

Daily Meditation 05-10-22

20th-Century Cosmology vs Today's Originalist Supreme Court

Good morning.

In the last few days, we've been coming up for air in our Daily Meditations, sharing stories about motherhood and mothers, and the analogous term that "mother" is, in honor, of course, of Mother's Day. Today we return to this struggle that's going on with the Supreme Court and the issues of originalism.

And in the leaked document from Judge Alito, about Roe vs. Wade, he calls upon a fellow named Sir Matthew Hale, and Sir Matthew Hale did not even live in 1789. He was previous to the Declaration of Independence and Constitution.

But he taught that marital rape was totally legal. And that a man owned a woman's body as it was an extension of his own, and could do with it what he will; therefore, he was incapable of marital rape. Now again, this fellow was invoked by Judge Alito in his draft copy of why Roe v Wade should be overturned.

There was a big witch trial in 1662 that Hale oversaw. And as one scholar has said, "the trial conventions of the day included bonkers stories of toads, vomiting, pins, etc. Both women were widows, and both women were found guilty."

Now this fellow is being invoked by a Supreme Court judge, as some kind of scholar, or rational source on which to build a decision in 2022. He is pointing out that witchcraft is overwhelmingly a matter of the poor and single women, many of whom were widows, that independent women were a serious threat to society because they were not owned by their father or husband. And they could become a satanic force in the community. It was important society step in and control these women.

Now, these laws that were enacted were not just back then; they were applied in the Salem witch trials. And in fact, marital rape was not outlawed completely United States until 1993.

As this scholar who's a professor, PhD, on the era of 1500 to 1700, women's rights and gender, she says that

Women's bodies being legally owned and controlled by men: that is what Alito is referring to in this judicial Draft. He knows many Christian white women are groomed theologically to agree and will vote for this patriarchal control. He knows that white men are disproportionately in charge of these places.

That is, the states to which Alito wants to return the decision making around abortion.

He knows that local churches will have great impact and influence. And most of institutions are controlled by men.

As she says,

He is counting on it. He knows the biggest threat to women are the men in their homes and communities. Women are seen not as independent human beings with their own human rights. In fact, they're seen as incapable of making their own decisions. Men are divinely appointed to rule over women and this is true of ruling over white Christian woman. What about women of color, women of non Christian groups, trans women and trans men?

She says, "the utter disdain towards them is deep, disturbing, incomprehensible and violent."

That would seem to summarize a lot of what's going on and the fact that the state of Mississippi brought forth this document that they're all discussing, and on which they want to kill Roe vs. Wade.

It's so interesting because Mississippi is famous for its lynchings; for its tricks to keep black people from voting, such as guessing at the number of balls in a jar, etc., thus forbidding black people to vote. But Mississippi is also 49th in the country when it comes to health care...49th. And their appeal to the Supreme Court is being welcomed by those who want to kill Roe versus Wade, whereas less than 30% in America want to sustain this killing of Roe versus Wade. It seems very far away from democracy when it comes to the Supreme Court.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.