

Daily Meditation 12/4/21

On Stench, Abortion Debates and Supreme Courts

Good morning.

We continue to meditate on the current event of the Supreme Court discussing and doing away with 50 years of precedent in American law, constitutional law, really, because the teaching 50 years ago was that women have a right to make choices about their bodies. But here we have the return of the aggressive masculine, eager to take away that right.

But I point out in my essay a couple very important things: that Roe versus Wade does not demand or propose that any woman at any time, in any place, get an abortion.

It's not about abortion, I think that's part of the whole problem. The whole issue has been framed wrongly. It's not about abortion. It is about preventing the death of pregnant women who choose an abortion, that's something very different.

Because before Roe vs. Wade, when abortion was outlawed in so many states, many women had to get an abortion in the back alleys. And especially if they were not rich and privileged women. If they were rich and privileged women, they got rich and privileged doctoring.

And that, of course, is happening again with the new law in Texas, that is essentially preventing abortion. And that this very same Supreme Court has allowed to go on and on now, for over a month.

The poor cannot escape the state to someplace else. Besides, they often don't have babysitters and the rest, when they're working jobs as well as caring for their own children. And they can't just go flying off to another state.

I have a close relative who was raped. And she escaped actually from where she was living, in order never to see that person again. And with two young children, she escaped to a southern state, to Georgia, and then learned that she was pregnant. And she had to go to New York to get an abortion. And it was very, very difficult for her; the decision was very difficult.

And that is my experience across the board: that I never met a woman who found the decision to get an abortion an easy one. So for men to pile on -- for religions, righteous religious zealots to pile on women who are facing such a difficult decision, it just adds misery and injustice to this compulsion to control women.

So there is much that is at stake here, and there's much that's being revealed about the resistance to allowing Roe versus Wade to continue.

Now I allude to Judge Kavanaugh, (who was famous in his nomination hearing for shouting about how much he loved beer), that his contribution yesterday was to me singularly odd. His solution to the whole thing is to divide the country between the red states and the blue states, and in the blue states, he said, in New York, California and all that, they can have abortions, but that the red states will go ahead and forbid abortion.

But that's, if anything, is a tyranny toward the minority. It is that in red states are women, too many women, poor women especially, poor women of color especially, who cannot afford to go elsewhere for abortions.

And to me this suggestion by Judge Kavanaugh rings back to the times of the Confederacy: let's just have two different countries here. One that wants to control women's bodies and make the state, and politicians of all people, and male politicians especially, to control the bodies of women.

Where does this come from? I mean -- I laugh, but it's tragic. And I really do think in that proposal that he made, wrapped in his fancy black robes, yesterday, I do think he may have been drinking. Perhaps a little too much beer.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.