

“How are the children?”

Among the most accomplished and fabled tribes of Africa, no tribe was considered to have warriors more fearsome or more intelligent than the mighty Masai.

It is perhaps surprising then to learn the traditional greeting that passed between Masai warriors translates to “how are the children?”

It is still the traditional greeting among the Masai, acknowledging the high value that the Masai always place on the children’s well-being.

Even warriors with no children of their own would always give the traditional answer “All the children are well.”

Meaning that peace and safety prevail, that the priorities of protecting the young, the powerless are in place and that Masai society has not forgotten its reason for being, its proper function and responsibility.

“All the children are well” means that life is good.

It means that the daily struggles of existence, even among the poor people do not preclude proper caring for its young.”

I wonder how it might affect our consciousness of our own children’s welfare if in our culture we took to greeting each other with this same daily question “ how are the children?”

What would happen if we heard that question and passed it along to each other dozens of times a day?

Would it begin to make a difference in the reality of how children are thought of or cared for in this country?

What would it be like if the President at every press conference or at every public appearance was asked the question, “And how are the children, Mr. President?”

If every governor and legislators from every state had to answer the same question at every press conference or appearance.

“And how are the children? Are they all well?”

Wouldn’t it be interesting to hear their answers?

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