

09-21-22

Gandhi's Wisdom on Sins that Rupture Social Cohesion, continued

Good morning.

Today we are continuing meditations on Gandhi's teachings of the seven social sins that tear about apart society and community. He's very keen on the topic of truth and truth-telling versus lies, which will tear us apart.

And I cite Martin Buber who tells us that only humans make lies, other species do not go out of their way to lie.

Then I point out in my book on *Naming the Unnameable: 89 Wonderful and Useful Names for God, Including the Unnameable God*, that one name for God is "God is truth," and this is 41st name that I provide, on pages 58 and 59.

So Rumi says,

They say you bring the Word of God. Yet all I hear is talk of good and bad, nothing of love, or truth

...nothing of love or truth.

Love and truth transcend even talk on morality. God is the field of truth, where we encounter truth, and truth encounters us. And I bring out in this essay, how the Bhagavad Gita declares that "a world without truth is a world without God and in such a world desire alone will rule"...desire alone will rule. That means autocracy rules, those who have the strongest will to rule, will to power, and of course, can amass the wealth, to have the strongest army. To enforce their will, they will invariably dominate.

But in fact, our search for truth is what study is about, isn't it? And a study is not for ego enhancement, or fame or power alone, but a pure heart: if we bring that to the project of our study, then, that study is a prayer.

Study is our pathway to truth. And this can be the study of anything, the study of creation, of all the beings in creation. David Hart, a theologian from the Eastern Orthodox tradition, says,

In God lies at once the deepest truth of mind, and the most universal truth of existence. And that for this reason, the world can truly be known by us.

So by way of truth seeking, we do come to get to know the world. And in getting to know the world, there's a great beauty that unfolds. This is and therefore, so spiritual. It opens the door to wisdom, because awe is where the new creation story from science becomes so awe-inspiring, the beginning of wisdom. And when we can be awestruck by the beings of nature, whether the macrocosm of the universe, or the microcosm of an insect or a butterfly or caterpillar that turns into a butterfly.

All this wonder is with us on a daily basis, if we're looking for truth, and not busy speaking lies or living in a hypocritical way.

No wonder then Thomas Aquinas says that "truth and justice together --"

truth and justice, and they go together,

"...are the proper objects of the heart, the other path to the divine in this world."

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.