

## Daily Meditation 02/22/2023

### Fox “News” vs Truth

Good morning.

We continue our meditations on truth, and truth in the media, specifically Fox News, in light of the revelations that are coming out in a legal suit against Fox News brought by Dominion, the corporation that created the ballot counting machines for the previous election.

We're learning that many, many poohbahs at Fox News, those in front of the camera and those behind the camera, including the owner, knew that they were telling lies about a rigged election, malfunctioning counting machines, and so forth. And yet they were putting people on their news programs... so-called news programs, who were spouting these lies and these ridiculous theories in order to make lots of money, and to not lose their audience to even more far right-wing television production companies.

So I contrast this with the mystics that teach us about truth: Thomas Aquinas saying that truth is integral to our hearts and our minds. He says, "The proper objects of the heart are truth and justice."

And that means that first of all, he's telling us that truth and justice go together: you're not going to get justice out of falsehoods except by accident. And you can't combat injustice without facts, without the truth.

bell hooks says "the heart of justice is truth-telling"...the heart of justice is truth-telling. For without a soul, and obviously to distort the truth or substitute rocks and silly stories for truth, strikes at the heart of justice. It is one way to sustain injustice, namely, to ignore the truth.

Why is it that Satan is called the father of lies? Maybe Fox News should be called the father of lies and Rupert Murdoch, the grandfather of lies, because there seem to be no guardrails there, and no investment in truth as a value, or truth seeking in journalism. It's no longer, at least for that company, about truth seeking; it's about money making and pandering to the lowest passions of the crowd that they're building their business on by giving them whatever they want, and not interfering by way of proposing that maybe truth matters.

Susan Gablik, a critic of Western art who herself is an artist, in modern art, says that "We've reduced the mythic and the sacred to rags"...we've reduced the mythic and the sacred to rags. I think that's happening on television with the so-called news stations that are not news stations. Rags.

*A sense of community and ecological perspective, deeper understanding of the mystical and archetypal underpinnings of spiritual life...*

...She says this is the dominant force of a healthy culture. But a materialistic philosophy turns its back on these values.

Instead, we get what Ann Douglas called a "rancid political consciousness." A sentimentalism with sweetness that covers up the real truth and feeds so many untruths. A very precarious position for a culture to find itself in.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.