

Daily Meditation 04/21/2022

Earth Day: How Diet Choices Assist in Saving Mother Earth

Good morning.

In our meditations on Mother Earth, since Earth Day is upon us on Friday of this week, today we talk about a practice that is very important for the survival of Mother Earth as we know her, and all the creatures on her. And this is a practice of changing our diets.

When I read the book *Diet for a New America*, some 25 or more years ago, it moved me to give up all beef consumption, because I felt the author John Robbins made a very powerful argument about how much water and land and wheat it takes to grow beef.

But today is a new day. And we have many people, especially many young people, thinking seriously and changing their diets from the dominant meat-pursuing diet to veganism, and as I pointed out I had a discussion recently with a 14-year-old who had committed to exactly that. And his family is supporting him, although not imitating him in any strict way. But I do meet people around the world who are committed to vegan diets both for their own health and for the health of Mother Earth.

And as I point out in the essay today, there's a spectrum of altering our diets for the sake of Mother Earth, climate change and future generations of humans and others. But I want to back up just a bit with the whole theme that is laid out in my book on the Cosmic Christ about the dream I had, telling me that "your mother is dying," and how that includes certainly our Mother Earth.

The book of Joel, in the Hebrew Bible, the prophet Joel, written in the first century BC, chapter 1, verses 11 and 12 says,

Stand dismayed, you farmers; wail, you vine dressers, for the wheat, for the barley. The harvest of the field has been ruined. The vine has withered, the fig tree wilts away, pomegranate, and palm, and apple. Every tree in the field is drooping. Yes, aliveness has faded, faded, among the sons and daughters of the human race.

So this is the kickoff in the book of Joel. And it is a statement about drought and about eco-destruction. And it really sings a lamentation about the pain of Mother Earth. And then in the second chapter, it calls for a change: for fasting, for mourning, for repentance.

Mourning when the beasts and the herds of cattle wander bewildered. The earth quakes, the skies tremble, the sun and moon grow dark, the stars lose their brilliance.

That's Joel 1:18 and Joel 2:10. But there is a promise that a breakthrough will arrive. This is Joel 20:13.

But now, now -- it is Yahweh who speaks -- come back to me with all your heart, fasting, weeping, mourning. Let your hearts be broken, not your garments torn. Turn to Yahweh your God again, for Yahweh is all tenderness and compassion.

...tenderness and compassion.

And then there is that famous prophecy that is repeated in the book of Acts around the Christian Pentecost day. And this is the promise, this is chapter three of Joel:

After this I will pour out my spirit on all humankind. Your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your old folk shall dream dreams, and your young ones see visions. Even on the slaves, men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days. I will display portents in heaven and earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon into blood before the day of Yahweh dawns, a great and terrible day.

Very much a cosmic happening, such as we are undergoing today with our droughts, our wildfires, our excessive hurricanes, and all the rest.

When that day comes, the mountains will run with new wine and the hills flow with milk and all the rivers of Judah will run with water.

So there is a promise that in spite of these struggles, when there is a change of heart in human beings, great things can happen. And the young may be leading the way.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.