

Daily Meditation 10/05/2021
Men in Search of the Divine Feminine

Good morning.

I'm recording this video on Saint Francis' feast day. And I invoke Dorothee Soelle in my essay, because she wrote brilliantly about the mystics, and about how all mysticism is feminine, because it deconstructs a vertical, hierarchical way of looking at the world and of naming divinity.

But here is a poem she wrote to Saint Francis:

Blessed saint francis
pray for us
now and in the time of despondency
your brother the water is poisoned
children no longer know your brother the fire
the birds shun us

They belittle you
popes and czars
and the Americans buy up Assisi
including you
blessed saint francis
why did you come among us?

In the stony outskirts of the city
I saw you scurrying about
a dog pawing through garbage
even children choose a plastic car over you

Blessed saint francis
what have you changed?
Whom have you helped?
Blessed saint francis pray for us
now and when the rivers run dry
now and when our breath fails us

A powerful poem, including the healthy masculine energies of outrage and anger. And by putting this into poetry, and in the context of honoring a saint, Dorothee Soelle is making even a stronger statement about how mysticism and prophecy have to go together. Our love of creation, it renders us vulnerable to the rape and despoiling of creation, and of our minds, and of our hearts. That brings about ecological destruction.

Just today, on Saint Francis' feast day, there was a wonderful occurrence when world leaders, world religious leaders, met at the Vatican, and some of them online, to sign a common document in response to what they call the "grave threat of climate change." They call for urgent, radical, and responsible action.

This included 40 religious figures representing Eastern Christianity, the Patriarch Bartholomew; Western with Pope Francis; but also Islamic and Jewish and Buddhist and Hindu leaders all pledging to step up.

They said, "We have inherited a garden; we must not leave a desert to our children." That's exactly what I mean by Original Blessing: we've inherited a a blessed garden that we call the earth. But we're leaving a desert for our children unless we change swiftly.

And I love the fact that they gathered and that they set the human context, including our religions, all of which is so modest in the bigger picture of the earth itself. That they set the context of gathering, not around our human religious arguments, but around the salvation of the planet, and of surviving, the planet surviving humanity, homo sapiens.

And the statement was read at a gathering called "Faith and Science toward COP26" - COP26 being the meeting, and it'll take place next month in Scotland, of all the nations to try to act more responsibly toward our mother Earth.

And these religious spiritual leaders are gathering in that context. And they talk about the need for radical action to listen to the scientists and to the children, and how what is really at stake is a crisis of values.

This decade may be the last chance left to restore the planet - time is running out, they said.

So all this I think is in a proper way to remember our brother Saint Francis, and to remember our better natures.

Thank you; we'll see you tomorrow.