

Daily Meditation 10/27/2021

Deep Ecumenism and My Writings, continued

Good morning.

Today we are continuing our discussion on deep ecumenism. And I mention especially my book, *One River, Many Wells: Wisdom Springing from Global Faith Traditions*.

And as I point out in the essay, I developed this book around 18 themes. Each one is a chapter that I find common to all world spiritual traditions. And in the last chapter, I talked about how these are more than themes; they're actually myths. They're big stories about how humans can act, and ought to act, and think, look at the world.

And I make allusion to Rollo May, the psychologist. He says, and I quote: "Myth is the foundation of values and ethics."

Myth is a foundation of values and ethics. And, of course, they support us to do great things.

He says:

"Every individual seeks, indeed must seek, if he or she is to remain sane, to bring some order and coherence into the stream of sensations, emotions, ideas entering his or her consciousness from within or without. Each one of us is forced to do deliberately for oneself what, in previous ages, was done by family, custom, church, and state. Namely, forming the myths, in terms of which we can make some sense of experience."

Myth is therefore not primarily about analysis but about seizing our imagination to inspire us and to...empower us to act as agents in the ongoing history of our species on this planet.

So, I kind of rephrased the 18 themes that I lay out in today's meditation within this context of myth. Let me share a few of these with you to get the feel for it, and you could do it yourself.

The first one is the myth that all of our spiritual traditions can learn from each other and offer something fresh from their experience and teachings. That, then, is a myth of deep ecumenism. The deep ecumenism is a myth; it carries moral energy with it.

Number two: the myth that all creation is sacred and we humans are part of it, integral to it, though we come late to the scene. Ecological care and concern is part of being here.

A third myth: the myth that all creation is on fire with sacredness; that the Buddha nature and the Cosmic Christ and the image of God reside in the very light photons present in every atom in the universe. And so the sacred is everywhere. Light is everywhere.

The myth that community already is because all things are interdependent. Nothing stands alone. Isolation and rugged individualism are lies that betray the very manner in which the universe operates.

The truth is that interdependence exists at the microcosmic and macrocosmic and psychic levels of existence. What we need to do is remove the obstacles that interfere by realizing this truth about community.

The myth that the Divine has a feminine as well as a masculine side; and so do we, made in Her image.

The myth that Divine Wisdom roams the world, "fills a whole Earth," interacts with us and all creation, and calls us to supper.

So I go on, then, about these 18 themes, turning them into myths. And I think that's important because if Rollo May is correct that myths are the basis of common morality, then obviously we need to name anew what the myths are that are important to us today--and indeed for our very survival, and for the survival of our communities.

You can apply these myth stories to the other themes that I named in today's daily meditation.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.