

GROUND ZERO

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CNN video clip with the plane crashing into the second tower was almost surreal. But going to the site and seeing Ground Zero for myself actually confirmed the barbarism of the whole event. While walking away from the site, we passed by the wall with all the homemade posters and notices as well as remembrances of the missing persons. It was a sight that almost made my tears flow.

It has been almost two months since that fateful day. So far, the persons responsible for this cold-blooded destruction have managed to get away with it. Meanwhile, the Age of Paranoia has set in. The silver lining, however, has been shown through the reawakening of a fervent American patriotism, the display of civic pride, the concern and generosity of seemingly jaded New Yorkers, the superior quality of American efficiency, and the New Yorker's resilient spirit. Personally, however, this event seems to call for forces beyond the human in order to battle the destruction and evil that has been opened up like a Pandora's box. Is it a reminder from above that we have a spiritual nature that needs tending? Our senior citizens who have experienced the previous World War probably have a sense of foreboding from this event, of which baby-boomers, the younger generation and we don't have an inkling. Although life goes on and we try to go on with our lives as before, we all know that now, life will never be as innocent and carefree as pre-Ground Zero days.

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Many thanks to all who contributed!

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VIEWS ON SEPTEMBER 11TH

Rory:

I think it effected a major change in the world, especially in how people will now view world peace. It seems like it will be a long time in coming. I just hope that this doesn't graduate to a third World War. Things in life seem more uncertain, I feel like it's a little harder to plan for long term. That's why having Faith is really important.

Popoy:

The Twin Towers World Trade Center were so high, massive structures that could never crumble. My imagination was wrong again, I just cannot imagine. I am in disbelief, the same disbelief as when I saw what was left in my mutual funds. I just cannot imagine. I see my picture before and I see my picture now and again, I just cannot imagine, how much hair I have lost. On the brighter side, better to have pictures and memories than no picture or memories at all. With this I count my blessings.

Nonon:

I was on the school playground with my class, when a teacher who was just coming in reported to us the shocking and tragic event. After feeling disbelief, a few thoughts quickly ran through my mind: how life can be gone in an instant--as Jesus said, no one knows the day nor the hour. I thought of how many years it took to plan and build the twin towers, but they were gone in an instant. I thought of how we always believed this country to be a superpower--wrong, only God is invincible.

Mitos:

We were in Manhattan four days after the attack. The city was a ghost town and it felt so eerie. We couldn't get ourselves to go to Ground Zero. It just didn't feel right to go there to gawk. I'll never forget the sight of the people gathered in Union Square holding leaflets with pictures of their loved ones saying "Missing" or "Have You Seen..." It was a cemetery without tombstones, just people of all faiths gathered together with candles, flowers...quietly waiting and still hoping.

LL



Left: Who would have thought? Popoy, Mitos, Malu, and Rory with the World Trade Center in the background, 1987.

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