

Daily Meditation 08-03-22

Ceremony of Sorrow, Hope, & Action, continued

Good morning.

We are continuing our deep ecumenism practice by borrowing and sharing, with his permission, Rabbi Arthur Waskow's powerful prayer and ceremony in light of the burning of Mother Earth, that we are all undergoing: a ceremony he calls "one of sorrow, hope, and action"...

...and action. Remember, my working definition of hope from David Orr, the eco-philosopher, is "Hope is a verb with the sleeves rolled up." So that is the action. The action comes from sorrow, from a broken heart. And that action, then, is what carries hope.

Now, I am really moved by this poem, he calls "Between the Fires: A Prayer for Kindling Candles of Commitment." Of course, it comes from a deep place, because he speaks first of

*We are the generations that stand between the fires:
behind us, the burning crosses lit by hate.*

So that is, of course a reference to the Ku Klux Klan. And he says,

*The smoke of terror
behind us, the flame and smoke
that rose from Auschwitz--*

...yes, from Auschwitz, and also from Hiroshima. All the destruction and the hatred and the burning that humans can bring to the planet and to one another. And as he says,

*Not yet behind us,
the burning force of the Amazon
torched for the sake of fast
hamburger and fast wealth --*

Yes, so much of the destruction of Amazon is to raise cattle for beef-addicted peoples. And then he brings up the the killings in America:

*Not yet behind us, the glare of gunfire
exploding in our children --*

...the murdering of children in schools because rifle manufacturers get in the way of passing obvious laws, that assault weapons do not belong in the hands of children of 18 years of age...or even anybody except those who are in a war scene. Now,

Not yet behind us,

he reminds us,

*...the hottest years of human history,
that bring upon us
melted ice fields. Flooded cities.
Scorching droughts. Murderous wildfires--*

So he talks about a flood of fire, and then he calls on the Prophet.

*'Here! The day is coming,' says Prophet Malachi,
'that will flame like a furnace, says YHWH/Yahh, the infinite
inter-breath of life --'*

...that's a name for divinity; the infinite inter-breath of life. The interbreathing name, Yahhhweh, brings healing and a change of heart, transformation.

*'..Yahweh the breath of life, I will send you the prophet Elijah
to turn the hearts of elders to the youth --'*

...are elders today thinking about the younger generation? If they are, why are they not passing laws that preserve the earth?

And so there is a warning that hard days are ahead.

*The inner fire of love and liberation that burned in the burning bush,
the fire that did not destroy the bush--*

This is as strong as death. That's what love is, a fire that cannot be extinguished. It's at the heart of all creation. It is those sparks of fire that we've spoken about previously in recent meditations.

And finally, a prayer:

Blessed be you, interbreathing Spirit of the world, creative energy who makes us holy by connecting us with each other and with you, and at this moment, connects us by kindling our inner light.

May this be a prayer for all of us? For humans, homo sapiens of all spiritual traditions and none, that we may all kindle this inner light and wake up and get to work.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.