

Daily Meditation 01/13/2023

Feminism, Ecology, Transcendence vs. Christofascism

Good morning.

This morning we continue our meditations with Dorothee Soelle, whom I admire very much, and who I think is such a different theologian from her countryman, Pope Benedict XVI.

Both of them grew up in Germany during the Second World War. But she's written books criticizing obedience, and so much of his administrative decision-making was based entirely around obedience. I know - that's why I was expelled from my order.

Just today, I saw a wonderful interview with Father Roy Bourgeois, a really prophetic priest in the Catholic Church, who went to jail and to prison over a total of over four years for protesting American interference in El Salvador and protesting fascist regimes decades ago in Bolivia, and so forth. A really prophetic priest in the Maryknoll order. But he was ultimately expelled from the Church, excommunicated, actually, by Pope Benedict for posing that women should be priests. And as he points out, there have been 5000 priests in the United States that are convicted of pedophilia, and practically none have been excommunicated. So standing up for women, you get excommunicated; abusing over 12,000 children, no excommunication.

So, Christofascism: that word I first heard from reading Dorothee Soelle. And it's a very powerful word; obviously, I don't think it needs much explanation. And there's plenty of it to go around, as I point out, not only in Cardinal Ratzinger's version of the church and in Opus Dei that reigns today because he and John Paul II gave it carte-blanche and a green light to spread and flourish, but also in the evangelical wing of Protestantism today in America.

Now also we should point out that here we have the defeated president of Brazil going to Florida, living currently in Florida, while his patrons and followers storm the capitol buildings and offices of the Brazilian government in his name: obviously something extremely parallel to January 6, in Washington. And a very close buddy to the ex-Brazilian President, defeated, refuses to admit his defeat as president. He was very close to Steve Bannon - Steve Bannon and he are very close. And Steve Bannon is definitely in this wing of Christianity and Catholicism. called Christofascism.... he and Cardinal Burke.

So these are real people, who are real players in financial and political institutions today. So Christofascism needs to be named. And there is this link between far right-wing religion and far right-wing politics that is going around.

And we need to learn from people like Dorothee Soelle, who saw it coming; she wrote about this a couple of decades ago. And it does have a lot to do with a religion of a punitive Father God. Fascism has a lot to do with the control, the idea of fatherhood as control.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.