

Daily Meditation 03-03-25

Anti-Christ Strikes Again: Trump, Vance vs. Zelenskyy

Good morning.

In this morning's meditation, I am responding to the event in the Oval Office on Friday this past week, where the vice president and president of the United States, together, ambushed the president of Ukraine, who really is, seems to many of us, a very great figure in our time, for his courage and not escaping when the Russians invaded (and they did invade), waging this war that is going on now.

And Putin did the worst war in Europe since the Second World War 80 years ago. It was a complete violation of the rights of a sovereign nation -- such as the United Nations was set up to prevent. And there we were, watching in the Oval Office with international press present, the diatribe by two people beating up on a third, this man of courage and character, President Zelenskyy.

And it raises this whole question that I pose at the end of my meditation, from Meister Eckhart: "Who is a good person?" Eckhart asks. And he answers it: "A good person praises good people."

It is clear to the European nations that Zelenskyy is a good person. But the President and Vice President United States did not praise him; quite the opposite. In presence of cameras, press from around the world, they belittled this person. They dumped their envy, mixed with lies, mixed with talking points from Russia and Putin, on Zelenskyy.

"Who is a good person? A good person praises good people." But I guess that means people who do not praise, but in fact, dump on good people, are not themselves good people.

All this raises, for me, the issue of character, the issue of integrity. That character should have fit more fully into the American election than it did, back in November.

In my book *The A.W.E. Project: Reinventing Education, Reinventing the Human*, I offer what we call the “10 C's” as the way to talk about values and integrity in education, especially in public school education, which this book was written for. Since I started a program in the inner city on reinventing education, a program reinventing the human, by teaching teenagers the values of the 10 C's: Cosmology and ecology, Creativity, Compassion, Critical thinking, Chaos (learning to live with chaos), Community (building, community), Celebration and ritual, and Character itself, and character as development of the seven chakras in us.

So as I say, Character building is about developing moral citizens. Morality is not something subjective, as was thought to be in the modern era. Morality is about community, its survival, sustainability. It is about service and justice and compassion. Not about passivity and taking for granted, or hoarding. Morality is the habits and practices we require to survive as a species.

And I quote Ernest Becker: The logical positivist may be content to live in a scientific world and only a scientific world. But most people also want to live in a moral world. And we know only too bitterly that so far, science has hardly helped the broader ambition. This is a great abyss at the heart of modern life, that opened up with the decline of the medieval cosmology, and the medieval community that had tried unsuccessfully to hold together.

He says, Only in this way can the university be revitalized, become the seat of a new moral view of the world, nothing less. This is the heart of humans, the heart of education, the heart of the social problem: morality. The Common Good requires justice, requires balance, requires work, to bring the common good about. It requires character, then.

Thomas Aquinas observes that tyrants are afraid of people of character, good people. They're more afraid of good people than of bad people. They'd prefer to hang out with the Putins of the world than with the Zelenskyy's of the world. That became 1000% clear to all of us at that gathering in the White House on Friday. The lies of Putin, that somehow Ukraine was responsible for this war, would be mouthed by the President and Vice President of the United States.

So character is that ability to look for the truth, and to work from truth, and to work with others to solve common problems, those ruptures of the common good, that greed that smothers the common good, as if billionaires do not already have enough money. Why do they need new tax deductions? Many of them are not paying any taxes whatsoever, because they have armies of lawyers that can get around the laws, and they have so much money they can own their own social media platforms and media platforms, and steer information in their direction alone.

And now here we are, with a new bill in Congress, hopefully it will not pass -- that is deconstructing entirely the social net, social safety net: Medicare, SNAP, money for lunch for poor children, and now they're going after Social Security. And by now, I mean, by "they" I mean the richest man in the world, Elon Musk. And the third richest man in the world, the publisher of the Washington Post, used to have the philosophy of character and integrity, but has sold out to these very forces.

So this is not time. It's not a time for laying back. It's the time for standing up, speaking the truth, finding allies, protesting, resisting, in the name of the character of our nation, as well as one's individual character, and calling to account those who supposedly represent us, whether in red states or blue states, who are going along with the plans of Project 2025, to dismantle the safety net for the poor, the disabled, the old, and the children.

This is a battle of the archetype of Christ versus the archetype of the Antichrist.

Thank you. We'll see you next week.