

Daily Meditation 11/30/2021
Hildegard of Bingen on the Sacred Masculine

Good morning.

Last night, we ushered in the feast day -- the feast season of Hanukah, excuse me. And Sunday we ushered in the feast time, season, of Advent.

So, these two celebrations, belonging to the Jewish and Christian tradition respectively, are, of course reminders that we're living in the time of darkness. In the Northern Hemisphere, the darkest day of the year is approaching, which is, of course, Winter Solstice, December 21.

And in the Jewish tradition, Hanukkah is a celebration of lights, a festival of lights, and also of miracles, because the story is told that the candles burned for eight days, and this was a miracle that saved the people. And of course, in the Christian tradition, that birth of Christ is in its own way a celebration of light, a light to all nations, and the Christians appropriate Isaiah's words about that.

Now part of Advent is to fast, or to do some kind of serious letting go in preparation for the big event of Christmas day. So I might propose that we fast from toxic masculinity.

I think that would be a wonderful fast in the next weeks leading up to Christmas. And this idea very much flows from what we've been meditating on in our daily meditations. And that is especially since the Kenosha trial.

The whole issue of the uber-masculine or the toxic masculine, that is getting out of control in so many ways, including the matricide that is going on, the killing of Mother Earth, to climate change, and more, and the exaggeration of patriarchy, which has been going on, of course, for centuries, but seems to be reaching some kind of climax.

Part of that climax was of course, January 6, which by the way, this did not go unnoted: that for Christians, there was really a period between Christmas and Epiphany, the 12 Days of Christmas. And the truth is that Epiphany is January 6.

So last year, this year, actually, 2021, on January 6, Epiphany was really about the epiphany of insurrection, epiphany of the end of democracy, epiphany of the invasion of the Democratic temple we know as the Capitol.

So some very interesting synchronicities going on at this time, it may be the miracles, which are really marvels, wonders, that Hanukkah celebrates. And, above all, the miracle of light itself might be a very healing energy to meditate on.

And as I say, Christianity brings in its own stories about light: John's gospel, having Jesus saying, "I am the light of the world," and gospels telling us not to hide our light under bushels, but we too, be other lights of the world.

Now appropriately, we call on Hildegard of Bingen because she equates authentic masculinity with the virtues. And I've written about this previously, that this is about healthy power. And the word "vir," man, is in the word virtue, as it also means "man."

And this wonderful quotation in today's readings, "We virtues are in God and we remain in God; we are soldiers for the King of kings, and we overcome evil by good. O king of kings, we are fighting in your battles." And these are Hildegard's words about the bringing forward of the healthy masculine energy, whether you be a woman or a man.

And she says that God tells her that the divine Word is very strong warrior, and that we are all to "become strong warriors, and resist strongly falsehoods, lies and injustice." And she even calls Christ a very strong warrior.

This is also spoken at the Christmas midnight mass from the Book of Wisdom, where it says that a stern warrior leapt from the heavens to the earth to assist people in troublesome times.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.