

## PULLING THE SPLINTERS FROM THE MIND

Reading through *Caught in the Rip* kept bringing to mind some words Morpheus says to Neo in *The Matrix* as he persuades him to search for truth:

'Let me tell you why you are here. It's because you know something. What you know you can't explain but you feel it. You've felt it your entire life. There is something wrong with the world. You don't know what it is but it's there, like a splinter in your mind driving you mad.'

This book is for the Neos – it is for those who are perplexed by the state of the Western world and 'can't explain what they know but they feel it'. Thompson, as Morpheus, takes the reader on a journey that proves to be a devastating critique and exposure of the 'modern assumptions' and 'conventional wisdom' that make up the decision-making process in an increasingly disturbing world. And the searing rationality is not disconnected from reality. Poignantly there is a lifetime of painful personal illustration, which reveals this book was not written in an Ivory Tower – for example the murder of a close family friend and an horrific, unprovoked assault on Thompson's own wife, which nearly killed her.

So what were the splinters in my mind from modern society that were exposed? Well, do you know the difference between legal, social and intellectual tolerance? I have been bullied by a culture that irrationally screamed the word 'tolerance' at me, but as I read Thompson's paragraph I could almost feel a light going on in my head, and the splinter being pulled.

That for me is what makes this book very special; it kept cutting open the culture and lancing the boil of my wrong thinking. Such a process obviously requires hard work and commitment, so on the journey I kept having to stop and think and work. At times I felt like I was with a mental chiropractor, but then deciding not to go with the flow is never easy – just ask Neo or Morpheus.