

June 15, 2020

As always you do not have to agree with me, but as I have said previously, I am not sure that we have the religious, political and moral will to address the issues that have been put in front of us to deal with in this summer of discontent.

Our discontent is manifold and multi-faceted with no clear path, so we proceed into the future that could be treacherous and potentially hold much sadness.

Compounding the tasks at hand is the absence of convincing leadership that can speak impartially and with some credibility to and for angry, seriously divided and diverse people, all having much at stake, in a search for some semblance of harmony with relative calm and enormous patience that is not based on force, fear, or an ideological religious or political self-serving not self-sacrificing conviction.

On the one hand we have the CORONAVIRUS 19 and the havoc that has been left in its wake as we moved from late winter to the edge of summer. People have died, people grieve, people suffer, people are unemployed, hungry, and angry, but history makes it perfectly clear that the virus is not sensitive or responsive to any of the human tolls it exacts.

Despite the wish or, even, the decision, that many have made that they will no longer be held captive by COVID 19, there is little evidence that the progression of the diseases spawned but the virus respects wishes and decisions without science and medicine to back up the wishes and decisions.

Our future is not in our own hands, it never is, but we can usually get away with our pretenses and play actings, but we will see how that works in the months and weeks ahead with COVID 19.

Dealing with racism and the inequalities, injustices, and long suffering that has become a necessary part of that in our country for so many years, is a task that we have few skills at hand to use in our attempts to sincerely and honestly address any aspect of the complicated and complex problems that call for skill and discretion and subtleness with great patience and a willingness to wait for the arrival of wisdom.

Waiting for the arrival of wisdom is not our strong suit, so we are on a perilous journey, my friends, a perilous journey, that will be long and hard, not unlike the 40 year journey of our ancestors in faith nor the 40 days Jesus spent in the desert so try and carry nothing but try and develop places in your mind and, especially, your heart where you can rest.

The roots of racism, the roots of any prejudice, bias, or systemic system of defense to define us over and against another, are found in our own inability to like and love ourselves, so try and test that idea without shutting it down, just test it and see if you can find any truth in it.

If you have the inclination to explore ideas that you have probably never touched before, I would recommend that you Google, James Baldwin, A Letter From A Region Of My Mind. It is available for free on several websites, it doesn't take long to read, it was written in 1962, and it is a reliable, but not all together pleasant, introduction to trying in a non-violent manner hear a voice from the "other side."

If you are further interested in going deeper and with a contemporary, I recommend the book, Known and Strange Things by Teju Cole.

Peace be with you, peace be with us!