

Richard Rohr's Daily Meditations

A Message for 2020

Unedited Transcript

Richard Rohr: I think we're all aware, especially those of us living in the United States of America, that this year, 2020, no matter what, is going to be a very contentious year. We call it an election year where the natural temptation is to be drawn by speeches and slogans and bumper stickers into one side of the equation or the other. The only way I can see that we can avoid that is by some form of contemplation, which as you know, or maybe you don't know, you don't have to know, but we call non-dual consciousness: refusing to be seduced into one simplistic answer, or single-issue voting and overlooking ten levels of delusion or deceit because our politician makes one good point that we agree with.

In fact, I would go so far as to say single-issue voting is one of the first corollaries of people who cannot be contemplative. When you read the moment contemplatively, you read the whole, not the parts. You don't get seduced into the part. You say "Yes, there's that, but there's this too." And this is a holding operation. How can I hold this, and this, and this, and this and see where the weight of goodness, where the weight of glory really lies? Without it, brother, sister, you're going to be an angry, confused, cynical person by the end of this year. And we don't want to go there. We're no help to God, to the United States of America, to ourselves, or to one another, if we allow what will undoubtedly be an entirely dualistic year make us into argumentative, angry, or cynical people.

So, I hope we can be some kind of friend, spiritual friend, as we walk through this year together. Thank you for trusting us, and I know I can't say everything perfectly. I know I'll reveal that I have biases, too, but don't let my biases become your biases. Say "Oh, I think Richard overstated his case there." Let me do that. Don't turn me off when I make that mistake. And then when I'm afraid to take a stand, when I'm too soft, and too sweet, and too spiritual, forgive me on that, too, and say to me, or to yourself, "Richard wasn't courageous in that moment. He needs to speak the truth. He needs to speak the truth to power on both sides, the left and the right." And I hope that's what I'm capable of doing, I hope that's what I do. Pray for me that I can do that. Thank you.