

Daily Meditation 09-16-24

Anti-Christ as an Archetype Appropriate to our Apocalyptic Times

Good morning.

In today's meditation, we discuss the nomenclature in the archetype called the Antichrist. And I refer to the Hartmann Report, Thom Hartmann, for his recent article, and a powerful article it is, written the morning of the presidential debate last Tuesday. So I want to share more of that article with you this morning. And also, I refer to Viktor Orban, the Hungarian president, whom Donald Trump invoked at that presidential debate last Tuesday, to fill in more of our understanding of this fellow whom Trump so deeply praises, and strives to emulate.

So let us begin with the Hartmann Report from September 10, 2024, entitled “Will Donald Trump Reveal Himself Tonight as the Antichrist?” He says, “For me, all the proof I need that Trump, if not the biblical antichrist, is at least a political one, is what he says and does.” And a listener called into his program recently and asked, “Is Donald Trump the Antichrist? And if so, will he reveal himself at the debate?” So Thom Hartmann picked up on this question, which he found very provocative. And he says, “The evil one came to ravage the earth. That's the literal meaning of the Antichrist.” And he says, “many, many people responded to this question that was posed. My first call had clearly hit a nerve.”

And of course, he says, “you can talk about this literally or metaphorically, but it is about the embodiment of good and evil” — this metaphor, what he calls a metaphor antichrist. So he gets it. He says, the question is really about evil.

And he calls on Jesus's Sermon on the Mount, after warning that grifters and con artists in secular terms, who tried to exploit his followers, Jesus said, “By their fruits, you shall know them.” And he quotes Jesus, saying, “false prophets who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravening wolves.” So this is what we call a con artist today, or a grifter.

And he goes through what he calls the fruits of Trump's actions, which are pretty obvious. More than 20 women have accused him of rape and sexual assault. Hundreds of contractors and employees have accused him of stealing from them, refusing to pay them. He lied over 30,000 times as president, and does so daily, now. He pits Americans against each other by race, religion, and region. He openly encouraged unarmed people at multiple rallies, encouraging violence against unarmed people at multiple rallies. And he assaults the press. He tried to overthrow and end our democracy. He embraced depraved kleptocrats and strongmen rulers, who are ridiculing Western democracies. And he replaced Jesus with white evangelical preachers. And took delight in tearing children from their parents and putting them in cages. And

sat watching TV, taking delight in the fact that, when three police officers were killed and 140 went to the hospital, and tried to murder the Vice President and Speaker of the House on January 6th. He lied about Covid after disclosing the truth to Bob Woodward.

So these are all examples, for instances, that Hartmann offers to this subject. And then he turns to Matthew 25: Jesus's teaching about “when you do it to the least, you do it to me.” And he says, as I do in my book, that Jesus's teaching, Matthew 25, is very much the opposite of Donald Trump's philosophy. He says “this list, quite literally, is the opposite of everything that Donald Trump advocates and stands for” — meaning the list that Jesus proposes in Matthew 25. And he points out that the Beast in John's apocalypse book, the last book of the Christian Bible, refers to the Roman Emperor Nero. “He was clearly a political figure who represented the antithesis of the values and works Jesus set out in the Sermon on the Mount and in Matthew 25. For me, all the proof I need, that Trump, if not the biblical antichrist, is at least a political one, is what he says and does.” So he says, “I anticipate that this father of lies will play out this persona in the debate tonight.” That was again, the morning of Last Tuesday's presidential debate.

So I look forward very much to dialoguing with Thom Hartmann, Tuesday morning this week.

Now let's talk a little more about Orban. In January 2022, Donald Trump endorsed Orban in the Hungarian parliamentary election, saying “he truly loves his country and wants safety for his people.” And Steve Bannon, now in prison, Trump's close ally and strategist and far, far, right-wing Catholic, once called Orban “Trump before Trump.” So Orban is another Trump. Or Trump is another Orban.

And Tucker Carlson moved his show to Budapest, in order to have several episodes of interviews with Orban. And as people say, it was fawning nature and lack of any challenging questions whatsoever. In May of '22, the Conservative Political Action Conference, called the flagship conference of American conservatism, held a satellite event in Budapest also, to honor Orban and bring him into the fold. And in Florida, the “don't say gay” law under Ron DeSantis, regulating sex education in schools, was in fact inspired by Orban's law back in Hungary. And Ron DeSantis's press secretary said that was the case. In August '22, Orban was the opening speaker at the Conservative Political Action Conference in Dallas, Texas. So this marriage of the Republican Party under Trump and Orban, is almost total.

Now, he very much endorses what is called the Great Replacement Theory, which is that Europe is being replaced by immigrants and people of color and so forth. And he's doing everything he can to resist that, and without asking any questions about the suffering of these immigrants, who are either seeking to leave their own home and so forth. That's not really on the agenda. His whole argument is that Hungary is a Christian nation, and these people are not Christians. Though, of course, many of them are.

But he himself, Orban, proposing that he represents Christianity, is not a church goer any more than Donald Trump is. And one thing they've done under Orban in Hungary, is to privatize 11 Hungarian universities, and endow them with billions of euros, and appoint conservatives to the supervisory boards of the universities. And another drive is to re-Christianize the country, and that too has to do with putting money into Christian schools, taking away from the public schools.

And under Orban, the Press Freedom Index and the Democracy Index, have dropped 69 places in the former, and 11 places in the latter. And the Corruption Perception Index has risen astoundingly. So many people are saying that Hungary is no longer a democratic country. And a professor of economics at Harvard University says that “the systematic destruction of the fundamental institutions of democracy has been achieved under Orban.” So that sounds a lot like Trump's agenda, certainly the agenda of Project 2025, to undo the structures of democracy, which includes the judiciary, an impartial judiciary, and free and fair elections that are not gerrymandered, and where the press is free to write.

One commentator says that “what you have in post-communist Hungary now, is a mafia state, serving to obscure massive corruption and transfers of wealth to those with the right connections.” Sounds a lot like Putin's country at this time. And Orban has made a big thing of attacking LGBT rights and people: “They are not compatible with Christian values,” says Orban. And trans people are also being attacked under this policy of Orban.

So these are a few observations that I'm substantiating and putting some meat on the bones, filling out what I bring up in today's meditation. I hope they give you something important to meditate on too, as we head into this significant presidential election in 2024.

Thank you. See you next week.