Daily Meditation 07/06/2023
Silly SCOTUS Busy on a Non-case and a Non-existent Gay Couple

Good morning.

In today's meditation, we continue to consider recent Supreme Court decisions. And I make the point that ideologues of the right wing or left wing are often very short on a sense of humor.

And I will tell you about religious ideologues that I experienced when I was living in Paris at the time of my studying there in the late 60s.

My first year I lived with a family; I rented a room from a family of three boys and one widowed mother. And she and they were very committed to right-wing religion in their Catholicism; for example, she complained a lot about the SecondVatican Council and how injurious it was.

And she said, "All faith has gone out the window."

And I said to her, "What's faith?"

"Faith," she said, "is the Pope and my catechism."

And I said, "Well, you know, the Pope signed all the decrees, that's the Second Vatican Council."

"Oh, no," she said, "then my faith is just my catechism."

So the Pope really left her world in a hurry.

And I said, "Oh, I'd love to see this catechism. Could you share it with me, please? "

"Well," she said, "it went out of print in 1928."

She did not say that laughing; she said it with a straight face. I'm laughing, still, 50 or 60 years later.

That's just one conversation when I found these people have no sense of humor, but they create humor - their own!

So here's another example: one day she said, "Jesus was not a Jew."

And I said, "Really? And why not?"

And she said -- these people probably were very anti-semitic -- she said, "Well, his father was the Holy Spirit. So he wasn't a Jew."

© Matthew Fox, 2023-

Transcribed by https://otter.ai

"But," I said, "the Jews carry their lineage through the mother."

She said, "Well, Mary wasn't a Jew, either."

I said, "Really? And why not?"

She said, with a straight face, she meant straight face, she was serious. She said, "Mary wasn't a Jew because she wasn't circumcised."

So there's a certain logic in the world of religious ideology. And it does not allow itself to be penetrated by a lot of facts or truth or wisdom, because ideology is something one clings to, but it is not something one is asking for more information about.

So there was another incident that's quite memorable. It was in 1968, when the students were rioting, and things were closing down a little in the city. And it turned out that the large march was happening, coming down our street,and with big flags were unfurled, some with slogans and so forth. And people were chanting about justice and freedom and all that.

And she came to me, running to me, and she said, "They're coming to behead us all!"

She said, "This is the revolution all over again. They've taken away our King. Now they're going to take away our church. Will you hear my confession?"

This was a real dilemma for me, because I wasn't interested in hearing this woman's confession. I knew her quite well by now and couldn't take it too seriously. And a priest should never turn down a confession in a time of peril, and she thought she was in great peril.

So I said "One minute," went down and went to the window and opened it up and put my head out, and I shouted "Vive la révolution!"

Then I turned to the madame of the house, and I said, "And now your confession, madame?"

And she looked at her watch, and said, "Oh, no, no, no, I have an appointment to go to," and she ran out the front door.

But anyway, that was my experience of living with Integristes. And they were Integristes. And Integristes were the extreme right-wing Catholics of Europe; one time they beat up a Catholic priest who was a psychiatrist, Marc Oraison, and with his blood, they wrote Credo in Latin on his body because they didn't like progressive religious thinkers.

So there's violence in a lot of this sentimental religion.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.