

Daily Meditation 08/08/2022

Speaking of Nothingness: The Supreme Court as a Nothingburger

Good morning.

In today's meditation we're trying to understand more fully the peculiar move by the Supreme Court to throw away a law that was a national law for 49 years allowing abortion--not *encouraging* it, not saying one has to have an abortion--but making a place for abortion when bad things happen, whether it's a rape or incest or a miscarriage or coming miscarriage, or whatever reasons a woman and her physician feel are serious enough to require an abortion.

But the Supreme Court has, I think, lost all credibility by jumping in and simply erasing the previous law and creating this chaos now all over the country, where you actually have laws by some states empowering *anybody*, not even from that state, to hound pregnant women and to gain a bounty by doing so -- a \$10,000 bounty plus court costs.

Putting pregnant women under this kind of scrutiny and sadism, to me, is beyond the pale. And also, going after doctors, completely interfering in the delicate and difficult decisions that women and their doctors often have to make.

Now, I don't know anyone who wants an explosion of abortions, but I also know very few people who want this kind of chasing of pregnant women to be a law of the land. Clearly there's a middle ground and this is certainly what the Kansas voters decided on this past week. Even in Kansas, a very red state, a large majority in essence said, 'We don't want government making these personal decisions for us.'

Women do not need a government--that is to say, politicians and judges and certain clerical persons--to make judgments about their bodies, about their futures. It's simply wrong. One wonders where it comes from.

And Erich Fromm, the great psychologist, says that the authoritarian character wants to control others. He says, "Sadism is a transformation of impotence into the experience of omnipotence. It is a religion of psychical cripples."

A religion of psychical cripples. Say it again. The religion of psychical cripples.

Because this move by the Supreme Court is, of course, highly political, because one party has been making a very big thing of it for many decades. But it's also a movement by a court which is supposed to

be a little more neutral than, well, politicians are. But this particular court is highly, highly religious in a very narrow sense of that term, that is to say they represent one tradition and not the majority in that tradition, but a very small minority in that tradition.

"Transformation of impotence into the experience of omnipotence. It is a religion of psychical cripples." That is what sadism is. And it seems to me that the effects of the Supreme Court decision are clearly evident. And they are sadistic. They are about controlling others and, apparently, deriving satisfaction from that.

Very sad state of affairs.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.