

Daily Meditation 09/19/2022

## Gandhi on the Internal Forces that Can Destroy a Society

Good morning.

In today's video, I would like to elaborate a bit on the powerful teaching from Gandhi. And what he saw is called the seven sins of society, the internal forces that can destroy this society.

And of course, we're sharing this in the context of this language of a time of reckoning that I've been using in the videos recently.

So I think that's the kind of time we're living in. Whether we're talking about the taking down of Confederate statues, or the acclimation of Black Lives Matter, which is also a response to the times of slavery and lynching and that very dark shadowy side of American history, or the genocide of indigenous people, or the transgressions of the British Empire, and Spanish empires, and Portuguese empires.

And, of course, we've witnessing a new effort of imperialism in our day in Europe, with the invasion of a sovereign country, Ukraine, by Putin.

So clearly, these are patterns in human history. And especially since the time when patriarchy took over, around 4500 BC, about 6500

One thing I admire about Gandhi, and about this particular teaching of his, is that he talks about social sins. I think the Enlightenment has been so invested in individual rights, which is an important principle in itself, that it has often ignored the bigger picture of community on the whole in society. And certainly religion has succumbed to that, with its overemphasis on individual salvation.

And so these principles -- politics, without principal, wealth, without work, commerce without morality, pleasure without conscience, education without character, science without humanity, and worship without sacrifice -- these principles, in fact, bring together the individual and community.

They're not just floating around in society someplace. They are about decisions we make, not only as individuals, but as citizens. What kind of education for example, we set up for our younger generations.

And that applies to each of these principles. And one question I'll leave you with is this. These were gathered by Gandhi, who lived -- my goodness, 50 or 70 years ago. And are there others that are not named here? And one that comes to mind is of course, the whole issue of our relationship with other beings besides human beings, and so say humanity, without ecology and cosmology, with a sense of the whole.

Now of course this could be presumed in Gandhi's worldview and consciousness, because his religion, the Hindu religion, is in fact very cosmic and universal in its awareness. But it can't be presumed in our education, or in our

sense of nationhood in our time, because that is about climate crisis is all about, isn't it that we have left it out of our principles for bonding a society together and finding meaning together.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.