

Daily Meditation 11/04/21
COP26 and the Need for Deep Ecumenism

Good morning.

We're meditating on the relationship between mysticism and deep ecumenism, and the future of climate change, and the saving of our species, other species, and the planet as we know it. And speaking now about Meister Eckhart and the indigenous traditions.

And in yesterday's video, we talked about the spark of the soul and how that's found in Sufism and in Meister Eckhart.

It's also found in shamanistic language.

One indigenous shaman has said,

"The shamanic mind is on fire. Every real shaman has real illumination in his body, in the inside of his head or in his brain, something that gleams like fire, that gives him the power to see with closed eyes into the darkness, into the hidden things, or into the future, or into the secrets of another person.

I felt that I was in possession of this marvelous ability called lightning symbolism, this experience of shamanism."

Now listen to what Eckert says:

"There is hidden something like the original outbreak of all goodness. Something like a brilliant light, which incessantly gleams. And something like a burning fire, which burns incessantly. This fire is nothing other than the Holy Spirit."

So a shaman and Meister Eckhart are both describing their experiences of this inner fire that takes over one's consciousness.

Another example of a shaman with whom Meister Eckhart has a lot in common is Black Elk, living from 1862 to 1950. And had very important visions as a boy following a serious illness. And had a lot to say about the suffering of his people and about the survival of his people.

I mean, it's the white people.

And one of the points he makes is that the Sacred Hoop, the Sacred Hoop is very common to a lot of his dreams. He says, "I saw that the Sacred Hoop of my people was one of many hoops that made one circle. But anywhere is the center of the world."

Many hoops. That might be many communities, many spiritual traditions.

He says, "There can be no power in a square. You have noticed that everything an Indian does is in a circle. That is because the power of the world always works in circles. Everything tries to be round. The sky is round. And I have

heard that the Earth is round, like a ball. And so are all the stars. The wind, in its greatest power, whirls. Birds make their nests in circles, for theirs is the same religion as ours."

Basic statement.

"The sun comes forth and goes down again in a circle. The moon does the same. And both are round. Even the seasons form a great circle."

That's Black Elk.

And this is Meister Eckhart:

"Being is a circle for God. And the soul is a circle of the world." And he calls on humans to be a circle filled with the Spirit of the Lord. He says, "Heavens run constantly in a circle. Therefore it has to be round so that it can run more swiftly in a circle. For it bestows on all creatures their being and their lives."

And he asked a question, "Where should we begin? With the heart; begin with the heart, which is the noblest part of the body. It lies in the center of the body from which point it bestows life on the whole body. With a spring of life, arises in the heart, and has an effect like heaven. The heart is active constantly in a circular manner. The spring of life is placed in the heart. So begin with the heart."

But Black Elk says that that is where peace comes from, the heart relating to the universe in all its powers.

So here, too, we see an amazing semblance, an amazing echo and likeness to the wisdom from Black Elk in the shamanistic tradition and wisdom of Meister Eckhart.

Deep ecumenism indeed.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.