

Daily Meditation 11/16/2021

Healthy & Degraded Masculine & Feminine in Today's News

Good morning.

Today we're meditating on the theme of the return of the healthy masculine and healthy feminine in light of today's news, because there's plenty of news today that I think demonstrates how important a topic this is.

For the last several days we've been invoking Father Bede Griffith, a wonderful mystic and monk, who lived in India for over 50 years, and who tells us that the East has so much to teach us about the healthy feminine; that the West has gone overboard with the rational mind.

And we need to find this balance again if we're all going to survive.

And I give, as the first example of today's news, the trial that's ending today, I think, of Kyle Rittenhouse, the 17-year-old fellow, now 18, but at the age of 17 he brought his brother's AR-15 to a demonstration in Kenosha, where he didn't live.

And we learned more about his background: and when he bought this AR 15 -- which actually he couldn't buy, because he was too young, so an 18-year-old friend bought it -- he thought he'd look cool with it. And that was, I guess, what convinced him to make the sale; he said he originally wanted a pistol, but the gun seller was out of pistols. So he walked away with this AR 15, which in turn ended up killing two people and wounding a third.

So I just point out that this is happening within a bubble of gun culture that America is famous for. And to me, it does reflect badly on a lot of men and young boys who are looking for something; I think they're looking for their understanding of masculinity through the barrel of a gun.

I'm not saying that some guns are not useful for real hunting and so forth. But clearly this was not that, because it was happening on the streets of Kenosha. There were no deer to be felled at that time.

And I introduce the topic of how young men in our culture are really prevented from having rites of passage, that there really are so few rites of passage for adolescents that prevail in our culture today.

And I've learned from Malidoma Some, the African teacher who specializes in rites of passage, now living in America, but raised in Africa, that when boys lack a rite of passage, they're confused. They don't know why they're here, and they're filled with anger.

And I think this expresses a lot of the cause of violence among young people today, I think of all the people who have killed children in the Connecticut grade school and children in Parkland High School, and all these serial killers, almost all of them are male, and almost all of them are young.

And so there's really something missing in our culture, and we could do something about it, if we would cool down a little. And that includes cooling down religious rhetoric as well as political rhetoric and getting smart about rites of passage for young boys in particular; that women have their own natural rite of passage every month.

But boys -- we have to seek out our rituals to be healthy and to be grown up. And then I speak to the topic of the global crisis. I think that too has a lot to do with -- talking about climate change -- the refusal to grow up.

Adrienne Rich talks about how patriarchy includes fatalistic self-hatred to it...fatalistic self-hatred. But I think that, to the extent that corporate heads and politicians and leaders of nations are not really stepping up, to stand up to climate change that what's being laid before us, is fatalistic self-hatred.

The result of climate change as it gallops along, is going to be extinction of our own species. So there's a lot of self-hatred baked into that, isn't there.

But here's a solution that I think I've not heard anyone talk about, but all of our governments have what we like to call Defense Departments. The Defense Departments are oriented toward other human beings.

Why don't we gather all this energy, technology, money and manpower that constitutes our militaries, and our Defense Departments, and aim it at the common enemy, the common foe, which really is not one another -- we're all human beings, we all have different political ideologies.

But the foe now is a common foe, and it is climate change. Why don't we take the billions, hundreds of billions in America, of that kind of money, and turn it toward toward resolving the climate change?

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.