

Daily Meditation10/11/2022

Animals, Our Sacred Earth, and Upcoming Elections

Good morning.

In this morning's essay we're thinking, building a bridge, between our recent reflections and meditations on the Order of the Sacred Earth and on the beauty and grace and spirituality of animals who survive and thrive on this Earth. And of course, we could also reflect on the plants and the trees and so forth. But we've just been focusing on animals as such.

But all this has been to deepen our sense of gratitude. Via Positiva. As we gear up for this upcoming election, that is so important to the survival of our democracy and the survival of our planet.

A lot has been accomplished, actually, in the last few years in our politics in Washington in spite of very, very tight numbers of two parties pitted against each other. And credit is due to some politicians, it seems to me, including the president, who fought for the passage of a number of laws that are to the benefit of all of us--increasing a significant amount of money for addressing climate change, for dealing with the structures of our culture, our society, roads and bridges and all the rest, and ships, and so much more.

I'm thinking of an observation by Thomas Merton, when he says, "The spiritual anguish of humans has no cure but mysticism."

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First, there is a spiritual anguish going on. It's more pronounced now, I think, than at any time in my 80 years of living on this Earth. A profound anguish. It's a good word. But it's a spiritual anguish that cannot be addressed merely from television screens, or politics as usual, or business or political speeches. It's something deeper.

And of course, when he says it can only be addressed, cured by mysticism, well he's talking about the Via Positiva and the Via Negativa, by getting in touch with our deepest joys, deepest gratitude, deepest sense of reverence on the one hand, and getting in touch with silence, returning to the Source on the other.

And also with the reality of suffering in the world, reality of suffering which can be found in the results of climate change, like the Floridian hurricanes. It can be found in the uber masculinity of those who

want to keep striving to build an empire--even President of Russia, who is 70 years old now. It's a little late for him to embark on that quest. Not only late, but of course, utterly immoral to do so at the expense of a sovereign nation, the Ukrainians. And with such appalling disregard for life, for children, women and men alike, and for the buildings in the cities, a culture that has been built there by the hands of the Ukrainians over the years.

And of course, there is climate change reminding us all and bringing about events like the severe hurricane in Florida. Reminding us all that we're all subject to Mother Nature. Gaia herself will not lay back and be abused the way we are and have been abusing her.

So for all these these reasons we want to invite the sacredness of nature into our discussions, into our political discourse and debate, and into our elections. Because spiritual anguish of humans has no cure but mysticism. No cure but going deeply into our yes for life and our no to injustice that kills life.

Like Howard Thurman said, "We become stripped to the literal substance of ourself before God."

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.