

Daily Meditation 02/17/2023

Jesus on Truth, Power, and Speaking Truth to Power

Good morning. In today's essay, I referred to a criticism of a recent spell of my dealing with Rupert Murdoch in my meditations lately, that one shouldn't say bad things about people.

Well, yes, one should! One should say bad things about bad people doing bad things. My goodness, what kind of religion is that that just withdraws and doesn't stand up to injustice and to those who are perpetrating violence on the environment and the rest of us?

So in my readings for today, the books I recommend, one is my book *Original Blessing*. It's been around a long time. And the whole point is to demonstrate how we're supposed to be both mystics. Yes, people who find silence and calm inside, but also prophets!

Prophets interfere! Prophets speak out! That's what *propheto* means! The fifth chakra! Prophets do not speak out in soft poems. They speak out with moral imagination.

And so I refer people to that section of *Original Blessing* where I deal with Via Transformativa. That is the prophetic work.

So I'm just citing from 257, page 257, there, about faith as trusting the Holy Spirit. We're all called to be prophets as well as mystics. Prophet is the mystic in action, according to William Hawking.

Rabbi Heschel wrote a major work on the Prophets. Says: "There is a grain of the prophet in the recesses of every human existence."

'Every,' yes. We're all called to be prophets, just as we are called to be lovers or mystics.

Mahatma Gandhi says, "We struck the religious imagination of an angry people," an angry people "a colonized people of India under the centuries of colonialism of the English empire."

So you don't reach the religious imagination of angry people by... How shall I say? ... tiptoeing around, walking on eggshells. You tell the truth, and you organize and you get things done!

And here's the prophet Jeremiah speaking out: "I am putting my words into your mouth," says God. "Look, today I'm setting you over nations and over kingdoms, to tear up and to knock down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant."

So there is a process of disintegration as well as integration that goes on in this cycle of love and justice, mysticism and prophecy

Martin Luther King, Jr. says, "Any religion which professes to be concerned about the souls of people which does not concern about the social and economic conditions that can scar the soul, is a spiritually moribund religion when you're waiting for the days to be buried."

So, our job is not just to find inner peace. Our job is to tear up and knock down, destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant. To call to judgment those powerful forces, powerful individuals who may be very clearly using their imaginations and their powers to destroy.

As Dag Hammarskjöld, the former head of the United Nations, and a true mystic in his own right, used to say, "Do you create or do you destroy?"

And pointing out that we have a giant media conglomerate, not only in America but in Australia and United Kingdom, that is destroying democracy because it is putting lies out there that are proven lies and the people making the most money from it know they're putting the proven lies out there. That's what this Dominion court case is all about!

The emails have been released to the public. We can all read them. About how Hannity and Tucker Carlson and Rupert Murdoch and the whole gang knew they were telling lies and interviewing people who were crazy and full of lies, which set fires to our democracy, and indeed, to the very invasion of our national capital.

So even contemplatives have to get in touch with their third chakra, their moral courage. Otherwise you're not an adult, and you're certainly not an adult, spiritually. It is spiritual immaturity to avoid the responsibilities of compassion and justice.

There is such a thing as idiot compassion. Talk to the Buddhists about that. Talk to the Dalai Lama about that.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.