

Daily Meditation 09/26/2022

Beyond Empire, Patriarchy & Theocracy: Women March in Iran and US

Good morning.

In today's meditation we're comparing some of the current history in Iran vis-a-vis women to the current history in America vis-a-vis women.

And one fine article is found in the Washington Post (and I have a footnote in today's meditation) entitled "Those Radical Antiabortion Fantasies? They're Already Imploding."

And it points out that a recent poll found that 90% of respondents say victims of rape or incest should be able to get an abortion. Among those 81% are Republicans.

81% of Republicans agree to that. And only 26% of Republicans say a state should be able to bar women from traveling to another state to obtain abortion. And a total of 18% of respondents said that. And so, the article goes on to say that there's been a reality check after the Supreme Court decision when it comes to abortion.

And, of course, we're not just talking about having an abortion, we're talking about women who have trouble with their pregnancies. And this is a very serious thing, if a state has outlawed all doctors to care for women who are having troubles with their pregnancies. This literally could, and experts say will, kill women. It will kill women.

Now, David Korten, whose important book, *The Great Turning: From Empire to Earth Community*, I've been invoking over the last several days, he talks about the past, the Empire period, and also what preceded it. And he talks about efforts at democracy beginning in Greece and efforts in America, and so forth, over the centuries. And he makes the point that indigenous people in the Americas had more democracy in their social structures than the United States of America has ever had.

But toward the end of the book, he's talking about the future, and this future being what he calls the Earth community, building the Earth community.

And he has on page 345 a statement about what he calls living politics. He talks about living economics, living politics, and living culture.

Here's what he says about living politics:

"Most discussions of democracy focus on the institutions of political democracy and electoral politics. Without economic and cultural democracy, however, political democracy is more illusion than reality. Because those who control the processes of economic and cultural choice, ultimately control political choice."

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I think that is very, very much what we're seeing here, that a minority with a lot of clout and money, such as the Heritage Foundation, and its tool, a fellow from the Opus Dei movement, which is theocratic and not democratic. We're talking about Leo Leonard.

He has really nominated each one of the six conservative Supreme Court judges. And how is he able to do this? Because Opus Dei is an extreme minority within a minority. A very, very small corner of the Roman Catholic Church is Opus Dei. But they're in some very extremely important positions.

So, what the court is warning us about is you have to have economic democracy and cultural democracy. That is to say, the voice of all the diverse participants must be present and must be heard, must be at the table. We're talking about women, talking about people of color, talking about diversity of religion and no religion.

So, this is key, that a living democracy, versus a dead one, needs to stand on the foundation of living economics and living culture, which includes an education that is not just serving the ruling class, serving the Empire and those who make a killing on the Empire, but is serving the constituency, the common good.

And that means those representing all of us.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.