

Daily Meditation 04/19/22

A Personal Story of my Passover/Easter Experience, 2022

Good morning.

In today's meditation, I get quite personal because I apply the season of Passover and Easter, Holy Week, to my personal experience this weekend on the occasion of the memorial service of my brother-in-law, a wonderful man, interesting man, and friend to many, including myself. And needless to say, as that always happens when we go to funerals, or remember those who die, that brings up deep lessons, and deep relationships.

And I'd like to begin with a short poem, part of the poem that my sister, the widow, read to begin the memorial service. And then I'd like to go into the more universal lessons that we've been talking about in our daily meditations and kind of apply them to this particular individual, Buzz Eisenberg, what he did with his life, you might say, what he left behind, those of us he touched.

But my sister quotes a little poem, and I'm not going to read it all, but just the last few lines. She says:

*He loved to laugh, to live, to fight.
He did not go off silently in the night.*

In fact, I learned this weekend that the doctors who were at the funeral, they expected him to die three years ago, they were utterly surprised that he, with Patricia's help, my sister, his wife, went on as long as he did.

He was always the best Buzz he could be--

I have to comment on that line; it is wonderful line that each of us, our job is to be the best whoever we are, the best Buzz or Matthew or whoever that we can be.

...including whispering last words to me...

It's very good, great blessing to die consciously, and with your loved ones around you. And he died with his grandchildren and step-grandchildren around him; spent the last night, stayed up all night being with him, though he was unconscious, then, and even the cat in his household was lying on his chest, throughout the night.

*...including whispering last words to me,
You are the love of my life from the moment we met,
thank you for being my wife. It was beshert.*

And "beshert" in Hebrew means fate, or destiny. So again, I think it was a beautiful death. And I hope and pray that ours are that too, in their own way.

And now to speak to how this moves me and instructs me about some of the lessons that are universal in life and in dying. And I'm calling again on my friend, Thomas Aquinas. And passages from *The Tao of Thomas Aquinas, Fierce Wisdom for Hard Times*. And remember, he says this:

It is a great thing to do miracles. But it is a greater thing to live virtuously.

I love that sentence, so stunning: that a virtuous life is greater than a miracle. Which I guess means it's a miracle, plus... and it makes sense, doesn't it?

Because the opposite of living virtuously is the kind of thing that's going on in Ukraine today, the making of war. And so worth is also an expression of our power, and "virtue" comes from the word for "power" and "manliness," expression of a false kind of power and manliness. And so it is a miracle not to fall into that kind of trap.

And it raises for me the question I raised in the meditation today at the end, that we kind of meditate on what are our strongest virtues and what are we giving to the world through our powers and our opportunities?

Because so much of Buzz's virtue was about joy -- as I say, he was a pied piper for joy: he walked in the room, and the room lit up. And I refer then -- now I'm referring to Thomas Aquinas' statement and chapter in this book:

Joy Is a Human's Noblest Act.

...Joy is a human's noblest act, that my brother-in-law and friend, Buzz Eisenberg was involved with a human's noblest act; he developed it profoundly.

And those are a few of the gifts that I received from my friend and brother-in-law, Buzz, but again, to me this lesson can be elevated to all of our lives, as I asked, "What are your best virtues, and what are those whom you live with? And how can we encourage those and develop them, nurture them, and spread them...and spread them?"

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.