

Daily Meditation 11/01/2022

Lies, Violence and Politics

Good morning.

Today we continue our meditations on the current voting season that we find ourselves in. And the title of today's meditation is "Lies, Violence and Politics."

Of course we've had some very scary violence lately with the break-in in Nancy Pelosi's home and the beating up of her 82-year-old husband with a hammer by a man who recited the very mantra of those on January 6, Sunday who invaded the Capitol, namely, "Where is Nancy Pelosi?" And it's been reported that the police say that he had tape and plastic handcuffs, and he intended to break her kneecaps, thus the hammer.

So violence is not an abstraction in today's world, certainly not in today's political scene in America, unfortunately.

Violence goes with fascism, with authoritarianism, with those who distort the truth and lie and talk about alternative facts, as if there is such a thing. And those who go about saying they won an election when in fact they did not. And even he, which has come out through the January 6 commission, knew he did not win the election. His lawyers and others around him told him that fact: he's just using a manufactured lie to create violence, to destroy peace, to destroy the legal system that tries to hand power from one administration to another in a peaceful way, which is exactly what January 6 was created to obstruct, to interfere with. People died there too.

So lies have consequences and political lies have vast consequences. They beget violence. And what a irony this is, because this same politician has been served well, by the Supreme Court that has twice abandoned, chopped up the Voting Rights Act of the 1960s, that was achieved through blood and sweat, tears and jailing even of teenagers, and the martyrdom of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. who stood for non-violence, not violence, non-violence.

Non-violence serves democracy. Violence serves fascism. So thoroughly are fascism and violence married, that Susan Sontag defines fascism as, "institutional violence"...institutional violence, when leaders in places of power lie. And lying is an intellectual form of violence. When leaders lie, they unleash violence, as well as more lies, untruths.

Institutional violence. Look around. Are you seeing it today?

Nonviolence is an alternative. It was Dr. King's choice. It has to do with returning hurt with love. Nonviolence is an alternative. Just like democracy is an alternative to authoritarianism and fascism and institutional violence.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.