

Daily Meditation 11/13/2021

Bede Griffith on the Search for Intuition & the Divine Feminine

Good morning.

We're dealing this morning with the important theme of the search for intuition and the divine feminine.

Father Bede believes that the West is especially lacking in honoring the divine feminine.

And of course, he's right. The modern era was a radical, patriarchal era. And it launched, you might say, in 1492, with the sailing of Columbus in the Spanish Empire, that ended up conquering, if you will, the native peoples of the Americas, and more, those who followed Columbus.

But as Bede is pointing out, that we have this problem in the West: that we've been giving precedence to what I call the reptilian brain, imperial consciousness for so many thousands of years. And it behooves us to look again at what Father Bede is teaching in his book, *The Marriage of East and West*, that I was speaking of yesterday, about the reality of priesthods, of buildings and all the rest, but the impermanence of them, too.

And again, he's dealing with the symbol of the New Jerusalem, just a powerful symbol, as found in the last book in the Christian Bible, the Book of Revelation.

He says that the New Jerusalem becomes a symbol of the new creation:

"Every human institution, every land or city or kingdom, or temple or church, is a copy or a shadow, a manifestation in time and space, of an eternal reality."

"All religious doctrines are myths," he says, "are symbolic expressions of truth, which cannot be properly expressed. These stories are bigger than the literal meaning of them. Every form of priesthood and sacrifice of ritual and sacrament belongs to the world of signs, which is destined to pass away."

...Destined to pass away.

"Today, more than ever," he writes, "we're being called to recognize the limitations of every form of religion."

That's part of deep ecumenism. Now, I don't need to acknowledge the common beauty, and insight and teachings and truth, but also to recognize the limitations in every form of religion.

He goes on page 148 of this book.

"Whether Christian or Hindu or Buddhist or Muslim, every religion is conditioned by time and place, and circumstances. All the outward forms are destined to pass away."

Now, I think he puts this as much more again in a mythical language. He's not saying, you know, we're going to tear down the churches and throw out all the priests and all the rest.

But he's saying they're destined to pass away, that when you step back and look at things bigger, that everything evolves.

To me, he's just applying the lessons of evolution, that things come and go, everything is impermanent. All the outward forms are destined to pass away.

He says, "As a Muslim saying has it, 'Everything passes save His face.'"

...Everything passes except the Divine Face; that carries on.

And Bede goes on: "But in all these outward forms of religion of doctrine, sacrament, organization, the one eternal truth is revealing itself. The one mystery is making itself known. The one transcendent being is making itself manifest."

So this is the purpose of all these structures and manmade efforts to represent the Divine.

But he ends this chapter with this sobering sentence: "Idolatry consists --" idolatry consists -- "in stopping at the sign. True religion is the passing through the sign to the reality."

True Religion is passing through the sign to the reality. In other words, that's what spirituality is; it is the tasting of the experience of the vine, not the structures that often gather around it, and frequently become an object in themselves, rather than a pathway toward the deepest reality.

And rightly so, Father Bede calls that idolatry when that happens.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.