

Daily Meditation 9-21-2026

“Power Corrupts & Absolute Power...” AI & Trump as Teammates

Good morning.

We’re meditating this morning on this book, *The Nerd Reich: Silicon Valley Fascism and the War on Democracy* by Gil Durán. It’s very important book, and I want to share with you in the video more of what it has to offer.

So I’d like to begin with a sentence from Dan Houser. He says, “The people leading the push for AI are not the most humane or creative people.” And this really comes through in this book. “Humanity is being pulled in a direction,” he says, “led by people who aren’t fully rounded humans.”

So now let’s go to *The Nerd Reich*. First of all, I want to say a few words about the title. I love the title, *The Nerd Reich*, obviously a play on the Third Reich. So it captures a lot of history. And of course, the purpose of the Third Reich was to create a new kingdom, a Reich, on this Earth that would be Nazi in its flavor. But the “Nerd Reich” is the nerds who are famous for being behind the scenes, if you will, in Silicon Valley and AI. So I just think, and then the subtitle brings in the word *Fascism and the War on Democracy*, which was certainly what transpired in the 1930s in Germany, and is the goal of Peter Thiel and other champions who are named in this book.

Now, I’d like to begin on page 179, which is a chapter on Apocalypse, because Apocalypse is a very key word to these people, as is even the phrase “antichrist.” It’s very very dear to Peter Thiel, who likes to lecture about it.

On page 179, the book talks about how they are imagining a world of automation, information technology, and microprocessing that would actually lead to a “world without jobs that would birth an economic revolution that would collapse nation-states.”

And here is a quote from *The Sovereign Individual*:

*Societies that have been indoctrinated to expect income equality and high levels of consumption for persons of low or modest skills, will face demotivation and insecurity. As the economies of more countries more deeply assimilate information technology, they will see the emergence,*

*so evident already in North America, of a more or less unemployable underclass. This is exactly what is happening. This will lead to a reaction with a nationalist anti-technology bias.*

That is a quote from *The Sovereign Individual* book.

DOGE, which of course is famous for being led by Elon Musk with his tree chopper, “flamboyantly used AI in its quest to eliminate approximately 260,000 government jobs. Corporations slash tens of thousands of positions in the private sector.” So this move to slash the workforce is well underway.

The CEO of Anthropic said that “AI could wipe out half of all entry-level white-collar jobs, 50 percent, and spike unemployment to 10 to 20 percent in the next one to five years.” An article talking about that is called a “white collar bloodbath.” And this is really severe and important.

*What is being imagined is technology forcing the cognitive elite to flee collapsing nation states, destabilized by severe economic decline. What is unfolding is far more profitable and sinister. Technology is becoming the infrastructure of state power, arriving precisely at the moment when those who control it have captured the presidency for an aspiring dictator, distinguished by a bottomless appetite for greed. The arrangement allowed him to feast on crypto corruption, while they gorged on government power and lucrative state contracts to bolster their risky bets on speculative technologies. Instead of collapsing government, they colonized it. The United States, to tech billionaires who swallowed the government, has come to resemble a defaulting network state, at least temporarily. Government by tech corporation is a prime example of this strategy.*

I refer in my article to the “freedom cities,” so-called, and these are efforts to start a city from scratch, that would supposedly bring about the American dream for some, but in fact it’s a political nightmare because most communities do not appreciate having entire new cities dropped into their midst. But Trump's plan is to sell off federal land to these supposed freedom cities.

I allude to the pardon by Trump of ex-president Hernandez of Honduras, who headed a smuggling of drugs campaign that is called “the center of one of the largest and most violent drug-trafficking conspiracies in the world.” He had received a 45-year sentence. He smuggled 400 tons of cocaine into North America, and Trump pardoned him. Why? Well, Trump's pal Roger Stone argued that the new president could crush socialism to save a freedom city in Honduras, and this freedom city that was set up included American oligarchs like Peter Thiel. It was sort of a dry run for what these freedom cities would be like.

*A strange marriage occurred (page 188) between Silicon Valley’s powerful venture capitalists and the Christian Nationalist separatist project. These Christian nationalists would try to start their own cities and not allow anyone in who isn't white or who isn't Christian, so-called — and many of them being bankrolled by Silicon Valley money.*

So this book is full of facts and stories about what's really going on now behind the scenes. And not to be forgotten is that Thiel himself is “neck deep in Israel's war on Gaza.” And his machinery in Palantir, which of course the Defense Department is using and the ICE department is using, is also being used by those committing genocide in Gaza.

So this is a very important book. It is truly unveiling, opening the door, revealing what’s behind these debates about AI, and why Donald Trump is nowhere to be seen when it comes to limiting AI.

Thank you. We’ll see you next week.