

The Sacramento Gazette

Reflections of a Gunslinger - Man vs. Myth

Interview with Jared King, by Reporter, Robert Michaels

Thank you for granting this interview, Jared. I know you do so with some reservation. I want to assure you that our readers are very interested in getting to know the man behind the image of the infamous gunman blazing his way through our town.

The image is not something I develop. What began as an unfortunate encounter grew out of others' speculation and imagination rather than any design on my part. I can tell you that no man can live up to the expectations of an image.

You have more than an image of a gunslinger. Aside from the mystery surrounding your profession, your charm has captivated the women in this town based on their reactions when in your company.

I'm sure that is your creative skills talking.

It's envy talking. I don't think I would be exaggerating to say that other men would likely say the same. I've been asked to inquire what guidance you can share.

I am as uncertain as the next man in understanding a woman's mind. I've only followed the teachings of my youth. My parents raised me to respect others, and especially women.

My father instilled in me that women are emotionally stronger than men and deserve to be held in the highest regard. My mother did not argue the point.

Such thinking may shock some men.

Perhaps therein lies the answer to the question for which they seek guidance.

Tell me about your childhood?

I was raised in Mississippi. My parents had a small ranch and, like many, worked long and hard to maintain its productivity. My father made a shrewd decision when he invested in a few horses and began breeding them. It sustained the family in years when the crops didn't produce as anticipated.

Do you think you've turned out the way your parents hoped?

Both my parents passed before my reputation was solidified as a gunfighter. I think my father would have appreciated the irony of the recent turn of events. My mother would have been proud of where I am in my life now.

Over the course of your career, I imagine your skills with your weapon have been challenged. Are you ever able to relax your guard?

My sense of caution certainly heightened as my profession progressed. I attempt to maintain perspective so as not to become jaded. It's a fine balance to maintain.

One final question: Your career has understandably seen you move from one town to the next. Do you feel your lifestyle will allow you to settle to one place and establish a more conventional life?

That has always been my hope. [Grinning] However, settling to one place doesn't coincide with a settled life. I intend to continue to live my life to the fullest extent.

To read more about the legend of Jared King, purchase 'Untamed Hearts'