

## Daily Meditation 10-13-25

### Wisdom From Jane Goodall: Some Teachings, Actions & Stories

In today's meditation, I am reflecting with you on the beautiful person and philosophy that Jane Goodall was (and is, still), and that she holds up for all of us to imitate, in our own way.

And I want to share more about Jane Goodall's work in a larger context, a context that I've also been working on this past week in a special way. Because Wednesday and Thursday evening, I worked with Gil Duran. Well, the second evening I worked with him — Wednesday, I worked alone — on the topic of the Antichrist, and especially that teaching of the Antichrist that has emerged from Silicon Valley religion today: that in the Apocalypse, and as represented by Peter Thiel, a very influential partner in today's political scene, and in the administration of our American government.

I want to set the context for why Jane Goodall's philosophy and story, her life decisions, her courage and her creativity, have so much to offer us today.

So I want to begin with an article, the end of an article published in *The Guardian* few months ago, called "The Rise of End-Times Fascism." The rise of End-Times fascism. And Naomi Klein is one of the authors of this article. I have tremendous respect for her. But here is where the article ends:

*We have reached a choice point, not about whether we are facing apocalypse, but what form it will take. Instead of asking, Do we all share the same worldview? perhaps we should be asking, Is your heart beating, and do you plan to live? Then come this way, and we will figure out the rest on the other side. An invitation to go beyond ideologies and labels and silos, to ask a basic question: Is your heart beating, and do you plan to live? Then come this way, and we'll figure out the rest on the other side.*

This is another way of talking about what I call biophilia, love of life, as distinct from necrophilia, love of death — language that Erich Fromm the psychologist laid out in a very direct and blunt way, when he said that "Necrophilia rises when Biophilia is stunted." When Biophilia, love of life, is stunted. And that observation comes from his study on evil, and indeed on the holocaust of World War II. And then this article goes on:

*To have a hope of combating the End-Times Fascists, with their ever constricting and asphyxiating concentric circles of ordered love (in other words, only certain people are worthy of our love), we will need to build an unruly, open-hearted movement on the earth-loving faithful: faithful to this planet, its people, its creatures, and to the possibility of a livable future for us all. Faithful to Here (H, E, R, E, to Here), to being present to what is, here, and to the now.*

So it's here where I think Jane Goodall's life and teachings and action really shines: by her example, as well as her words, by her actions, by her placing herself amidst the chimpanzees.

Now, if you look at these billionaire apocalyptic philosophers emerging from Silicon Valley, they don't talk very much about animal rights. They don't even want to talk about human rights, beyond that of their own plan. They see themselves as running the world, and building enclaves where their people can survive. And for some it means going to Mars, and for some it means places underground. Zuckerberg has built himself a 5,000-square-foot mansion underground in Hawaii, apparently for that very purpose. And these people are people because they are super-wealthy, deriving their wealth from the explosion of Silicon Valley's accomplishments. Because they're super wealthy, they dream of what they want, with their wealth and power.

But Jane Goodall has a very different vision, obviously. And it has to do not with a few humans making it through rough times, these apocalyptic times — but with deeper, ever deeper relationships to the whole, to the Mother Earth herself, and this means to her creatures, including the chimpanzees and all the other creatures that are endangered today. That we're here to create a network and to recognize the network, that the web of creation that Hildegard of Bingen talked about. We are part of a web of creation. We're here to recognize that truth ever more deeply and to embody it in ourselves, in our economic systems, educational systems, political systems, religious systems, so that there can be a future for all, not just for a clique, and not just for one species.

As Tom Ferry pointed out, humans would die on the moon just out of loneliness. That on this planet, we have so much diversity (that's a naughty word in some circles today), but so many beings that want to befriend us and that we want to befriend. Anyone who has a good cat friend, or good dog friend, or good horse friend, and tree Friends, knows these facts. And this is what Jane Goodall stood for. So here is what some people have said about Jane Goodall's philosophy and her life work:

*From war-torn England to the jungles of Tanzania, Dr. Jane Goodall's childhood passion for animals led her to explore wildlife in Africa. Her groundbreaking discoveries*

*of chimpanzees challenged scientific convention, reshaped conservation methods, and redefined our understanding of the connection between humans, animals, and the environment we share. Jane's activism, vision and message of hope, have mobilized a global movement to protect the planet. (Actually, these were the words written out when she received the highest civilian honor for the Medal of Freedom at the White House.) Above all, she has taught us that when we search for humanity in the natural world around us, we discover it within ourselves.*

Notice: we discover it within ourselves. So we have to search. We have to hunt for humanity in ourselves. But we come to it through the assistance of other creatures, other beings, other friends. And Jane Goodall lived that, and she taught us that.

*She said, The more we can do to restore nature and protect existing forests, the better. (That was very near the end of her life.) Trees have to grow to a certain size before they can really work. If we don't get together and impose tough regulations on what people are able to do the environment, if we rapidly move away from fossil fuels, if we don't put a stop to industrial farming that's destroying the environment and killing soil and have a devastating effect on biodiversity — the future ultimately is doomed.*

And so the apocalyptic language from Silicon Valley's religion in this time, is paralleled by souls like Jane Goodall. But the solutions are very, very different. She's reaching out to all species and to all humans. The narrow vision, if you can call that, of Silicon Valley, is to reach out to the super-wealthy so they can run everything and protect their clique.

Thank you, Jane Goodall, for giving us vision at this critical time.

Thank you. We'll see you next week.