

Daily Meditation 12/29/2021

Lying vs. Masculinity

Good morning.

I'm continuing our meditations on the opposites of authentic masculinity, beginning here with the theme of lies or untruth; that authentic masculinity stands up to the truth. And with the truth comes justice.

Justice and truth go together. You can't have justice without truth. And you can't have truth without justice. Those who want to tear down justice or ignore it or choose to go into denial, they will wallow in lies and untruths. And it's all of our task, to seek the truth and to work for justice.

So, lies build on lies. And as I point out in the essay, there's a reason why Satan's nickname is Father of Lies. And the whole purpose of the January 6 commission is to get at the truth of what are the facts behind that horrible event that killed several people, that burdened so many hundreds of policemen with nightmares and terrible ramifications, physically and mentally, and that almost destroyed an important project in our democratic process.

And, of course, I say, Thomas Aquinas says that truth and justice go together; they are the proper objects of the heart. And, Stoltenberg, in his book, *The End of Manhood*, says something very parallel.

Justice. "We cannot honor one's own selfhood except through loving justice. Justice, perhaps the most important connection people can have."

Justice is a basis of social cohesion. It's what keeps a body together, a body politic.

Now I referred earlier to a man who is now an ancestor, whom we lost this past week: Malidoma Some. This is his marvelous autobiography, *Of Water and the Spirit: Ritual, Magic and Initiation in the Life of an African Shaman*.

And Malidome Some lived here in America--indeed, in my town of Oakland for many years--after having been raised in his home country of Burkina Faso in West Africa, and raised within that tradition. But he has a note in this book that I think is pertinent to our discussion today.

He says the Dagara people, which are his people, the Dagara believe that truth emanates from the belly. Truth emanates from the belly. Aquinas says it's proper to the heart. But that's the tradition in this African tribe.

"When someone is out of touch with truth, his belly serves only as a place to digest food into stinking excrement."

So, without truth, there's nothing left but the excrement of food. Because the belly is left to *only* eat. And it doesn't eat healthily. It leaves behind a mess, a stink, a stench.

Excrement. That's the tradition among these indigenous peoples of Africa, that if we lack truth, we lack a lock. Our whole digestive system is messed up. The belly itself is not really receiving food with gratitude in a healthy way, but the food immediately turns to excrement without doing its job.

So that's a very vivid way of saying the kind of thing that Hildegard is saying, that Thomas Aquinas is saying, that Stoltenberg is saying, and that Bell Hooks is saying. You cannot lie. You cannot fool justice. You cannot fool truth. And truth will prevail.

This is how we renew society. This is how we renew authentic masculinity.

Authentic masculinity stands up for truth and against lies. Those who wallow in lies, making them and selling them, making lots of money on it, and bringing in lots of power, they are in for some hard times.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.