

Daily Meditation 11-24-25

Resistance Takes Many Forms

Good morning.

In today's and tomorrow's daily meditation, we are talking about resistance, and the many forms of it. One form is critical thinking, and there are journalists today who are not bought and paid for by billionaires, who are being critical. And of course, it takes courage and spirituality, therefore, in the deepest sense of the word, to write the truth.

So I want to share you an amazing article by Thom Hartmann in *The Hartmann Report*, whose work I very much recommend. He had the courage, by the way, to interview me on his video program about my book, *Trump and the MAGA Movement as Antichrist*. Very, very few media had that kind of courage, including the religious media. But this is his article entitled "The Epstein Affair has Moved from Sleaze to a Crisis for American Democracy Itself." I highly recommend it. It came out on November 13th.

He says that *There's a far larger thing going on than the tawdry specifics of the relationship of Epstein and Trump. As grotesque as those facts are, they point to a structural crisis, he says, at the heart of American democracy.* And he quotes President Theodore Roosevelt, who was a Republican, quote, *The exposure and punishment of public corruption is an honor to a nation, not a disgrace. The shame lies in toleration, not in correction.* It would be nice if all the Republicans on the Supreme Court and in Congress were to read and memorize that one sentence: "The shame lies not in toleration, not in correction."

If we fail to do all that is in us to stamp out corruption, says Theodore Roosevelt, we cannot escape our share of responsibility for the guilt. The first requisite of successful self-government, is unflinching enforcement of the Law and the cutting out of corruption. By cutting out of corruption. Corruption? You mean there's corruption?

And Hartmann adds, *It is a pattern where men of wealth and power create a zone of impunity that protects them, while destroying vulnerable people like Virginia Giuffre, the woman who committed suicide this year, who was abused by Epstein and his circle.* And of course, she wrote a book about it before she died too.

And Hartmann comments, *This is where the story moves from sleaze to a massive crisis for American democracy itself. When a President insists that scrutiny of his possible*

crimes is illegitimate, he's not defending his innocence. He's attacking a foundational principle of the American Republic. And he quotes John Adams, quote, We are a government of laws, not of men. Trump and company, and that includes today's Supreme Court majority and all the Republicans in Congress, except maybe one or two, should memorize that line too, from John Adams: "We are a government of laws, not of men." Hartmann comments, If only that were true today, if only more than a tiny handful of Republicans believed in that principle."

The danger to America is magnified, he says, by Trump's pardoning, or promising to pardon, the very people who've already committed crimes on his behalf. Of course, we know he pardoned all 1,500 people who attacked the Capitol, which resulted in the murdering and harm to many police officers who were trying to defend our Congress from being attacked, and our Vice President from being hung. Hartmann comments, This isn't forgiveness, it's instruction. It's an explicit message to present and future loyalists, that when they commit crimes, for him, for the President, particularly those involving election or financial fraud, they'll be rewarded rather than punished. And he talks about, then, the special treatment given to Maxwell, by the second person in charge of the Department of Justice, so-called. Trump has created a private, so-called justice system where loyalty to Dear Leader outweighs loyalty to the law.

George Washington warned that when politicians become more loyal to their party or its leader than to our nation of our laws -- quote from George Washington -- it serves always to distract the public councils and enfeeble the public administration. It agitates the community with ill-founded jealousies and false alarms; kindles the animosity of one part against another; foment, occasionally, riot and insurrection. It opens the door to foreign influence and corruption -- this is all Washington talking -- which finds a facilitated access to the government itself, through the channels of party passions.

Hartmann cites Thomas Jefferson that "The price of liberty is eternal vigilance." And of course, that's the work of the press. But in the current situation in America, the press is being attacked daily by the president himself.

Today, says Hartmann, we're seeing right before our eyes in real time, how easily democracy can slip away, when a leader trains his followers to believe every investigation is treason, and every fact is a lie. The Epstein revelations matter because they're symptomatic of a larger ecosystem of secrecy and impunity, that Trump and many of the right-wing billionaires associated with him, have relied on for decades: an ecosystem that destroys democracies.

So once again, this is not just about the heinous sexual sins done against young women by big shots, and is being covered up for big shots, but it is about a structural disease, a cancer infestation within the entire politics of our country, one that destroys democracies, as Hartmann says. *Epstein, Trump, and Maxwell spent years cultivating relations with extremely rich and politically powerful people. That network helped shield them.* And it's still growing strong and even stronger, with Republicans in the House and in the Senate, and I would add in the Supreme Court.

The crisis is that such a network exists at all: that Trump has rebuilt government in a way to protect the morbidly rich network, the morbidly rich network that has been protecting the rapists wherever they be. Thus, the most urgent threat to our republic isn't the behavior of Epstein, or even Trump's proximity or alleged participation with it. The real danger is that Trump is now rewriting the rules of political accountability in real time, in ways that have already corrupted the Republican Party for a generation -- has already corrupted the Republican Party for a generation -- and threatens to corrupt our entire nation in ways we may never recover from.

The founders of our Constitution, he says, never imagined that a group of billionaires would spend 40-plus years and hundreds of millions of dollars to seize a US Supreme Court. 40-plus years and hundreds of millions of dollars to seize the Supreme Court, which would then legalize political bribery. Legalize political bribery. That's our court. They never conceived an Australian billionaire family coming to America, and building a nationwide media ecosystem that would teach Americans not about right and wrong, but how about Wrong is Right, and get a committed, convicted fraudster and rapist elected as president. They would have laughed at you, if you told them that the richest men in the world would come from apartheid South Africa, hook up with a grifter billionaire, and preside over the unnecessary deaths of a half-million Americans and a million people in Africa.

So this, to me, is a marvelous summary, a sobering one but real, that we all should be meditating on, at this time in our history.

Thank you. We'll see you next week. And thank you to Thom Hartmann for his courage and his insight and search for truth.