

Daily Meditation 04-09-22

The Indigenous Surge

Good morning.

We're continuing our meditation on the banner picture that we showed two days ago, and commented on again yesterday. And the title of it is The Indigenous Surge.

That's the title that the photographer gave the picture. And we learned that the indigenous surge was Indian dancers in Canada, leading protesters, marchers of 10,000 people, a lot of people marching, who protested the graves of children found at Canadian residential schools. And the dance took place in Toronto, May 6, last year 2021. And so we learned that this picture is about many things.

And it awakens I think, a lot of beauty, the colors of the costumes and the dimension of dance; and also, it raises this political beauty about helping to render a protest of 10,000 people as something sacred, as prayer. Protest can definitely be prayer. And it often requires prayer, because often it requires courage.

But as I point out, this entire story, from the evil perpetrated by the dominant culture, taking children away from their homes, families, culture and the rest, into special boarding schools, where there was often not only the violence of cutting them off from their language, from their culture, from their parents, and family and siblings, but also there was often physical and even sexual abuse.

That's the dark side, the evil side, but there's also this story of survival. And not just survival, but the beauty, the flourishing that is told in this picture of the indigenous dancing, sacred dancing that is still going on.

As I point out this really is a tale of the Easter event of Good Friday, the suffering that ends with resurrection, with good news. And that's what I see happening so much in the world today: that many indigenous people are tapping more deeply into their roots, their real roots, their culture and other spirituality, in spite of the suffering and the effort by empires to wipe them out. And there's tremendous beauty in this reality and in the story.

It's the ancient story of the Paschal mystery, and of the Passover mystery, the Exodus, the release, the escape from Pharaoh, and there are Pharaohs in all of human history, it seems, at least our recorded history; certainly the history of empires has plenty of pharaohs.

And so the Passover Feast is coming up, and also Ramadan, which has already happened, begun. That too, with its fasting practice and so forth, is a way of raising consciousness.

But I quote Donna Schindler, and her important book about how we get over this soul loss, this trauma. She says,

No sorrow is too great to endure if a story can be told about it. The learning must begin with telling the truth, with telling stories. That's where the healing begins: telling the truth, telling stories.

Now sad to say, there's kind of a backlash we have in our politics today in America, whole states trying to dictate by politicians, not by wise people, what books are allowed for telling the truth. And there are laws being passed at this moment about how telling the truth about slavery has to be eliminated in some states. It's, it's unbelievable.

I'm sure telling the truth about the indigenous history is also too threatening for some of these politicians.

And so here we are up against another evil force, that which wants to repress the truth or deny the truth, above all, not let the new generation, the younger ones, even hear the truth. It's not that different from what's happening in Russia, where the dictator there is controlling all the media. And the result is that the real truth of what Russia itself is doing in another sovereign country is being squelched.

This is no way to heal the human condition.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.