

The Eternal Return: We Fail but God is Always Love

Psalm 146 (NCV)

Sermon September 25, 2022

146 Praise the Lord! My whole being, praise the Lord. 2 I will praise the Lord all my life; I will sing praises to my God as long as I live. 3 Do not put your trust in princes or other people, who cannot save you. 4 When people die, they are buried. Then all of their plans come to an end. 5 Happy are those who are helped by the God of Jacob. Their hope is in the Lord their God. 6 He made heaven and earth, the sea and everything in it. He remains loyal forever. 7 He does what is fair for those who have been wronged. He gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets the prisoners free. 8 The Lord gives sight to the blind. The Lord lifts up people who are in trouble. The Lord loves those who do right. 9 The Lord protects the foreigners. He defends the orphans and widows, but he blocks the way of the wicked. 10 The Lord will be King forever. Jerusalem, your God is everlasting. Praise the Lord!

The US Hispanic Manifesto, published by Hispanic Star.org, clearly states that despite the significant contributions by the Hispanic Community composed of about 60 million people in the USA, their daily life experiences can be described as feeling invisible. What is interesting about this 2022 Hispanic Manifesto is that, for some reason, it carries clearly the same message that other essential parts of the USA society are saying, "Hello, fellow Americans, are we Invisible?" We hear it from the Blacks, from Indigenous People, from Asians, and from almost all people of color living in the USA. Furthermore, we listen to it from so many members of the LGQTB+ Community, and, of course, we hear it more and more from the homeless Community.

In my view, the US Hispanic Manifesto is saying to the majority, "the way you ignore us to make us feel invisible is contradicted by the organic way we contribute to this society because just like you, we are alive." There is no doubt this perverse occurrence repeats again and again. That is the reason I thought of the eternal return. There seems to be an eternal return to the same evil that looks down and makes others invisible, dehumanized, segregated not included. However, they will be helpful only if they can count on the GDP economy, become obsessed consumers, or are exploited until they are not needed to do the jobs the majority does not want.

I wonder why is this so perverse? For the majority, it seems such a blinding experience that requires a divine awakening. In his recent daily meditations, Mathew Fox introduces the term "The Age of Reckoning" to refer to the stage dehumanizers are experiencing an awakening at this moment in history. He puts it this way, and I paraphrase:

The "Age of Reckoning" helps us summarize much that is transpiring in our time: From the truths of Black Lives Matter to the taking down of confederacy statues; from the fuller realization that founders and icons of the United States such as Jefferson and Washington were slave holders (and the former had a slave mistress with whom he birthed several children) to the trauma passed on from generation to generation among so many colonized indigenous peoples; from the realities of the British Empire to its devolution to commonwealth status and much more. Yes, empires and colonialism have been with us for a long time. We are now aware of the evil. By looking at the smog from burning forests, the incredible floodings around the world, and other devastating climate change effects, we are invited to transform our ways of living and to treat each other, including our mother earth, with compassion and cooperation.

The message of Psalm 146 is that we humans love Empire, but Empire destroys life; The Eternal love in the Universe has and always will lure us into abandoning the love for Empire. So, the Hispanic Manifesto, in a voice seeking transformation, is a voice that speaks to our consciousness, a call to transform evil into blessings.

By now, we must realize that it was The Eternal Love of the Universe calling us in the form of Jesus, Gandhi, and Martin Luther King, and now we can see it in George Floyd, but it is becoming more apparent with the devastations of climate change. We are at a turning point. We must go back to God; we must realize that we are all made of the same atoms, equal, and color is not invisible.

So, the Hispanic Heritage Manifesto adds to the reckoning experiences of our time, seeking a turning point to the injustice of that experience of working so hard and not being recognized or not being recognized like others are recognized: Not objects but Subjects.

The US Hispanic Manifesto is saying we are not invisible. So, we want to tell you that here is a list of reasons that clearly signal that we are here alive, present, willing to share and cooperate, we are here, we are part of the whole, we are a natural part of the family too, we want to be part of what may give us all a better chance of survival, and that is together building sustainable communities where all diversity is welcome.

The US Hispanic Manifesto is saying many sources of information recognize that we are part of you. They see and feel our contributions to the USA. For example:

- Did you know that the words SALSA, CHORIZO, FAJITAS, PAELLA, CARNITAS, ELOTES, BURRITO, PALETAS, GUACAMOLE, CEVICHE, EMPANADAS, PUPUSAS, QUESADILLAS and many more do not need translation because they have become part of the English language?

- Did you know that Haggen Daze DULCE DE LECHE ice cream is one of the best sellers in the United States?

- Did you know that in the United States, the entire population has been influenced by SALSA, MERENGUE, BACHATA, AND BAND MUSIC?
- Did you know that in the USA, they sell 12 million pinatas and that half of these are sold to people who are not Latino?
- Did you know that more HOT SAUCE is sold in the USA than KETCHUP?
- Did you know that more tortillas are sold in the USA than Hot Dog Buns?
- Did you know that Hispanic LatinX are more than 52 million in the USA and that if we were a country, we would be the third largest country in Latin America after Mexico and Brazil?
- Did you know that in education, we have made significant progress and that currently, 13% of us LatinX/Hispanics in the US have a university degree?
- Did you know that we are 17% of the US population and constitute the most significant minority in this country?

There is something sweet in Psalm 146; it is the sweetness of Joy for those who, in the journey of life, can put their faith in the unfailing Love of this mysterious Universe. "Do not put your faith in the powers that be, in the Empire, do not trust that power, instead trust the God who brings hope and joy to the ones the evil of Superiority makes them Invisible:

5 Happy are those who are helped by the God of Jacob. Their hope is in the Lord their God. 6 He made heaven and earth, the sea and everything in it. He remains loyal forever. 7 He does what is fair for those who have been wronged. He gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets the prisoners free. 8 The Lord gives sight to the blind. The Lord lifts up people who are in trouble. The Lord loves those who do right. 9 The Lord protects the foreigners. He defends the orphans and widows but blocks the wicked's way. 10 The Lord will be King forever. Jerusalem, your God, is everlasting. Praise the Lord!

We are at a critical turning point in the Age of Reckoning. We know that if we survive, we must abandon Superiority. This is the connection between Hispanic Heritage and the call to end poverty as the first step to regenerating our ecosystems.

The turning point is the liberation of life from Empire and Superiority, transforming our hearts to equality for the common good. The turning point is a conspiracy with equality, where all are welcome at the table. So we can move those who are invisible, isolated by the Superiority of the Empire, to full members of the family sustained by love, compassion, and cooperation.

In Conclusion:

Psalm 146 is a song of hope, we may fail, but God is all love. Therefore, we affirm that in the beloved Community, there is no free or enslaved, no gender inequalities, no male or female, no white or BIPOCS, all are equal, are all welcome.

Communities, of communities of communities of communities. These are beloved communities where our small but significant changes and efforts can be multiplied by billions working together for a better life. We are at the turning point departing from the Superiority of the Empire, positioning ourselves to take action to regenerate our planet even with small efforts.

The Word of God for All of diversity Glory be to God! Amen. **I invite you to stand as you are able and let us sing: When Peace Like a River**

Notes:

The USA Hispanic Manifesto, find it at: <https://hispanicstar.org/>

Hispanic Contributions: The following link was consulted: <https://www.nic.lat/the-most-important-contributions-of-latinos-to-the-united-states/>

Mathew Fox's meditations consulted: <https://dailymeditationswithmatthewfox.org/2022/09/23/from-empire-consciousness-to-earth-consciousness/>

The turning Point: <https://dailymeditationswithmatthewfox.org/2022/09/24/korten-on-moving-from-empire-and-patriarchy-to-earth-community/>

Moving from Empire: <https://dailymeditationswithmatthewfox.org/2022/09/25/september-19-24-exploring-gandhi-korten-and-moving-from-empire-to-earth-community/>