

Daily Meditation 3-23-26

Current America: Important Stories From Today's News

Good morning.

We ended this morning's daily meditation with a brief paragraph about climate change, and how important is that we not lose sight of this Number One moral and really spiritual issue of our time.

Humanity can be so busy, beating itself up, going to war with one another, and all the other preoccupations we have, that we can neglect the rest of nature, which is in fact, our Mother, our nest. Nothing else matters, really. If we don't have decent air, decent soil to grow healthy food, decent water to drink and to bathe in, swim in, and decent companions, whether they be four-legged or winged or finned companions. All this is bottom line, and we can't lose sight of it. And of course, they're interrelated.

For example, the current war in Iran is causing a huge environmental catastrophe in Iran. But beyond Iran too, because the environment does not heed borders invented by human beings. And the clouds of smoke and poisonous gasses and so forth that are leaving Iran, are going to other countries in Eastern Europe, and even to Russia and to China and back to the United States.

So this is how nature operates. We're in this together. If we ignore, and choose to ignore, the interdependence that we hold with the rest of the nature, if we are to be healthy, the rest of nature needs to be Healthy.

And we have some politicians claiming that climate change is a hoax, and so forth. But here are just a few headlines and insights in the news this week. Here is a headline that goes, "Records shattered as summer heat hits Southwest in March." Quote, "This is what climate change looks like." That quote is from a scientist. And so the new records that were set this week in Arizona, California, and many western states, we've been told, while these new records, they will be surpassed—probably within a year. These records are for high temperatures in February and March. The article begins,

Scientists say a record March heat wave in the US West shows climate change is already driving more dangerous weather extremes. World weather attribution said Friday that the heat would have been virtually impossible without human-caused warming. It is more

than just an extreme weather blip. It's the latest next-level weather wildness, that is occurring ever more frequently as Earth's warming builds.

And it goes on to talk about how the melting of the ice caps, in Antarctica and Northern Pole and Greenland too. This is speeding up faster than scientists had anticipated, and the potential there for two-foot rise of oceans is getting more and more possible. There is another article that showed the cities around the world that would be immediately impacted, and the numbers of millions of people as the seas rise. Some are already being immediately impacted. But several of them, Miami, New York, San Francisco, or New Orleans are in the United States. But especially hard-hit in Asia, Southeast Asia: Thailand, Bangladesh, India. We're talking about millions of people being displaced. And of course, an awful lot of human culture and accomplishments will be drowned out. And the cost for trying to build walls and so forth, is simply astronomical, beyond most countries' dreams.

Currently, more than a dozen health and environmental justice nonprofits have sued the Environmental Protection Agency, because it is revoking the legal determination that underpins every federal climate regulation for the country. The shortcut term for this is Endangerment Finding. EPA's rollback of the endangerment finding states that the buildup of heat-trapping pollution in the atmosphere endangers public health and welfare. But now the EPA under the current administration, is rolling back emissions from vehicles, power plants, other industrial sources. And as scientists say, this is a major setback to US efforts to combat the climate crisis. The suit has been brought by the American Public Health Association, American Lung Association, the Center for Biological Diversity, the Environmental Defense Fund, the National Resource Defense Council, the Sierra Club, and 11 other public health and environmental organizations. Greening legal organizations like Clean Air Task Force and Earth Justice are also on the bill.

Last week, Donald Trump hailed to find the rescinding of these rules as, quote, "the single largest deregulatory action in American history." And current EPA talks about climate zealots. "Climate zealots have made laws that we don't need." When people asked Trump about the environmental health concerns of scientists and many others about the rollback, Trump said, and I quote, "I tell them, don't worry about it, because it has nothing to do with public health."

Well, that's quite an insight, that clean air and clean water has nothing to do with public health. Or to put it differently, dirty air and dirty water and polluted air and poisonous air has nothing to do with our health.

Another headline this week, “The weather is getting wilder, and some see a dire signal in the data. Several of the earth systems are changing faster than predicted, as global temperatures rise, scientists say.”

So, what is the reaction we can take in all this? Well, many state governments, such as in California, where I live, the Attorney General here and attorney generals in many states, are filing legal suits against the current EPA and government about these things. And as you know, many of the suits about other decisions being made, have been won by those who are protesting. So that is certainly one thing, and to sign the affidavits and the polls that are out how important this is, and to spread the news, to spread the bad news and what is possible. And to push, push, push our politicians to act on this issue.

Because behind it all, really, is what I call Creation Spirituality. Is creation sacred, or isn't it? Is good air sacred, or isn't it? Is good soil sacred, or isn't it? This is a profound religious and spiritual and moral moment. So all of us are called to our prophetic vocations, to interfere, to speak out, to use our throat chakras in whatever way we can.

Thank you. We'll see you next week.