

Daily Meditation 12/22/21

Father Dominance and Collective Fascism

Good morning.

We continue our meditations and discussion on the topic of fascism today.

I call on the work by Jungian analyst Dr. Anthony Stevens. And he talks about how father dominance plays a very great role in the appeal of fascism, that people want authority, simple answers, so they don't have to make their own minds up. They don't have to learn. They don't have to choose, make choices themselves. It's done by an authoritarian personality, in their name.

And of course, as we certainly have learned, I hope, from tons of Hitler, this is profoundly dangerous, because it explodes the authoritarian's sense of self, of ego, and of power. And things get worse, not better, when more and more people project, their decision-making on to that person and his lackeys and structures that he builds up. Of course, one of the first things that they did was to deconstruct the justice system, the legal system, in Germany, to make way for the path of authoritarianism.

As Stevens points out, such a person admires authority and tends to submit to it, but at the same time, wants to be an authority himself, and have others submit to him. So there's two things going on here. And as he says, as such a person worships the strong and has contempt for the weak, power fascinates him with all the luminosity of a naked archetype.

So these kinds of dynamics are very, very alive today in our culture and around the world. And we have to be reminded of this. And it applies not just to political leaders, but the whole movement of Opus Dei in religion and Catholicism, and the whole movement of evangelical domination. Domineering and patriarchal values are, of course, also alive and well today. And they're feeding this political appeal of authoritarianism and fascism.

Now tomorrow, we're going to turn to much better news, as we get closer to the Christmas event this week. And I'm happy to be sharing a poem I received recently from Leonardo Boff, a Brazilian theologian who is now well along in years, and who's just written a book called *Thoughts and Dreams of an Old Theologian*.

And I'm going to share that poem with you because, in a very short four sentences, it tells a different story of masculinity, a different story of what it means to be a man, and indeed a human being. And that new story is a story from the Christmas story.

So I look forward to that medicine, having spent a couple of days here on the disease of father dominance and collective fascism and on authoritarianism, the unholy masculine that is on the rise today.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.