

They said to one another, "Here comes this dreamer. Come now, let us kill him and throw him into the pits; then we shall say that a wild animal has devoured him, and we shall see what will become of his dreams."

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be always acceptable in thy sight, oh Lord, my strength and my redeemer. Amen.

Sweet dreams, in your wildest dreams, never did I dream, dream big, dream a little dream of me, I wouldn't dream of it, I have a dream, living the dream, dream come true...

Wow! What a day for Joseph the 17 year-old dreamer. Perhaps he's been a little too plain or exuberant in speaking about his dreams? He's already favored by Israel; wearing a beautiful coat of many colors-long-sleeved and ankle length...And bitterness, jealousy, insecurity can do a number on people and cause them to act in ways that are less than Christ-like or maybe a better term for Hebrew Scripture, "God-fearing". His siblings are ready to do away with him, but a bit of reasoning and more scheming and conniving, set the scene for a different scenario.

So, what about us? Love Children, born of the same lineage, breathing the same air as our ancestors for myriad centuries, roots that are soul-deep and undeniably more the same than different? What dreams to you and I have that will unite us? Not only the sleepy time plays acted out in our sub-conscious minds-though there is value in those if one is attentive-but the real and earnest desires and visions set upon our hearts by God and enacted through The Holy Spirit.

Dreams can be dangerous because they disrupt the way things are, imaging the "oughtness" of life that transcends the "isness" of reality. Sometimes they threaten the status quo while envisioning a new way of life. A different kind of world, like what Joseph dreams of and describes, "the sun, the moon, the eleven stars were bowing down to me."

Maybe dreaming's dangerous because it can get one into trouble. Look what happened to John Lewis, (he was willing to get into 'good trouble'), Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Rosa Parks and how many others? Dreaming can land you in jail and worse... "I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia, sons of former slaves and sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood. I have a dream that one day, even the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of injustice, sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice. I have a dream my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character...Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Be truthful, what is it you think Dr. King would have to say today about his dream being realized? If one cares to look, statistics provide a grim view of the reality-Pastor Randi provided some figures several weeks ago in her homily; anyone involving themselves in the Sacred Ground sessions is becoming more aware of the inequities among blacks, people of color, Indigenous persons and white people; educational opportunities available through the Commission to Dismantle Racism are eye-opening.

Does anyone dream of a peaceable kingdom? An existence where swords are beaten into plowshares? Where the basic needs and the well-being of citizens is prized and valued more than the build-up of weapons, the tit-for-tat defense contracts that enhance only the bank accounts of the contractors and the legislators as they trample those in line at the food bank or in the unemployment line, anxious to deposit their ill-gotten gains.

This is a statement from President Eisenhower, a Five-Star General in WWII, after the death of Stalin and referencing the Cold War. Though it is decades old, I believe it has merit and the essence is the same today as in the time it was written:

“Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and not clothed. This world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children. The cost of one modern heavy bomber is this: a modern brick school in more than 30 cities. It is two electric power plants, each serving a town of 60,000 population. It is two fine, fully equipped hospitals. It is 50 miles of concrete pavement. We pay for a single fighter with a half million bushels of wheat. We pay for a destroyer with new homes that could have housed more than 8,000 people. This is not a way of life at all in any true sense. Under the cloud of threatening war, it is humanity hanging from a cross of iron.”

For those who dream of peace and seek ways to promote it, The Episcopal Peace Fellowship is an excellent resource.

Are human beings ready to embrace the dream of a world in which we realize the gift of, the importance of, every living organism and our interdependence, not dominance? An earth on which we share, value, conserve, steward well all the resources that God, the creator, brought forth? Eucharistic Prayer C reminds us, “At your command all things came to be; the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their course, and this fragile earth, our island home.” We acknowledge with the words, “By your will they were created and have their being.” Then, “From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and BLESSED US, with memory, reason and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.” Our response is, “Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

The garden is wide and plentiful, and it is good. Though we may not know its bounds, our faith still asks us to care for it—the known and unknown.

It is true, I believe, that dreams need to be updated, refined. And if we understand in our hearts and souls the dreams that stem from God, and the breath of the Holy Spirit, different from those that are simply our own whims and desires, we will prize and defend them. With God, nothing is wasted. Love uses all kinds of people, experiences and circumstances. Real dreamers learn to forgive; they are patient, persistent, courageous and act upon the dream(s) even if, when failures happen and others scorn, scoff, stand in the way or try to kill them.

Can it be that we're on the Threshold of a Dream? The thin place where heaven and earth meet? Nightmares banished, working hand-in-hand in a "dream job" with all humanity, to ensure liberty and justice for ALL. We must dream to stay alive. Howard Thurman wrote, "Don't ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive and go do it. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive."

Amen.

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