

Cosmic Views

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Final Thoughts before the Election

By Carole Devine

First let me apologize for being so late with this issue. It has been a difficult month including a week in bed with a severe cold. Everything is off schedule.

I did a lecture at the For Purpose conference about the compatibility of each candidate with the USA (available on CD). It didn't really shed much light about who might win the contest, but the forecasts for the individual contestants point to Obama winning. However, I believe there is a much larger view we can take of this.

There are some inconsistencies that are really bothering me, and for some time I felt it was almost anti-American to voice them. The campaign, however, has brought them to the foreground, so they bear airing. There has been so much lying and misrepresentation, we not only don't know who to believe, we have stopped listening!

Socialism

This is a word we associate with Marxism/Communism. Every time there is a discussion in this campaign about government assistance to the less fortunate, the accusation that we are headed toward "socialism" is raised. It's a *fear* thing because we remember the negative effects of Russia's era with it. It is amazing to me that the side that yells "socialism" is the conservative, Republican side, and they are also the ones who consider themselves "religious" and accuse the Democrats, who are concerned about citizens' welfare, of being "Godless."

I remember in Sunday School learning about being kind to the poor whom "we'll always have with us." We were encouraged to tithe because 10% of our money should go to God's work, which is mostly caring for the poor—realizing that "there, but for the grace of God, go I." Wanting to help those who are not succeeding in helping themselves adequately does not seem "Godless" to me—in fact, quite the opposite.

To think that taxes will not be raised is living in a dream world. The Bush administration has put us in the largest debt we have ever had. How do we pay that without raising taxes? I am stunned at the attitude of those who support the war, but don't want to follow through on paying the cost it has brought down on all our heads. I'm also stunned by the attitude that it's all right to spend billions on destruction of another country, but not all right to provide a helping hand to our own citizens! Again, it's mostly Republicans who supported the war wholeheartedly and at the same time don't want to

share by paying taxes or by being concerned about the welfare of the whole country. (And the war was NOT necessary to protect our freedom! That's propaganda.) We're not talking about giving our hard-earned money away to just anyone (like pooling tips at a restaurant), but supporting programs that would give all people an equal shot at a good education so we can use the wonderful minds that go to waste because of a lack of funds and opportunity. (If I remember correctly, California provides the first two years of college free. Why can't the whole country do that?) Like helping with health care so that the sick can concentrate on getting better instead of worrying about how they are going to get their insurance company to keep their end of a deal?

Social Security

On the other hand, one of the government's best ideas, Social Security, (originating from a Democratic administration), is welcomed at retirement age (whatever that is for various people), and no one is saying a word about "socialism" being connected to it. I've never heard of anyone, including Republicans, declining to accept it because it smacks of socialism. I agree it should not be given to people who have not contributed, but it is similar to various programs now being proposed, such as help with health care costs. If it were being introduced now, you can bet the conservative right would be screaming "socialism."

There is "socialism" and then there is social responsibility. If there had not been so much greed in some sectors of our society who profited, and still are, from others' misfortunes, we would probably not need to assist those who go bankrupt from a serious illness. But, the fact is that way too many just cannot handle it. The issue is *how* we can best bring relief to citizens who know nothing but stress and despair on a daily basis with no end in sight.

Remember we are ONE

In *A Course in Miracles* we are reminded that we give to no one but ourselves. We are one. We were separated into "egos" eons ago, and we are on a path back to oneness. If we are one, then your brother is you and vice versa; therefore, if you give to your brother, you are giving to yourself. In fact, it is the very thing we are here to learn to understand. As long as we keep arguing that we don't want to share with "deadbeats and aliens" (or whomever) we will remain in our separated state, and it will be that much longer before we can be one with each other and the Father.

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