

Tearing down of statues has always been offensive to me. Not only because it is a piece of art but also because it is a part of history. As it is the topic for today's service, I started doing some investigation. I came upon an article from the New York Times from June of this year, written by Jonah Engel Bromwich. In this article he interviewed the art historian Erin L. Thompson, a professor at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice. Professor Thompson has spent her career thinking about what it means when people deliberately destroy icons of cultural heritage.

In this article she points out that knocking down statues has been a form of rebellion since 2700 BC. We have as humans been making monuments to glorify people and ideas since we started making art, and since we started making statues, other people have started tearing them down.

The ancient Greeks made their major monuments out of bronze. Hardly any of these survived because as soon as regimes changed, as soon as there was war, as soon as someone could steal the statue, it got melted down and made into money or cannon balls or a statue of somebody else.

She also pointed out a couple of journalists for the Smithsonian magazine in 2018 did an investigation and found that in the previous ten years, taxpayers spent at least 40 million dollars preserving Confederate monuments and sites.

“The current attacks on statues are a sign that what's in question is not just our future but our past, I think, as a nation, as a society, as a world. These attacks show how deeply white supremacy is rooted in our national structure — that we need to question everything about the

way we understand the world, even the past, in order to get to a better future.”

My fear for the future is we as a planet have not studied hard or long enough to not repeat the same mistakes. We have already seen the hatred created by our current President create mobs of angry people on both sides of important issues. Even in the year 2020 it feels as though we have learned nothing.

As I watch the past slip, fall, get torn down and thrown away I pray for a better tomorrow. I have endless hope we **can** learn and **can** build better institutions to support our cities, states, country and planet. Let's redesign those things that no longer serve our needs the way they did at one time. I feel an excitement I haven't felt in 4 years.

In the words of Stephen Sondheim....

Could it be? Yes, it could.

Something's coming, something good,

If I can wait!

Something's coming, I don't know what it is,

But it is

Gonna be great!