

Daily Meditation 4-07-25

Protests Galore: Hundreds of Thousands Turn Out Around the Country

Good morning.

We're meditating this morning on the recent "Hands Off" women's march gatherings around the country. We're told there were 1,300 of them, and that more than 5 million people participated. They're still counting, so we're not sure on the total number. But this is democracy at work, and efforts to resist the disappearing democracy, by everyday people in our cities, in rural areas, in small towns, all over the country.

So I thought I would share with you some of the signs that photographers took at these various protest marches around the country. Because I think there are some of the creativity imagination of ordinary people is being shared, and ought to be shared. So here are some of the signs that I've seen in the pictures that I've studied. And there are a lot of pictures out there now, vast crowds and modest crowds. I'll just read you some of the signs, of course, you don't have visual to go with it.

"Public Defender for Due Process." "Only You Can Prevent Fascist Liars." And with that sign was a picture of Smokey the Bear. Smokey the Bear, of course, is famous for saying "only you can prevent forest fires." So fascist liars are a kind of forest fire. So this admonition is coming from Smokey the Bear, 2025 version.

"Stop Traitors, Stand Up for Democracy." And with this sign, is a picture of Musk saluting with a Nazi salute, which many of us saw him do twice at a conference for right-wing Republicans.

Another sign: "Make Good Trouble." Words from John Lewis. "United We Stand." "Dictatorship or Democracy?" "Dissent is Patriotism." "Stop Elon." "Hands Off Our World." "Hands Off Our Bodies." "Hands Off Our Democracy."

"Hey GOP, Quit the Cult!". Exclamation point: Hey GOP, quit the cult. "No Kings!"
Exclamation point,

"Diversity, Equality, Inclusion." Diversity, equality, inclusion. Indeed, this is one of the memes of the current administration, to tear down any efforts at diversity, any efforts at equality, and any efforts at inclusion.

"Hands Off My Data, You Clowns." "Tariffs are Taxes." Tariffs are taxes. "Hands off our democracy." "Keep Your Felon Hands Off Our Democracy." The felon being, of course, has another 34 felony convictions on his record.

"No Fascism." "Republicans in Congress, Defend the Constitution." defend the Constitution. "Save Our Students." Save our students. "Hands Off Our Social Security." "Honk, if you have drunk-texted War Plans,," or "Honk, if you have read drunk-texted war plans."

"They Are Eating the Checks, They're Eating the Balances." Checks and balances parallel to the charge that people were eating cats and dogs.

"Science Keeps Your Dumb Ass Alive." Science keeps your dumb ass alive. "Dear Canada, We Hate Him Too!" Dear Canada, we hate him too. "Wisconsin hates Elon so much, it could be one of his kids." "Science Over Ignorance." Science over ignorance. "The only person Trump ever hired who was actually qualified to do their job was Stormy Daniels." The only person Trump ever hired who was actually qualified to do their job was Stormy Daniels.

"Fire President Musk." "Boycott Tesla." "Don't Buy Tesla." "No Nazis." "My Dog is Smarter than Trump." "We Are Not Okay." That was accompanied by an upside-down flag on someone's jacket: We are not okay.

So this is a sample of the kind of signs and moral imagination that went into the marches on Saturday. And I think it's important, to see what our fellow citizens are saying, to invite the Artist who is so integral a part of prophecy: interfering, dissenting, resisting, refusing, saying no. And I think it invites all of us to create our own memes, our own we call them bumper stickers, that summarize our feelings at this time of moral outrage at the

deconstruction of democracy that is clearly underway in the Spirit, in the law, in the letter of Project 2025, about which I share in my recent book on *Trump and the MAGA Movement as Antichrist*. It really is an effort to bring fascism to America.

It is not something that is coming to be; it is here. This is what all these laws that are being rushed through, most of them not laws at all, but executive statements, promises signed by the President. But what all these are trying to do, the overall picture, we cannot lose sight of the overall picture, is to melt democracy and substitute a regime of dictatorship, authoritarianism, fascism. Call it what you will.

Remember, one definition of fascism from Susan Sontag is “institutional violence.” Institutional violence, and there's plenty of that going on. Great efforts, unless from the resistance of the grassroots level. Large law firms have yielded to this effort -- Shame on them. Universities have yielded to this effort. Shame on them. Great newspapers, media has yielded to this effort. Shame on them.

So the grassroots, and the courts, and thinking politicians, have not sold their soul to a cult. You must rise up and say no. Which is the prophetic vocation, the prophetic responsibility. They all say no in their own way, and find allies. We're doing the same.

Thank you. We'll see you next week.