

Daily Meditation 11/07/2022

The Bigger Issues on This Season's Ballot (bigger than food and gas prices)

Good morning.

Today we're asking the question about what are the bigger issues in this season's ballot?

By bigger, I mean bigger than the two we dealt with two days ago: the rise of gas prices and of food prices, which are directly related to the war in Ukraine as well as to the greed of oil companies. And of course, these are important questions.

And so I ask in the meditations, question at the end of my essay, just what you think are the greatest issues in today's election. I name a few:

- The future of democracy in America.
- The future of Social Security.

There are many people in one party saying they want to kill Social Security, or have it come up for vote every year, which is the same thing. This, despite so many workers have been working from the get-go for decades, putting money, every paycheck, into Social Security so they would have retirement.

For some Americans, that does not seem to be an issue.

- The right of women to have control over their own bodies and health decisions without a creepy politician in the room.
- The right to marry whom one loves, which is the advance that was made with the right for gay and lesbian people to marry a number of years ago--a right that apparently is up for grabs, according to Supreme Court judge Clarence Thomas.
- The role of violence and civil discourse.
- The role of fascism. Call it by any other name, but that is what it is.

I just received a letter yesterday from an Italian friend living in Italy. And he described the first week of the new government, which is fascist. And he said it's just very, very scary. They are forbidding large groups to gather. They're forbidding raves because they don't want large groups to gather, except those

that are going to support the government. Many other happenings going on right now in Italy where the authoritarian parties have gathered together and won the most recent election.

And of course, Italy has a history, with Mussolini, of fascism reigning as a political option. And we know how that ended.

- And of course, the big issue: the planet's future.
- The future of our children or grandchildren.
- The future of species, millions of species on this Earth. In many ways it's in our hands.

So, justice and compassion are on the ballot.

Let me share with you a simple sentence from the poet Wallace Stevens. He writes: "After the final no, there comes a yes. And on that yes, the future of the world depends."

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And so it is our job to say no. That's what voting is about. That's what conscience is about. That's what values demand of us.

But hidden in the no there is a yes. And the future of the world depends on that yes.

So what is it we're voting for, as well as what is it we're voting against?

A beautiful meditation there from Wallace Stevens. I repeat it. "After the final no, there comes a yes. And on that yes, the future of the world depends."

And I write about yes being our mystical faculty and our response. Via Positiva. And no being our prophetic faculty. Via Transformativa.

May our yeses be yes, and our no's no. May our mysticism be real and our prophecy engaged. At this time especially.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.