

Daily Meditation 10/13/2022

On Florida's Endangerment

Good morning.

In today's essay, we're reflecting on Florida's crisis, disaster, catastrophe, tragedy. The hurricane that pounded it, going across the state and delivered so much destruction.

And here are some people on TV saying, 'Oh, we're gonna build back, we're gonna build back, we're gonna build back.' Well, I think we should pause for a second and breathe and ask 'How wise is that?' Especially in light of the story that I tell from a scientist, who I learned from a few years ago when we were part of a conference together on global warming in the state of Florida.

And I'll never forget the photographs he showed, which I share with you in today's meditation, about how in 10 years a chunk of Florida, the southern part will be gone. 10 more years, the middle part will be gone. And 30 more years, most of the upper part will be gone.

So, I know as a citizen living in California, I want to assist my brothers and sisters in Florida. But I don't see us, the government, the other 49 States putting that kind of money in now so that that happens in 10 years, and then that happens in 20 years! A very bad investment!

I remember telling people after that weekend conference, that if I were in Florida, I wouldn't invest in real estate. And of course, I guess one shouldn't because only 18% of Floridians can afford flood insurance today, because insurance companies are backing out. They see the writing on the wall; they can read the numbers. And I said what you should invest in is rubber boots and dinghies, because it's going to be a very wet place. Just like where I'm living in Northern California is becoming a very, very dry place.

And yet we have politicians with their heads in the sand--or the water, or someplace else--not even listening to insurance companies. In denial therefore, about climate change. And the implications are profound.

Now, in addition, we have to remind ourselves that Governor DeSantis, who is in denial, along with Senator Marco Rubio, who's up for election now, and Senator Scott, who's not up for election....

But DeSantis, when he was in Congress, voted against helping New York and New Jersey when Sandy Hurricane hit them several years ago. So, it is kind of cheeky for DeSantis to have both hands out for cash from President Biden--and President Biden came to Florida to commiserate and to offer help.

But this has to be out front. Has DeSantis ever apologized or admitted he made a mistake by refusing to give money to New York and New Jersey? Or is this the way of politics today that you turn your back on other Americans who are in disastrous situations, but you demand that all Americans give money to your tribe? Pretty pitiful situation. Part of the lack of character. Again, I say it, the lack of character.

And so many politicians today want to go down the slippery slope of lying and denial. And denial is a kind of lying as a modality in politics. You lose credibility, to put it mildly. Moral credibility, spiritual credibility, and political credibility. And you hang out with others whom you admire for also being without credibility around truth, or on compassion or on caring or justice.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.