

What is There Left to Say?

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It's another day where victims families mourn and weep
All because another shooting that shouldn't have happened
A pretty much definite hate crime committed by a white man
Against people in a community that is too often fetishized or ignored
8 asian people were killed and victimized and now there are many more hurting and floored
All by that man in Atlanta who for whom excuses and benefits of the doubt are being made
While there are many asian people who are finally getting seen and feeling by the system, played
For they know why this happened, they've dealt with the reason for too many years
And yet there are those in power who'll pussyfoot around it and those who'll sooner side with
their white peers
Over the victims of this tragedy who were out there living full happy lives
Till someone overly entitled and racist simply "had a bad day"
That's what the cops say, it was a porn addiction and a bad day that left him at the end of his rope
But most know better by now
Other people have bad days sometimes entire bad years and still fall down hates' slippery slope
Even if this mass shooter wasn't a racist, which he was let's make that clear
He'd still be a murderer committing a hate crime against women who were a majority of his
victims
As well as just inspiring more fear
A fear that practically all people of color face in one way or another
That fear of getting hurt or killed cause some overzealous white guy with a gun seeing you as the
other
You could say I'm overly generalizing or just exaggerating
But if you actually listen to the people affected by the racism and these murders you'll see it's all
real, very familiar and aggravating
This is a story that's unfortunately all too familiar and has been played out before
The reason why, the perpetrator, the excuses, even who the victims are this has all been done
And sometimes it feels like things will always be this bad and tragedies like this will continue
despite however loud the uproar
For the past year hate crimes against asians have surged and increased
And it took something like what happened yesterday to happen to get people to care
Three Asian businesses, massage parlors were attacked
And now there are eight people with lives brutally and unjustly taken that they will never get
back
What's worse is that it's pretty likely things won't really change
The struggles of Asians will probably conveniently slip through the cracks

BIPOC voices will continue to be glossed over in favor of more comfortable and non challenging ones that don't talk back

I really, really would like to be wrong

But I've seen this macabre song and dance before and it's all so sickeningly wrong

Living in America shouldn't make asians and other people of color constantly afraid of attacks

Attacks caused by the racist, bigoted and entitled

I hope now at least we can examine and dismantle the harmful stereotypes

As well as the institutions that fuel and let the racism and hate slide

It doesn't and shouldn't matter if they were sex workers victim blaming is not a solution

There needs to be acknowledgement and at the very least attempted fixing of the problems asians face

When we do eventually fix those problems and give asians and all people of color for that matter the true respect and opportunity that has been earned and deserved

Then and only then can we properly stop bringing in and talking about race

Until then however for today and hopefully forever check up on and lift the voices of your asian friends

For right now they're probably terrified and hurt while they wait hopefully for justice and maybe even amends