

Daily Meditation 03/14/2022

Otto Rank, President Putin, and the Fear of Death

In today's daily meditation I share with you some important, I think, and profound ideas from Robert Kramer, a scholar of the work of Otto Rank. He has published several books on him, including his letters with Sigmund Freud, and speeches that he gave in North America on psychologies, the need for women's psychology and for children's psychology, which he felt strongly would not be provided by Sigmund Freud.

Otto Rank studied with Freud as a young man and was considered a very brilliant disciple, and so forth, but he broke with Freud after a while. And, of course, he died quite young in 1939.

But included in this article I wrote about Kramer, is a kind of a drama he lays out in the first person, kind of imagining what Putin would be saying if he had knocked on the door of this psychologist. And here is one scene that Kramer portrays.

So this is Mr. Putin talking. He says, first he says, of course, to keep this all secret, between patient and therapist.

"Okay, listen up. You and me know very well this is the greatest country in the world. I did that. It's me that turned the Russian Federation into a world superpower. Then those softy Soviets let it go to shit. Our Red Army, I mean Russian army, is the most powerful on the planet.

Like I told that American idiot, 'You know, Donnie, we have these hypersonic missiles.'

And Trump said, 'Well, we got them, too.'

'Guess what,' I said. 'Come on, guess.' Haha.

'Well, yes, you will get them, eventually. But we got them first.'

He turned this weird orange color, more than normal. Back of the net!

Plus, I saved the Russian people from decadent western values like gay rights, democracy, and freedom of speech. So everyone's in a good place. And now it's time to look after numero uno.

Hitler, Stalin and Mao, the three greatest leaders of the 20th century, right? Plus Thatcher, a little bit, but she was a woman so she don't count.

God, those fellows knew how to command respect from the West, didn't they? What did they all have in common, Doc? Thattaboy... war. They all secured their glorious places in history through inflicting death and misery upon millions.

So here's the big idea, Doc. Those Ukrainians with that pushover of a comedian running the show, all I gotta do is this (smacks hands together) and those pussies gonna roll over. All I got to do is this, and the pussies will roll over.

We all know Ukrainians and Russians are one people. Sure, the Americans will piss their pants, but that old geezer Biden has got to learn not to fool around with me.

And after that, after that, there'll build me a mausoleum right here next to Lenin's. And mine's gonna have two floors, and air conditioning, and a TV playing ice hockey highlights 24/7. I'll be immortal, Doc. I'm going to live forever.

You know, Doc? I'm feeling a little better now. You shrinks really know stuff, don't you?"

So that's his fable of what is inside Putin's mind at this time; that ultimately it is this quest for immortality that Rank warns us can do a lot of damage if it is not nipped in the bud.

And again, I make the point in the essay, that this, after all, it seems to me, to the Christian, is what the resurrection story is meant to heal.

Obviously, it has no worked in the person of Mr. Putin.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.