

**Daily Meditation 08/07/2022**

## **Considering Nothingness and Nothingburgers**

Good morning.

We're considering in today's meditation the theme of nothingness, but today in terms of political nothingness--the tasting of nothing that sometimes derives from bad politics and thus invokes the word "nothingburger."

And we apply it, among other things, to the Supreme Court. Because there is a kind of sadism going on as we apply the new barely-thought-through rules that overthrow 49 years of precedent about women and girls who've been raped or have otherwise very difficult decisions to make about bringing a child into the world, or who undergo, not at all due to themselves, to their choices, serious troubles in their pregnancy.

These women are literally being chased out of certain states, and there are others trying to pass some other laws, even some of them promoting bounties on the heads of pregnant women and forbidding women to move from state to state.

What is going on? Well, I see it as a form of sadism, a form of control.

Erich Fromm says, "A core sadism common to all its manifestations (this includes the Supreme Court therefore) is a passion to have absolute and unrestricted control over a living being, whether an animal, a child, a man or a woman."

Let me say, especially a woman.

This is at the heart of all fascism--control, control, control. That is the idol of fascism. That is the god of fascism. That is the idol of patriarchy.

"The authoritarian character," says Eric Fromm, a renowned psychologist, "is a sadomasochist who exhibits control of those below and submission to those above." (It's interesting that our past president was so submissive to Putin, and still is.)

"Religious and racial minorities," he points out, "as far as they are powerless, offer a vast opportunity for sadistic satisfaction for even the poorest members of the majority."

The majority can go after the minority. This is Ku Klux Klan. This is white supremacy.

This is becoming more and more embedded, unfortunately, into American politics where it's fashionable now, in Texas, to invite the fascist dictator of Hungary, who has gone out of his way to pervert the judicial system and the election system in Hungary so that he's been elected four times in a row in elections that all outside observers say have been rigged entirely. He just got a standing ovation last night at a certain Republican political gathering in Texas to which Senator Ted Cruz showed up and spoke. Yes, on the same bill as a fascist dictator of Hungary.

Says Fromm, "A sadistic character is afraid of life. Life frightens him because it is by its very nature unpredictable and uncertain."

Very sad goings on. Very important to name it.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.