

Jake Mensinger

Immortal

In a post-apocalyptic scene a savior emerges, full of confidence, he stands tall with angels at his side. Is he the hero we need? Will he save us? Or is something amiss, and this is part of what has caused the disaster?

Growing up, Hulk Hogan was my hero. I wore out VHS tapes of him at all of the WrestleManias, and I had all of his action figures, and even a lunchbox with his face on it. He was the perfect example of the good and moral American Hero. When he entered the ring, above the deafening roar of the Hulkamaniacs, his theme music would proclaim:

“I am a real American
Fight for the rights of every man
I am a real American
Fight for what’s right – Fight for your life”

In the ring, he would tell the children at home: “To all my little Hulkamaniacs, say your prayers, don’t do drugs, and take your vitamins, and you will never go wrong.”

He was the hero of the American people. He was my hero.

However, Hulk was revealed to be a less moral person than we believed.

In the years following his prime, we learned that the locker rooms were filled with steroids, pain killers, and cocaine.

In 2012, a sex tape of shows him being cheating with his friend’s wife.

In 2015, recordings of him making racist and homophobic remarks are released, which cause the termination of his wrestling contract with the WWE.

In 2007, Hulk’s son, Nick, crashed his car in an illegal drag race, killing a man. Hogan spent large amounts of money to keep the event out of the media and to keep his son from being jailed. The victim’s family never received any money. This event causes the cancellation of their reality show “Hogan Knows Best”.

Is it better to create a hero, to give people something to believe in, even if it’s dishonest? Or is it always better to always be factual and honest, even if it makes the situation appear so much bleaker?