



Joel

Things Could be Worse

Joel 1:15-2:11



Woe because of that day! For the Day of the LORD is near and will come as devastation from the Almighty. Hasn't the food been cut off before our eyes, joy and gladness from the house of our God? The seeds lie shriveled in their casings. The storehouses are in ruin, and the granaries are broken down, because the grain has withered away.

How the animals groan! The herds of cattle wander in confusion since they have no pasture. Even the flocks of sheep suffer punishment. I call to You, LORD, for fire has consumed the pastures of the wilderness, and flames have devoured all the trees of the countryside. Even the wild animals cry out to You, for the river beds are dried up, and fire

has consumed the pastures of the wilderness.

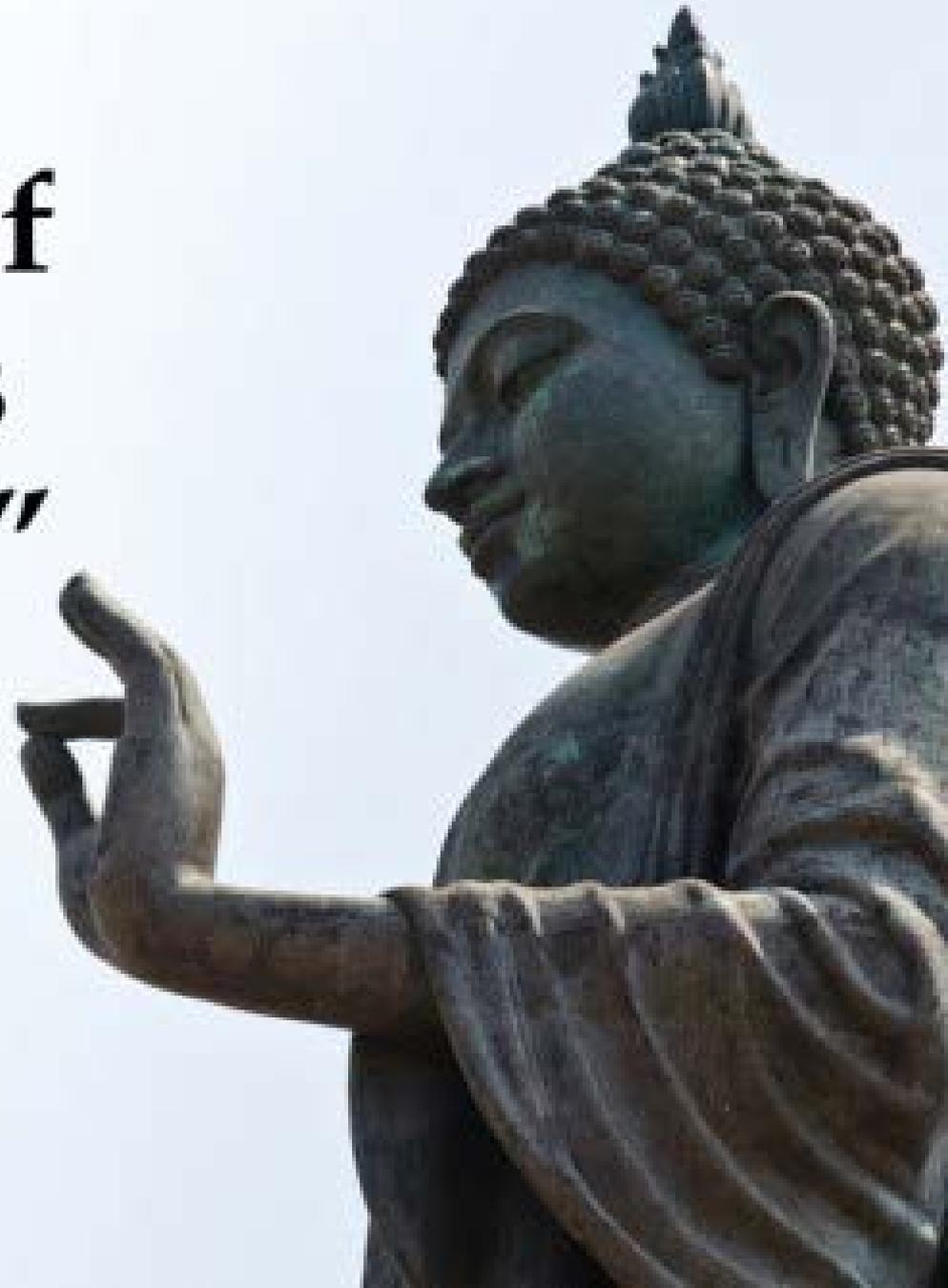
When an Act of God is an Act of God

Why suffering?



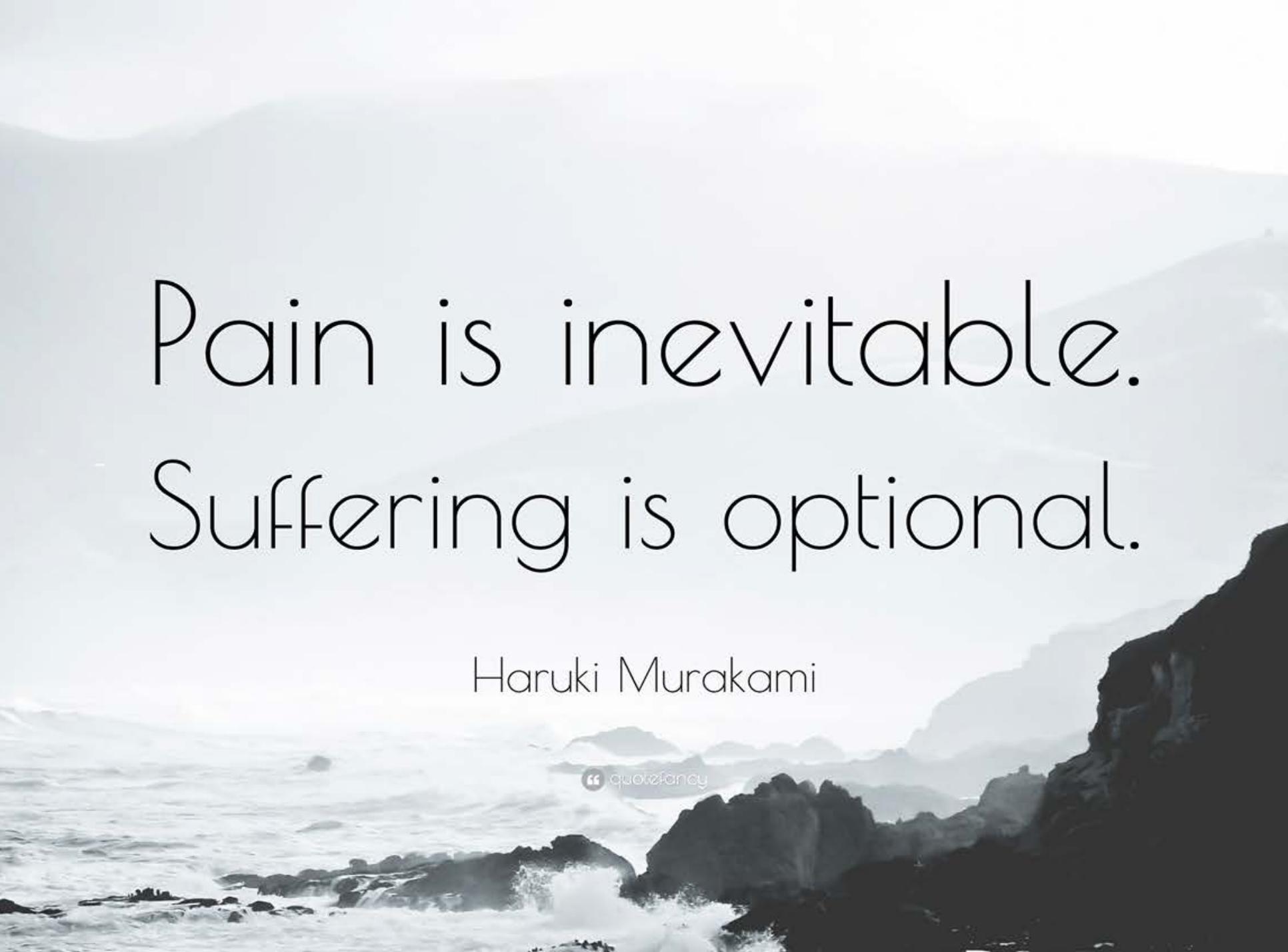
**“The root of
suffering is
attachment”**

The Buddha



“Suffering occurs when
your ideas about how
things ought to be don't
match how they really
are.”

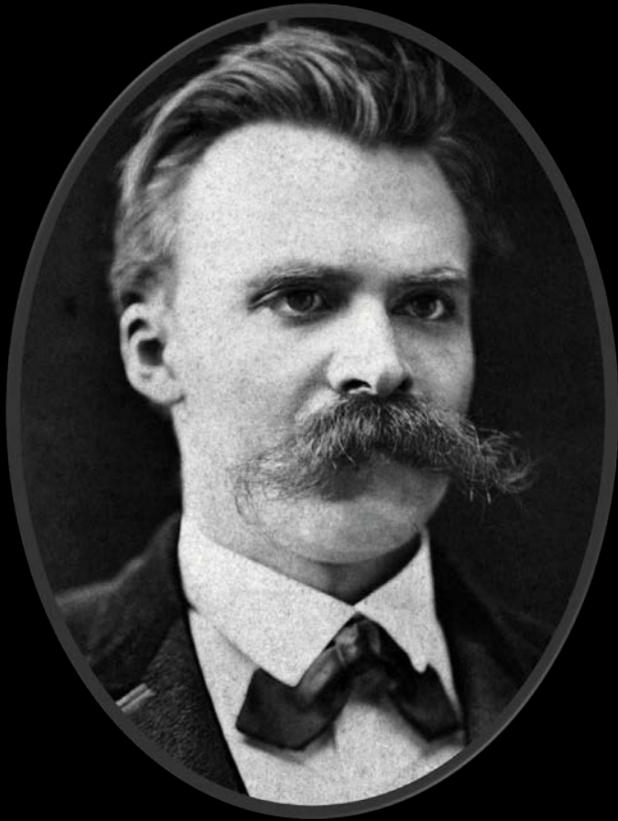
~ Brad Warner ~



Pain is inevitable.
Suffering is optional.

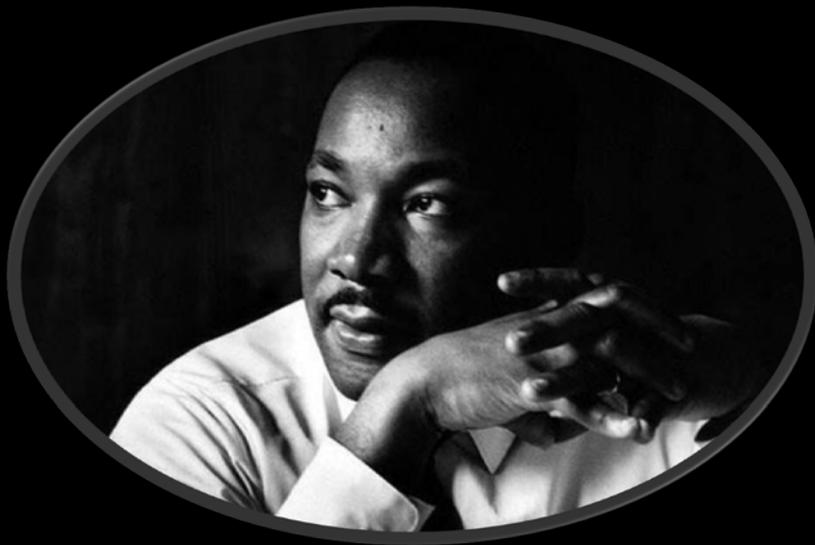
Haruki Murakami

“quartzfancy”



To live is to suffer, to survive
is to find some meaning in
the suffering.

-Friedrich Nietzsche



Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable... Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals.

—Martin Luther King Jr.



When Jesus heard about it (*the death of John the Baptist*), He withdrew from there by boat to a remote place to be alone. When the crowds heard this, they followed Him on foot from the towns. As He stepped ashore, He saw a huge crowd, felt compassion for them, and healed their sick. –Matthew 14:13-14

When an Act of God is an Act of God

Why suffering?

Possible Reasons:

Abuse of Free-will

- **By ourselves**
- **By others**

Divine indifference or Judgment

Blow the horn in Zion; sound the alarm on My holy mountain! Let all the residents of the land tremble, for the Day of the LORD is coming; in fact, it is near— a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and dense overcast, like the dawn spreading over the mountains; a great and strong people appears, such as never existed in ages past and never will again in all

the generations to come. A fire destroys in front of them, and behind them a flame devours. The land in front of them is like the Garden of Eden, but behind them, it is like a desert wasteland; there is no escape from them. Their appearance is like that of horses, and they gallop like war horses. They bound on the tops of the mountains. Their sound is like

the sound of chariots, like the sound of fiery flames consuming stubble, like a mighty army deployed for war. Nations writhe in horror before them; all faces turn pale. They attack as warriors attack; they scale walls as men of war do. Each goes on his own path, and they do not change their course. They do not push each other; each man proceeds on his own path.

They dodge the missiles, never stopping. They storm the city; they run on the wall; they climb into the houses; they enter through the windows like thieves. The earth quakes before them; the sky shakes. The sun and moon grow dark, and the stars cease their shining. The LORD raises His voice in the presence of His army. His camp is very large; Those who carry

out His command are powerful. Indeed, the
Day of the LORD is terrible and dreadful—

WHO CAN ENDURE IT?

Issuing a Storm Warning

A warning goes out (v.1)

The Day of the Lord is not a good thing (v.2)

Between God & an all-consuming fire (v.3)

**His army of judgment is relentless & utterly
destructive (v.4-11)**

Who can endure it? (v.11)

God's Response

Jesus came to suffer

Jesus endured unmerited suffering

Jesus came because we were suffering

What About You?

Can you diagnosis why suffering is happening?

Can you endure it?