

## Daily Meditation 04-29-24

### Five Men on the Once Supreme Court Embarrass Themselves Anew

Good morning.

In today's meditation, we're dealing with the very sad and dangerous hearing before the Supreme Court last Thursday about the immunity of Presidents, whether Presidents have a right to be above the law. And sad to say, at least four male judges were anything but skeptical. One of them, Gorsuch, said "I'm not concerned about this case, so much as future ones."

Well, I think us voters are concerned about this case. And everyone in the country ought to be concerned about it. There's a presidential campaign coming up. And the person accused in numerous legal briefs, is a candidate for President in 2024. Quite a luxury for Justice Gorsuch, that he doesn't need to think about that. The rest of us do.

Justice Kavanaugh: "I'm not focused on the here and now, in this case. I am very concerned about the future." Well, we are focused, because, if you have not noticed, Mr. Kavanaugh, there is an election coming up. And there was an attempted coup, elaborately fashioned by one of these presidential candidates. And as voters, we have the right to know the facts of this case before we vote.

And Justice Alito: "I'm going to talk about this in the abstract, because what we decide is going to apply to all future generations." Talk in the abstract? That's a very patriarchal thing to do, isn't it? And such a grandiose picture of himself: "All future generations" are just on their knees, eager to hear what Mr. Alito has to tell us about the future, not about the present.

These people are scaredy-cats. They are afraid of the present. They don't want to talk about that; they want to waft in the future. Put their names in the future.

An upcoming election is not an abstraction. Here we have a Supreme Court Justice saying he's going to go into the world of abstraction. He ignores the unprecedented event of January 6, that killed seven people. That's not an abstraction. And maimed hundreds of police officers who were trying to protect the Capitol, and above all the lawmakers in the Capitol. That's not an abstraction. These lawmakers thought they were going to die in the Capitol that day. That's not an abstraction. Our elected officials are not an abstraction.

One commentator put it this way: "What the justices appeared to be overlooking in the rush toward abstraction -- was that the actual substance of the case, the here and now, is of monumental significance."

Now, it seems to me we're dealing here with patriarchy, among other sins in the Supreme Court, because patriarchy loves to run into the abstraction world, where you can talk on and on, and rationalize on and on, and argue with each other on and on, while real elections are going on, or being prepared for. Or, while people are being attacked and murdered in the Capitol of the United States. So that's part of patriarchy: its preference for abstraction.

And another part of it, is the arrogance: the arrogance depicted by this kind of judicial hierarchy, so that they are above the fray, because they're so wise and they live in another world. Genius, the judiciary decision-making of super-lawyers, Super-men..

Nothing could be further from the truth. They are very, very afraid men. Afraid to step into the real question at hand. And thank God, the women, including even a very conservative new Justice, they took on these men. And it was the new Justice, who near the very end of the day, said, "Hey, we've been asked to hurry things along with this election."

So, in so many cases, in so many ways, this Thursday debacle was the men versus the women. And the women spoke poignantly and passionately about the stakes here, and about moving the case along. Because we voters, hundreds of millions of us, have a right to get to the facts about what really happened, and who was behind January 6, and how much one of the candidates for President this year was behind January 6 -- including what has already come out, is that he had his hands in all of it, including fake electors and all the rest.

So we have a right to move beyond patriarchy, and beyond this abstraction thing, to get the truth of the matter. Because voting rights, no matter what this Supreme Court majority seems to think, does lie at the heart of the working effort at democracy.

Thank you. We'll see you next week.