

Daily Meditation 10/25/2022

What Is This Election About Anyway?

Good morning. Two weeks from today, voting in person is happening in these midterm elections, and of course, voting has already launched in many states that allow voting in person and of course by mail. And so we'll be posing questions in our daily meditation.

But what really is this election about? Because I do think it's about some very profound things. And I think we have to be careful of the superficial telling of what the election is and is not about.

Now I referred in today's essay first to gas prices. Well, one thing I noticed where I'm living here in Northern California is that gas prices are down \$1 from where they were a week ago. And they're up 15 cents from where they were yesterday or so. So there's a big up and down going on. And that alone, I think, just kind of alerts us that we're not talking about a frozen price here.

And of course, the move by Saudi Arabia and OPEC and Russia to raise costs that they made two days ago, is sure to have an effect on all of us.

But as I point out the war in Ukraine, the invasion of Russia, is of course going to affect gas prices, and has done so and will do so. But in a real way, it's a small price for Americans to pay to stand up to the breaking of all the rules since 1945. Namely, that big countries do not have a right to invade smaller countries. That is what Hitler did in the 1930s. And we don't want to see a repeat of it. And we praise Ukraine for their courage and generosity and backbone for resisting this current invasion.

And we are hope that this will be the last of such a dastardly tearing up of international protocol, again, the first time this has happened in Europe since 1945.

So all this does have to do with gas prices for sure. Also, of course, food prices and inflation is hitting everybody around the world, including Americans. But again, we don't want to overreact.

Just today, there is report that 150 ships are lined up outside of Istanbul, wanting to take the wheat out of Ukraine and get it distributed around the world, especially to Africa, where people are literally starving, because Ukraine is truly a breadbasket of the world and especially of poorer countries.

So there is a gap between paying more for bread, which we are doing, and for staples, which we are doing, and starving altogether, which is truly happening in many countries in the world, again, because of this invasion by Putin. And I think we should praise our government for contributing to Ukraine's resistance and ensuring that other countries are getting on board to do that, especially in Europe.

It's not always easy to gather countries to a common purpose like that. It's a bit like herding cats, as they say. But our government has been able to do that. And meanwhile, the rest of us are asked to make a sacrifice and to to tighten our belts a bit while we're going through this process.

The sacrifices that the Ukrainians are making is of course, far, far more dear. So many lives being lost, careers and education, apartments and homes and buildings and all the rest.

We really are living through a war, no matter what Putin wants to call it, or is afraid to call it. And we are making a contribution by our sacrifices. And we should remember that during the Second World War, our ancestors made lots of sacrifices, those who died, those who were crippled, those who came home with post traumatic stress disorder, and those at home who had to ration gasoline and food and all the rest.

So this goes with war, sacrifice does and I do think we shouldn't be afraid of that word.

Furthermore, the the issue of voting rights is on the front line. And to turn our back on voting rights is to turn our back on the martyred saint, Martin Luther King Jr. It does no good to make holidays in honor of a great soul who led great movements, generously so, and sacrificed his life for voting rights.

It is not appropriate to be turning our backs on voting rights as is happening in so many states, with hundreds of bad laws being passed today. This, I think, these matters are on the ballot in this election.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.