

Daily Meditation 05/08/2022

Mother's Day 2022: Honoring Four Models of Mothering

Good morning. A blessed Mother's Day to all.

I would like to cite a passage from Rollo May which I have in my book on creativity, page 215, which reinforces my teaching that motherhood is an analogous term that is shared by all of us who are true to our birthing powers, whether we be female or male. That there are many dimensions to mothering, besides the literal experience of mothering.

Says Rollo May: "Creativity must be seen in the work of the scientist, as well as in that of the artist, in the thinker as well as in the aesthetician. And one must not rule out the extent to which it is present in captains of modern technology, as well as any mother's normal relationship with her child."

In other words, mothering is an art form that we do in our work and in our lives, in our daily lives, and our presence on the planet.

And it is a value. Or is it? Is it a value? Since matricide is so prevalent in our time--the killing of the Mother, the Great Mother, Mother Earth--it would seem that maybe we've lost valuing mothering in the broadest sense. Maybe we've sentimentalized mothering and narrowed it down too much under the impact and philosophy of patriarchy.

But I wanted to speak to a third class, if you will, a model of mothering that's happening in our time. And that is, of course, the mothering happening in Ukraine and Poland and all these other countries that are taking in exiles from the war that Putin is raging in Ukraine.

We've all seen these stories on our television sets at night of so many mothers in Ukraine having to make a decision about leaving her husband or partner in order to have a safer life for their child. So wrenching to see repeatedly, over these 60-plus days that this war has been raging, but imagine what it is for those who are making those wrenching decisions. And also, leaving one's own mother who is then currently at a grandmotherly age, leaving them behind because they cannot travel the distances that all that demands for freedom.

So, to honor these mothers and grandmothers for their courage and sacrifice and their devotion to their children and grandchildren. They're willing to pay this horrible price for the sake of the children. And, of course, to honor the fathers and the partners who are also paying a tremendous price to stick around and to carry on the defense against the patriarchal powers of Putin's imagination.

So, there is so much generosity and caring and courage and long-suffering that's avowed in this mothering during wartime. And of course, we want to honor that and remember it and make that a blessing for ourselves that we too may grow in that generosity and in that courage in our own roles as creative citizens facing many issues--moral issues today--that have to do with our own survival and our own growth as a people, as a nation, and as individuals, and as a species.

Thank you, and blessed Mother's Day to us all.