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Meditation at the United Nations

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And what to make of it? This Heart-Home of the World-Body? Guru told us: "The soul of the United Nations was born the day the Supreme embodied the Dream itself. For the Supreme, the Dream-Reality and the Reality-Dream are always together and are always the same thing. A divinely political centre and a truly spiritual centre are not two different things."

But since the home had been dutifully ransacked and the heart so abruptly arrested, the fugitive-body became unmoored from its surrogate-world. This happened over days and over centuries and then all together at once. A sharp, sudden pain, an acute panic, a thought of all there is left to be done and all that could have been achieved quite some time ago. The final world-breath collapsed under time-weight and the pressure of the vacuum-home.

Guru continued: "On a practical level, do not expect anything from others on the physical plane. If you expect anything from the world, then you will feel miserable because the world does not understand you, the world does not care for you. If you can do everything unconditionally, then you will have peace of mind. This is one way."

As he spoke it became clear that his Ultimate Truth had, since the beginning, been evacuated of all meaning, all potential of meaning, all potential of potential. Its borders were dissolved and usurped by a parallel force without orientation. Extrajudicial or esoteric. And so we maintained this vague spiritual oasis for the World-Body, liberated from the doctrines of any one system of belief or morality, situated within the confines of the dilapidated Heart-Home, obfuscated by the liberal ideals of progress and cooperation. Operation Absolute Respite.

Someone uttered: "There is so much injustice and nothing we can do to help ourselves."

Guru replied: "You say there is nothing you can do, but I am giving you a way to protect yourself. We have been meditating here for five or ten minutes. This meditation has real power. In your office there is much injustice. Injustice itself is a kind of negative power, a destructive power. Another way of protecting yourself is to have peace of mind. You can feel peace; you can swim in the sea of peace when you meditate with us on Tuesdays and Fridays."

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Barbara Ess (b. 1944, Brooklyn, NY; d. 2021, Elizaville, NY) had numerous institutional retrospectives including at White Columns, New York; the Queens Museum, New York; the Center for Fine Arts, Miami; and the High Museum of Art, Atlanta. Selected group exhibitions include the Brooklyn Museum, New York; Vancouver Art Gallery; Centre Pompidou, Paris; New Museum, New York; Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh; Kunsthalle Düsseldorf; Baltimore Museum of Art; MoMA PS1, Long Island City; Gropius-Bau, Berlin; Frankfurter Kunstverein; Victoria and Albert Museum, London; Kunsthaus Zurich; National Museum of American Art, Washington, D.C.; and National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo.

Noah Barker (b. 1991, California) lives and works in New York. Selected solo and two-person exhibitions include Neuer Berliner Kunstverein, Berlin (with Dora Budor); Lodos, Mexico City and Cologne; Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin; Kunstverein Braunschweig (with Paul Levack); Climate Control, San Francisco; Jacqueline, Athens; Weiss Falk, Basel; Fanta-MLN, Milan; The Wig, Berlin (with Dora Budor); Aedicula Raffaella Cortese, Albisola Superiore; and Air de Paris, Paris. Selected group exhibitions include Bodenrader, Chicago; CHB-2, Berlin; Air de Paris, Romainville; Museion, Bolzano; Simian, Copenhagen; Halle für Kunst Steiermark, Graz; Fluentum, Berlin; Capitain Petzel, Berlin; Fanta-MLN, Milan; Progetto, Lecce; Macro Museum, Rome; Drei, Möchengladbach; and Meyer Kainer, Vienna.

Shadi Habib Allah (b. 1977, Jerusalem, Palestine) lives and works in New York. Selected solo exhibitions include Sylvia Kouvali, Piraeus; Centre for Contemporary Arts, Glasgow; Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; The Renaissance Society, Chicago; Reena Spaulings Fine Art, New York; Rodeo, London; Green Art Gallery, Dubai; Nashashibi Center, Jerusalem; and Al-Hajaj Gallery, Ramallah. Selected group exhibitions include Latvian Centre for Contemporary Art, Riga; Diriyah Art Futures, Riyadh; B7L9 Art Center of the Kamel Lazaar Foundation, Tunis; Sharjah Art Foundation; Kunsthal Charlottenborg, Copenhagen; Akademie-Galerie – Die Neue Sammlung, Düsseldorf; Mudam, Luxembourg; Bonnefantenmuseum, Maastricht; Sculpture Center, New York; Portikus, Frankfurt am Main; Artists Space, New York; Tate Modern, London; Palais de Tokyo, Paris; and the 53rd Venice Biennale.

Harrison Kinnane Smith (b. 1997, Pittsburgh, PA) lives and works in Los Angeles. His work has been published by the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York and exhibited at Emmelines, New York (solo); Frankfurt Ordorica, Los Angeles; Romance, Pittsburgh; Francois Ghebaly, Los Angeles; Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery; Sculpture Center, New York; and Mattress Factory, Pittsburgh. Kinnane Smith is a Co-Founder of PlaceHolder Gallery, Los Angeles and Affiliated Faculty and Co-Director of the Morning Star Research Center for the Afterlife of Slavery.

Mark Lombardi (b. 1951, Syracuse, NY; d. 2000, Brooklyn, NY) had numerous solo exhibitions at institutions including the Hayward Gallery, London; De La Warr Pavilion, Bexhill-on-Sea; Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, Cornell University, Ithaca; Cleveland Museum of Contemporary Art; The Drawing Center, New York; and Museum of Contemporary Art, Washington, D.C. Selected group exhibitions include 80WSE, New York; Menil Drawing Institute, Houston; Met Breuer, New York; Schinkel Pavillon, Berlin; Kunstverein in Hamburg; S.M.A.K., Ghent; the Louvre, Paris; documenta 13, Kassel; 10th Sharjah Biennial; Museum of Modern Art, New York; Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; The Kitchen, New York; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; American Fine Arts, Co., New York; Palais de Tokyo, Paris; New Museum, New York; Centre d'Art Contemporain Genève; and P.S.1/Contemporary Art Center, Long Island City.

Tanoa Sasraku (b. 1995, Plymouth, UK) lives and works in Glasgow. She is currently nominated for the 2026 Turner Prize. Selected solo exhibitions include ICA, London; Glasgow International; Vardaxoglou, London; Spike Island, Bristol; and Peer, London. Recent group exhibitions include Palais de Tokyo, Paris; Abbot Hall Museum, Kendal; Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter; Royal Academy of Arts, London; Vardaxoglou, London; Ben Hunter, London; Drawing Room, London; Venice Architecture Biennale; Newlyn Art Gallery & The Exchange, Newlyn; Tate Liverpool; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry; Goldsmiths CCA, London; Klosterruine, Berlin; John Hansard Gallery, Southampton; and Tate St. Ives.

Graham Wiebe (b. 1994, Winnipeg, Canada) lives and works in Winnipeg. Selected solo and two-person exhibitions include Final Hot Desert, London; Petrine, Paris (with Boz Deseo Garden); Disneyland Paris, Perth; Final Hot Desert, Great Basin Desert (with Nancy Holt); Blinkers Art & Project Space, Winnipeg (with Marisa Kriangwiwat Holmes); and Jargon Projects, Chicago. Selected group exhibitions include Etablissement d'en Face, Brussels; Grunts Rare Books, Chicago; Halloween, Winnipeg; 9 Caledonian Road, London; Final Hot Desert, London; FL@T$, Brussels; The Shop at Sadie Coles HQ, London; Franz Kaka, Toronto; Utah Museum of Contemporary Art, Salt Lake City; The Living Art Museum, Reykjavík; Afternoon Projects, Vancouver; and Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto.