

Live By The Sword....

The officer on the phone told me that they had a stab victim in an alley that I needed to send the investigator to... okay... nothing unusual about that. Then the officer told me that they found the sword lying close to the body.

"Excuse me?" I said, not certain that I had heard him right.

Yes, he told me the weapon used was, in fact, a sword.

'You mean as in Pirates, Musketeers and swashbuckling kinda sword?'

Again, he confirmed my hearing affirmatively.

As the story unwound, it turned out that these two gents got into a bit of a spat over a bottle of booze - the survivor claiming that the victim was not sharing the bottle fairly. After a heated discussion, the man pulled his sword and ended the conflict with one swift blow.

This story not only was pathetic, but was certainly a new one for me. Oh I've had many street people, married couples, friends, lovers and strangers end discussions by stabbing one another. I've seen far too many deaths come at the hands of an open bottle. I've seen people get stabbed by kitchen knives, butcher knives, pieces of metal, plastic, glass and any number of other devices that are close at hand at a moment of anger.

But a SWORD? We're talking about a genuine, 3-4 foot long, stainless steel sword, here. This guy had very little to his name. No address, no job, very little clothing ... he was definitely light-years away from keeping up with the Jones. Yet he kept his prized sword that he says he found, close at hand to protect himself.

It strikes me as a sad state that this man, who had so little in this world, put as his top priority protection from others. A sword to protect his world of have-nots. He could have sold the thing for some food or decent clothing, but he kept it instead to protect himself. And sadder, yet, was that he was willing to use it over a half empty bottle of cheap highs.

The real irony is that by using the sword, he was able to improve his life 1000 % He now has a roof over his head, new clothes to wear and three meals a day. Of course, he'll have to get rid of the sword.