

Daily Meditation 02/25/22

Putin's Masculinity Problem

Good morning.

Today we're meditating on the war that Putin is waging against the Ukrainian people. And I make the point in the essay that envy rules again.

And as I pointed out in my book on evil, envy, with resentment, often are generators of war. Envy itself is led by - fed by -- lies and untruths.

I'm going to share with you a few thoughts today from my book on evil, *Sins of the Spirit, Blessings of the Flesh: Transforming Evil in Soul and Society*, and what's here about evil and resentment.

And I associate the capital sin of envy with a misdirected seventh chakra, because the seventh chakra is a culmination of all the other energy and fire of Kundalini, up our spines and in our souls. And when that chakra is healthy, it's all about building community, about the light that is in us going out to link up with the light in other light beings, whether communities that are trying to do good in the world, make justice happen, and compassion, or individuals or the ancestors or angels, other light beings.

So that's the healthy side to the seventh chakra.

The unhealthy side is envy, because envy recognizes the light in others, but instead of linking up with others, it wants to shoot others down, so it is the only one standing.

So envy has been defined as sorrow over another's good insofar as it impedes one's own excellence. Thomas Aquinas says envy is felt when someone is sorry that his neighbor possesses good things which he does not have.

So it is built on sorrow. But it leads to lies and to hatred, and ultimately even to war. Envy gives birth to hatred because an envious person does not stop with jealousy toward another and that jealousy can lead to harming the others or wishing them harm.

Envy is often born of hurt, and hatred, and injustice. And often the human heart will settle for resentment, when any of these dimensions are not tended to.

So I say envy breeds resentment, and resentment can lead to war and hatred, scapegoating and projection. Resentment provokes: it provokes people and tribes and nations and groups to anger, to bitterness, to rancor, ill will, indignation, fire, rage, animosity, fury, wrath, vengeance, hostility, hatred, antagonism and revenge.

I think a lot of those energies are present in the speeches that President Putin made in the last several days.

Like cancer, resentments fester and grow, often under wraps, and hide until one day they explode into the light of day. Many a killer has operated out of resentment. And perhaps the king of them all was Hitler.

Envy builds on competition and envy refuses to praise. Meister Eckhart says a good person praises good people. But envy does not praise. The poet Rilke said that "we do justice only where we praise"...only where we praise.

So it seems to me that resentment comes along, praise dies, and envy rises. And that's a sad thing. It does not bring the good out of oneself or out of others.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.