

Daily Meditation 11/2/21

Deep Ecumenism and All Souls Day

Good morning.

Today is traditionally All Souls Day, where we remember the dead. Of course, it echoes the practice of the dead that is part of the Mexican tradition.

And I cite examples from Marija Gimbutas and the goddess tradition, and a beautiful Mesoamerican poem from thousands of years ago, in Mexico.

There's so many teachings about this important topic of our relationship with the ancestors, those who have gone before us.

Hafiz, the Sufi mystic of the 14th century, writes:

"Your existence, my dear,
o love, my dear,
has been sealed and marked,
Too sacred, too sacred, by the Beloved, to ever end."

...too sacred to ever end.

"Indeed, God has written a thousand promises all over your heart,
that say, life, life, life is far too sacred to ever end."

It's a statement from the Middle East.

And another Mesoamerican poet whose name I have trouble pronouncing, but I'll try: Nezahualcoyotl. My apologies. This is found in my book, One River Many Wells; it's on page 338.

He writes this about death:

"Thus we are, we are mortal.
Men through and through, we all will have to go away,
We all will have to die on Earth.

Within myself, I discovered this, indeed I shall never die.
Indeed, I shall never disappear.
There where there is no death,
there where death is overcome, let me go there."

And he closes by saying:

"My flowers will not come to an end.
My songs will not come to an end.
I, the singer, raised them up,
They are scattered. They are bestowed."

Gifts scattered, beauty scattered to future generations from our having been here.

Another example of wisdom from around the world about the important theme of death and those who have gone before us is pointed out by a Dr. Asante, a specialist on African spirituality.

He summarizes the African view of life and death this way:

"African civilizations have posited a world of the unborn, the world of the living, and the dead as a common society: the unborn, the living, the dead, are a common society or community, make a community.

He says those unborn and those who have died become ancestors and are mighty presences in African societies.

Notice: the unborn and those who have died are ancestors, so ancestors are not just those from the past, but those who are coming. And they give perspective and support to those of us who are here.
We're struggling with the issues of life, as well as those of death.

So I think that's a very powerful statement, first about what the word ancestor means: not just about the past, it's about the unborn, of the youngest.

And it's not unlike the Native American tradition that says when we make decisions in this lifetime, we should make them for generations: seven generations from today, to look ahead, to think of the unborn, and not just ourselves, or even just those who lived before us.

So there's one whole community as a circle, circle of life: the unborn, those born now, and those who have departed already, and this is a beautiful Trinity to keep in communion with as we make our decisions, and as we live our lives fully and hopefully in a resurrected way in this lifetime.

Thank you we'll see you tomorrow