

Daily Meditation 10/01/2022

David Korten's Foreword to *Order of the Sacred Earth*

Good morning.

In today's meditation we consider the foreword to our book, *Order of the Sacred Earth, An Intergenerational Vision of Love and Action*, by David Korten. But in addition to providing a foreword, he also wrote one of the number of essays that are in the book from various people from various angles.

But in the essay called "A New Enlightenment," which begins on page 124, he identifies himself. He says, "My academic degrees are in psychology, business and organization," and it's especially the organization that fascinates him, he says, because this brings him face to face with science and the life sciences.

But he makes the point that the first Enlightenment did a lot of things. It roughly doubled the global human lifespan, unleashed an explosion in human numbers and aggregate consumption, and connected us with the internet, the global web today. But as he points out, the consequences now playing out are

...an extravagant material abundance for the few, material deprivation for the many, and an accelerating depletion of Earth's capacity to support life.

And he thinks that one of the great tragedies in the first Enlightenment was

...the divorce of science and religion, understood as the sense of a sacred living universe, evolving ever closer to complexity, beauty, awareness and possibility.

And he says,

The insights of this narrative draw from indigenous wisdom, the teaching of mystics and religious prophets, the findings of science, the lessons of history, and the insights of daily experience.

And he also says, and this is a real prediction, I think: he says,

The resulting tension between the teachings of religion and of science, as we've known them, plays into the hands of climate deniers...

.... climate deniers...

and political demagogues ready to exploit it for their own ends.

So he says there's an urgent need for the second enlightenment, now emerging, and this second enlightenment recognizes the sacredness of creation and the sacredness of our own species, along with all the others. This, he says, is the greatest of epic journeys of self discovery. And he says,

The deepest moral and spiritual issues of our day center on the defining choice evoked in the biblical admonition that no one can serve two masters. We must choose between God, the Spirit of life, and money.

And he points out, quoting Pope Francis, that money is not in itself evil, but the idolatry, the worship of money, Korten says, is profoundly evil. And he quotes from Pope Francis's encyclical on the environment, *Laudato Si*, calling for all of humanity to accept our responsibility to care for Mother Earth, and to care for life. He says,

Captivated by a science narrative that denies Earth's living essence and an economics narrative that values Earth's air, soil and water only for their market price, we've made a potentially fatal choice. Measuring economic performance by growth in GDP, we treat the making of money by destroying life, as wealth creation. This is suicidal insanity, and arguably the ultimate evil.

He says,

And it is evil now deeply embedded in our most powerful institutions. And so we need this new enlightenment, which is an ecological civilization based on the sacredness of the earth.

Powerful teachings from David Korten.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.