legal community. Why? Because he killed many mostly innocent people.

Terri Schiavo, innocent of intent to harm or cause pain, has been denied all this, because her husband wants her dead, and the courts are determined to carry out his wishes. The only heart-burning they suffer is over the length of time it is taking to kill her.