

PATRIOTISM

By Asia Kearney

01/21/2014

The short definition of patriotism is devotion to ones country. I care for my country because I have opportunities and a right to choose here. But why not also be a patriot to our entire planet? It was Richard Nelson that said, “ While our flags are waving and patriotism is a constant subject in public discourse, those of us who care deeply about the environment can add our voices as true patriots— not only supporting our human community but also the earth on which our nation stands.” Our planet is irreplaceable and it’s hurting. How we care for it will determine the survival of us all. We must be responsible citizens and consciously evolve in order to help each other, our communities and our planet.

It’s scary to read about what’s happening to the earth and all living creatures on it. Live more consciously. For example, learn about ways to make natural cleaning products that won’t harm the environment. Reduce, reuse, and recycle. Know who you’re supporting. We must always be aware of corruption and greed so we can refrain from it and be respectable and civil to each other.

I’ve heard people say that it’s unpatriotic to question your government. It is perfectly patriotic to ask a healthy dose of questions so we can keep our rights in this country. I ask, are the people in charge doing their best in the interest of the people, or only a select few?” I can still be patriotic if I disagree with our government. Change is only made when we think critically about ideals that our government officials set in motion, and if we speak up when what they’re saying is wrong. There is always room for improvements in all aspects of life. It isn’t right to live in the dark and just go with what others say is right and wrong. I choose to think for myself and develop my own opinions from the wisdom and knowledge that’s out there. We just need to look for it.

A right that I’m grateful to have is full use of the internet. For example, I can learn about various views of patriotism. Blogs, forums and articles are filled with facts, awareness and good spirit that give voice to the people, which in turn fuels our consciousness to help give back. All the information we want is just a click away and it’s patriotic to share that knowledge so we can grow as a society. I would rather know what’s happening in the world and gather my own thoughts and opinions to discuss with others, rather than blindly believe what the government says. Alan Moore said, “People shouldn’t be afraid of their government. Governments should be afraid of their people.” We have a choice to think for ourselves, and we should honor that choice to make a better world for us all. We must always remember that knowledge is power.

I’m not your conventional patriot. But I do love where I live, I care for my planet and I appreciate the freedoms that I do have. And I believe that together, we can all make a difference if with conscious awareness, effort and love.

“Be the change you wish to see in the world”. -Gandhi