

Daily Meditation 10/18/2022

Is Democracy Sacred and Worthy of Saving?

Good morning.

This morning we're dealing with a very profound question, I think. Is democracy sacred? Is democracy worth saving?

As I point out, the word "sacred" is a precious word and should not be overused. But, of course, democracy is an effort to govern humans. And there are other efforts, obviously, in history and currently around the world.

And as I point out, and as we are living, there is the movement of authoritarianism, also called fascism, that caused unbelievable suffering and pain and havoc, war, in the Second World War. Which cost at least 42 million lives, human lives. 42 million. And destruction, so much destruction. Just like in Ukraine today, only multiplied hundreds and hundreds of times.

So it's not a small thing to see fascism rising in our time again and in our country. And there is communism as the Chinese are interpreting it today. And there is uber nationalism as Putin is interpreting it, in light of bringing back a czarist empire. Pretty strange for the 21st century, it seems.

You have theocracy going on in Iran. And a good deal of theocracy going on in America. Supreme Court, I think, is far more a theocratic institution today than it is a respecter of constitutional privileges.

And we know that for a fact, that all these extreme, six conservative members of the Supreme Court were chosen--hand chosen--by an Opus Dei operative. And Opus Dei is a theocratic fascist organization. Again, an admirer of Franco and Hitler. They even cooperated with Hitler.

But democracy. I like as a succinct definition that from Abraham Lincoln: "Of the people, by the people, for the people." Government of the people, by the people, for the people. But democracy in the modern era, as defined in our constitution, is modern. And it really seems to be failing and flailing at this time, in a postmodern moment.

But this is true of all our institutions. Religion, too, insofar as it molded itself around modern consciousness, is flailing. It's why people talk about spirituality instead of religion. Move more to the center where the essence of religion should be.

In this life, we talk, I talk certainly, about learning as distinct from education, because a good education is currently defined as extremely modern. So what we need is a postmodern democracy. This means taking on values of premodern consciousness and some postmodern values.

And premodern values include a sense of cosmology, a sense of the whole, and a sense of Mother Earth, because ecology is functional cosmology. But how to fit that roundness into the square of the rational enlightenment era of modern consciousness that birthed the minds of Jefferson and Madison and others who created our Constitution. That's the conundrum.

So this is our work cut out for us. And is it sacred? Of course, it's sacred to keep people together instead of at each other's throats. But when you have billionaires dictating the media, dictating the origin of information, and if they're crazy building news, which a certain percentage clearly are, handing out \$1.6 billion to this fascist and that fascist, etc., etc., refusing to pay their own taxes. It's a pretty wild and pitiful situation.

But I look at the black experience in America and what's been achieved in spite of terrible, terrible odds, terrible, terrible oppression. And if they can get as far as they have, the rest of us can contribute and shake up the chaos we're now in to create something new: the postmodern democracy.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.