

WITNESSING FOR YOUR BROTHER....IT'S TIME FOR THE END OF IGNORANCE

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I welcome you all as well as those who are listening on the internet. It's wonderful to have an extended gathering, if I can put it that way. And I embrace you all, not just those who are right in front of me here.

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Well, you live in interesting times. I would like you to raise your hands. How many of you have had trouble witnessing for your brother since the last time we spoke? Anyone? Okay. Well I'm going to try to simplify it for you. When a child goes to school and starts out in kindergarten, you might say that he is a bundle of potentiality. And every single teacher he has, from the first grade through the completion of college, in effect, witnesses for the best in that child and uncovers capacities that the child has, but doesn't know he has. In the process of the child growing up, the child may go through stages of being difficult, and other times being very cooperative. But always the teacher is faced with having to witness to a capacity the child has that is greater than the child is currently embracing. Now, that's all I am suggesting to you that you're called upon to do for your brother.

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So you say: "Well that President Bush (Obama)! Every time I look at him I just go into a fit . . . I can't witness for him." Well you've missed the point. Witnessing for someone has nothing to do with how you feel about that person. And for the most part, your feelings about other people aren't coming from the best in you. They aren't coming from a place of a larger perspective than what we'll call the human perspective. Your task

is to be like a teacher who witnesses to the potential rather than the presentation that individual is putting forth.

All of you to some degree or other—and at the present time, some individualities on the face of your globe—are presenting less than the best of themselves. And that's putting it kindly. Some of them are presenting the very worst in themselves. What they are presenting is not the truth about them because the truth is the very best of themselves. So you could say they're presenting a lie.

Your task in witnessing for your brother is, to witness for the truth. Your task is to know the truth. "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." Well, it not only makes you free, it contributes to the freedom of your brother who needs to have the truth known about him, rather than your witnessing to the worst in him and confirming that. And I want to reiterate the fact that it is impossible for you to have a thought alone. There's only one Mind. And your thought—every thought you have, we will say—weighs in the balance. And your witnessing to the truth, your willingness to know the truth about those who are expressing the worst in them, has a healing effect. It changes the balance of things for everyone.

As I said before: it blesses the world—the truth you are knowing—and what blesses the world blesses you. So, the blessing you give is the blessing you will get back. And so it is not as important what so-and-so is doing, as it is what you are doing. Because you can't control what so-and-so is going to do, but you can use self-discipline and control what you're going to do.

A teacher in the educational system is constantly knowing the truth about his or her students, by knowing that that student has the capacity to understand what he or she doesn't understand yet. You don't start with the child's behavior of ignorance and operate on that basis.

And so, you can't afford to look at your government, or look at the governments of other countries, or look at your president, or look at Osama bin Laden and judge and think and have commitment to your thoughts on the basis of what they're presenting. That isn't what witnessing for your brother means. And as I said before, it has nothing to do with how you feel about that person.

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What you do is: You take all the feelings you have about them, and you set them aside for a moment. And in that moment that you take, you contemplate the truth about them. And the truth about them is that they couldn't draw a breath, they couldn't have existence for a single moment without God.

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You know what we're doing? We're talking about translating radical idealism into practical realism. That's what witnessing for your brother means. That's what knowing the truth about your brother means. Because the truth that God is all seems like a radically idealistic idea, when the fact is it's the absolute fact. It's the absolute truth. And what you want to see is that radical idealism or what seems to you to be pure fantasy maybe—that God is all and there is nothing beside God—because look at all the shit that's going on. It's taking that radical idealism, recognizing it's the actual fact, and that anything less than that that is presented to you is not the truth. And therefore, staying with the fact in your mind relative to your brother. It amounts to correcting ignorance. And that's what a teacher in school does constantly. She or he corrects the current level of ignorance of the student by providing greater understanding than that child already is consciously embracing.

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So knowing the truth about your brother is something you do in spite of the way your brother is behaving. If you recognize that what you're engaged in is making a correction, as a teacher makes a correction, and you make the correction by providing greater clarity without punishing, then you have blessed your brother.

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And you know what? As I've said before: This better use of your own mind keeps you from being mesmerized by the presentation your brother gives to you over and over and over again. It's like Osama bin Laden is saying, "two plus two equals five. By dammit! Two times two equals five. Do you get it? If you don't get it, I'll hit you up the side of the head! And I'll get you to see it my way." Well you know two times two is four, so you stay with the truth and you continue to present the simple truth over and over and over, together with explanation and caring, until that one who is claiming that two times two is five gets it. Because you know the capacity is there even though that one is claiming he has no capacity to see what two times two really is. You've got to hold to the fact that the capacity is there to understand the truth.

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You've also got to understand that no matter how obtuse anyone gets in the presentation of their ignorance, you can't afford to abandon your willingness to witness for the truth. Because, you know what? As I've said before: If you're not Awake right now, then you are resisting the understanding, the insight, that would constitute waking up. And as I've said before, you're worth my repeatedly confronting you with the truth with Love. It's not that I Love your bad behavior, and it's not that I'm telling you to Love Osama's bad behavior, or perhaps the ignorant steps that your government is taking. You persist in acknowledging the truth that goes beyond the current presentation, the current ignorance. And you do it knowing that the capacity is there for everyone to get it. And that's Love. Love is persisting in correcting ignorance by providing greater clarity, with Love.

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To witness to the best in your brother is to be a brighter light yourself. And if your light is brighter, because it isn't covered up with your ignorance or your emotional reactions, then the whole world is blessed. And in the greater light of clarity, transformation can occur. But if you're going to let yourself be mesmerized by your own ego reactions, or if you're going to let yourself be mesmerized by the media, then your light is going to be dim, and you're going to be miserable in the process.

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Remember, witnessing for your brother—witnessing on behalf of your brother—has nothing to do with liking or disliking him. It has to do with caring enough to contemplate the truth, the radically idealistic truth about them, right in the face of their behavior. This is Love which is transformational. Persisting in it translates what seems to be radical idealism into practical realism—that you call healing, transformation—whether it's individually, whether it's on a national basis, or whether it's on an international basis.

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Now, mesmerism is another word for hypnotism. Mesmerism works by causing your attention to become more and more focused, until it is considering less and less, and finally ends up with your attention on one single thing. It is in the absence of the balance that is in a larger, more inclusive perspective that you can become subject, we will say, to the will of others, where you lose your integrity or your self-control, where you lose the ability to exercise self-discipline.

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So, watch when you're looking at the television, especially when you're looking at the twenty-four hour news broadcasts where they have to keep their hours full of something which you shouldn't be keeping your mind full of. I want you to observe how much suggestion goes on—"What if this? What if that?"—things that aren't happening and probably will never happen, but the suggestion is provided that you have reason to be afraid. This is hypnotic.

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And once your fear does become engaged by suggestion, not facts, not literal events, the mesmerism becomes reinforced by emotion and you become hooked. Why? Because you haven't gone outdoors and smelled the roses. You haven't gone outdoors to see whether there's any threat. You're not being reminded that the grass is still growing, and regardless of what Osama is doing, it needs to be mowed—or that your plants are dying back because it's winter and they need to be cut down, to the ground. And you lose the balancing perspective.

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Understand how mesmerism works so that you don't become mesmerized by other's attempts to focus your attention on what. Fear. And how are they focusing your attention on fear? They're focusing on it by suggesting ever more forcefully that you are mortal, that you can die, that you are a body and you're not free. And you are, therefore, the potential and perhaps likely victim of being mortal.

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Well, that's enough to scare anyone, isn't it, if you don't know the truth, if you have no other resource. Again, I want you to notice how much suggestion is employed in the news. And I will tell you something very practical: you would be better off reading the newspaper, where there are not voices, there are not sound clips, there are not video clips. And where what you read, if it has any emotional impact, is generated entirely by you, because you can handle your emotion. But it's very difficult not to be swayed by the emotion, and I want to say the sloppy use of words, but the use of words is really very skillful. The suggestions are made very skillfully.

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And you know what? The news is not presenting unbiased information. It is presenting what your government wants you to hear. And there's very little practical opposition to it, or very little presentation of a different way of looking at things. And you know what? You don't have to turn the TV on.

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It's not like the book 1984. Amazing, that when that book came out, it was about the future. Now 1984 is old hat. But it isn't where the television screen is on in every room you could ever go in and you can't get away from the news. You can choose how much you're going to hear. You can choose where you're going to get your news. And I encourage you to get it from the least emotional place. Get the best newspaper you can get hold of. Not the National Inquirer. [audience laughter] And read the dispassionate news. And then, having read it, go within and know the truth about the situation, and about the characters, and about everyone who's involved, because everyone needs greater clarity than they're experiencing right now.

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Does that give you a better feeling for witnessing for your brother? Again, it has nothing to do with how you feel about the brother.

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Now, I'm going to mention again, that with everything you've heard about what the truth of it is about mankind, about yourselves, you have a body of knowledge, we'll say, that you can draw upon to witness on behalf of your brother. To state in your mind what the truth is in spite of their behavior. But ultimately, the reason for your employing a practice of knowing the truth about your fellow man is so that you yourself will become so unconflicted within yourself, that there's no resistance to the penetration of God's perspective.

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And when that insight comes, you will have feelings about President Bush or Osama bin Laden, or your government, or whoever. You will have feelings, but they will be feelings of unutterable Love. You will feel their innocence, the same innocence that is yours as well. You will feel something, and that's where the real transformation can occur—that's radical transformation!

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But to begin with, set aside the way you feel about so-and-so, and then witness to the very best in them, which is the God in them. And abide with that, and don't let yourself become distracted by all the arguments that your ego can present to you to the contrary.

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The words of the song: "What the world needs now is Love." More Love. And Love is your willingness to witness for your brother in spite of his behavior, or your sister in spite of hers. And you know what? At the

moment you don't really have the luxury to indulge in ego reactions, because your willingness to witness for your brother, based on the actual truth about him, is sorely needed. You're at a point where you really can't afford to be wishy-washy about it. Your brother needs it urgently, and you need it urgently. It's not a time to fool around with metaphysical principles. It's time to put them into practice.

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No, it's not the end of the world. But there is, as you all know, an urgent call for something, and I'm telling you what the something is. It's time to put into practice all the things we've been talking about. It's time to discover that your ego reactions are not more important than knowing the truth. And that your ego reactions will only delay the transformation that everyone is on the threshold of.

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Transformation. Transformation is positive. I'm talking about evolution, not devolution. I'm talking about more, not less. It's time for the end of ignorance. That's what it's time for the end of ignorance.

~exerpt from Gathering with Raj/JESUS November 2001