

## Daily Meditation 3-31-25

### More Artists on Evil: An Opera on the Anti-Christ Playing in Berlin

Good morning.

This past week, I introduced you to this wonderful satire by Patrice Mersault, though that's a pen name, because he says he doesn't want to give his name out, because he doesn't want crosses burning on this front lawn, which I can understand, and I'm sure you can too. Now in tomorrow's or in today's meditation, we are also dealing with art, in this case, an opera about *Anti-Krist*.

But I want to share with you more of what Patrice has written, because I think it's genius, frankly. He says,

*When I invoke Satan, Christ, or the Bible, it is not in service of doctrine or dogma. Rather, I use these figures as texts, as more metaphors, vehicles for exploring power, morality and the human condition.*

Necessarily, the situation we're in today is about power, morality, and the human condition, as we are invited to sell our souls, and our responsibility for Mother Earth, preserving Mother Earth for future generations, and our responsibility for preserving and improving on democracy over autocracy, fascism, government of the few, by the few, for the few, of the billionaires, by the billionaires, for the billionaires. He goes on:

*Belief in the literal truth of these symbols is unnecessary for understanding the themes at play. It's not about religion, per se, but about what these ideas represent, and how they shape the world around us. And if I'm being honest, he writes, it is about revealing the blasphemous hypocrisy of those who profess Christianity are worshipping at the altar of Donald Trump.*

In his writing to the Devil, he says, speaking of Mr. Trump:

*Here is a man who lies with a fluency that rivals you, a man who manipulates truth as deftly as you twisted words in Eden. He has sown division across a nation, stoked hatred against the vulnerable, and nurtured a cult of personality that borders on idolatry. His every act seems to mirror the archetypes of evil we've long attributed to you: Deception,*

*pride, betrayal and chaos. And yet I wonder, do you admire his craft, or does his blasphemous audacity make even you, the Father of Lies, bristle with indignation? So tell me, Lord of the Abyss: Do you view Trump as a masterpiece of your infernal artistry, or has he become something more? A rival whose depravity risks destabilizing even your Dominion of the damned?*

*And the Devil responds, and actually praises what he calls my astute correspondence, for what he has observed going on around him. He says, 'Even I must pause to admire the sheer audacity of Mr. Trump's malevolence. He is a fascinating specimen. But I'm not at all threatened. I am the prince of darkness, architect of the fall, the serpent of old who defied the Almighty himself. Do you truly believe that a man, a bloated, orange-hued charlatan, could usurp my throne? No: Trump is no rival. He is a tool, a particularly grotesque and effective one, yes. A tool, nonetheless.'*

But the writer comes back against the devil, or what he called *My dearest Prince of Darkness: What if he is not your servant, but your successor? He is deception incarnate, the false prophet who does not merely distort truth, but annihilates it. He declares the media is the enemy of the people, transforming the free press, cornerstone of democracy, into a scapegoat for his failures. He insists that the election was stolen, a lie so corrosive it has fractured the nature's trust in its own democratic process, birthing insurrection, violence and a movement rooted not in patriotism but in delusion. He brands Department of Justice prosecutors investigating his crimes, as enemies of the state, purging them in broad daylight, leaving justice itself to rot under the weight of this corruption, and offering a narrative of victimhood and fraud. Through it all, he tells his followers, 'I am the only truth you need.'*

And he quotes John's Gospel, chapter eight: *'When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is the liar and the father of lies.'* This relentless flood of falsehood is not just a political strategy. It is the dismantling of truth itself: brick by brick, law by law, silence by silence, Reality is being rewritten. The old world, governed by facts, by justice, by morality, is crumbling before our eyes. Whatever Trump declares to be true is true. It is not the serpent's whisper in Eden; it is the antichrist proclamation from the throne. A commandment to unmake truth, and replace it with dogma or deception.

This author invokes the archetype of the Antichrist a number of times in these letters to the father of lies. As for the mob that attacked the Capitol on January 6,

*When the dust settled, he called them hostages and political prisoners, and then, in the ultimate act of defilement, he set them free. The message was clear to his followers,*

*violence in his name is not a crime. It is loyalty. Law and Order is about control, not justice.*

*He quotes from the prophet Amos, chapter five: 'They hate the one who upholds justice in court, and detest the one who tells the truth.' He's taken the Department of Justice and transformed it into his personal Inquisition. He talks about domestic threats from journalists, activists and dissenters. This is not governance. It is the systematic dismantling of freedom. It mirrors the Antichrist's persecution of truth tellers (Daniel 7:25), that Trump 'wears out the saints of the most high' (a quote from Daniel). The Antichrist seeks to change times and laws. Trump seeks to rewrite reality itself, fashioning a kingdom of falsehoods where only his voice echoes. He has molded his followers into disciples, not of Christ, but of himself. The gold-embossed Trump Bibles are blasphemy, relics of blasphemy. At rallies, his people actually chant 'Jesus is King and Trump is President.' He is called a man of God, a divine instrument, a man sent by God to save America. And he's called also the Chosen One. He does not correct them. He embraces this heresy.*

And he cites from the Book of Revelation, chapter 13: “The image of the Beast was given to speak and to command, that all who refused to worship it be put to death.” And Second Thessalonians: “He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God, or is worshipped, so that he sets himself up in God’s temple, proclaim himself to be God.” All this, he says, is heresy. And he cites from the Book of Exodus: “Do not mistreat or oppress a foreigner, for you were foreigners in Egypt, challenging Trump about his attitude toward immigrants.

So this is some of the riches to be found in this extraordinary document. And I praise the author. The title being *My Debate with Satan: Is Trump your Masterpiece or your Replacement?* That's Part One. There is a Part Two as well.

But all this gives substance what I’m talking about: the role of the Artist as Prophet, to speak the truth, to interfere, and to name for us what is going on, to name the experience of evil. Because evil is too big for ordinary names, ordinary words. You need satire, you need poetry, you need music. You need even opera to speak the truth, to bring light, in a time of darkness and lies.

Thank you. We'll see you next week.