

## Daily Meditation 11/02/2022

### Hannah Arendt & Thomas Aquinas on Truth, Justice, and Politics

Good morning.

Hannah Arendt, as we saw in a previous daily meditation, warns us that taking our bearings in the real world is destroyed when lies displace truth.

And there are many lies going around in our world today, our political world. Not only the big lie that one person won an election who did not win. Or the lie that goes with it, that our election system is rigged.

But also there are other lies going around, like QAnon lies that leaders in the Democratic Party are eating babies. Yes, eating babies, and promoting pedophilia. That's part of the QAnon conspiracy, which is full of outrageous, crazy, off the wall lies.

But if you look at history, there are parallel lies in history. A lot of the anti semitism in the Middle Ages and late Middle Ages made up stories about Jews who ate babies. And it's interesting that those lies are parallel to some of those that were going around this current conspiracy and catching many imaginations. A lot of unhinged people are very vulnerable to crazy lies.

So this is a time for being alert, and also for looking out for conspiracies and efforts to project and to hate on certain groups, whether it be Jews, whether it be people of color, whether it be women, whether it be gay and lesbian people or transgender people, all these people are receiving threats today.

And feeling it deeply because the social media, some of it, and some mainstream media make room for this kind of nonsense, this kind of hatred and this kind of danger that whips up fire in people's souls, and so confuses them, makes their brains foggy that you can't see truth from reality, which is exactly what Hannah Arendt learned in her study of the Nazi times: that we can lose our bearing in this real world.

How? Through lies. Lies are that effective, they are that powerful. The Nazis could not have achieved what they did, without lying machines, propaganda, and spewing it through the media of their time through radio, through film, through speeches, through newspapers, and through mass gatherings, political gatherings.

It is the time to be alert and aware and to ground ourselves, to find our bearings in the real world and to resist all lies that destroy these bearings.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.