

Daily Meditation 12/1/2021

Hildegard on the Divine Feminine beside the Sacred Masculine

Good morning.

In today's daily meditation, we're kind of interrupting our reflections on the sacred masculine and the unsacred, or toxic masculine to bring in the observations once more, as we did yesterday, of Hildegard of Bingen, and to lay out some of her teachings in a brief way, about the divine feminine, because we're always wanting to keep in mind this balance between the masculine and the feminine. And this is what Hildegard is about.

And I think this is what any healthy soul or any healthy culture, needs to be about: finding that gender balance. So we're going to continue our meditations on the unholy masculine, but then move into the sacred masculine very soon. But I just thought it wouldn't hurt to bring in not only a woman's voice, but to remind us to bring that sense of the divine feminine in.

Now yesterday, she spoke about how the real meaning of healthy manhood is about virtue.

And today, let's share with you something that Otto Rank, the wonderful psychologist of the 20th century, who died, unfortunately, young in 1939.

But he wrote some very powerful things about values. And he says that values do not come from the rational mind, but from the irrational place of intuition, and insight. And that we often call the irrational.

In this regard he's echoing Einstein, who also talks about how values do not come from the intellect or from reason, from the rational, but from intuition. And this is very important to remember as we talked about value as being the authentic masculine.

And here's what Otto Rank says: "The epitome of the irrational is--" just let's stop there.

What is the epitome of the irrational? That's an interesting question...

"--the marvel of creation itself."

The marvel of creation itself. That word marvel is a synonym, you know, for miracle, the miracle of creation, the marvel of creation.

And Otto Rank died in 1939. He did not have the new creation story from science about 13.8 billion years and 2 trillion galaxies and so forth that have brought our earth here and our species here.

But even so, even with what we knew in the 30s, he knew that the epitome of the irrational is a marvel, the marvel, the miracle of creation itself.

This, of course, echoes the Jewish teaching (and of course, Otto Rank was Jewish, as was Einstein) from Rabbi Heschel that radical amazement and awe are the beginning of wisdom. The rational gives us knowledge, but wonder gives us wisdom. So it is this, this appreciation of wonder, that is part of the season of Hanukkah, and it's the season of Christmas and Advent, that is so important for grounding ourselves for what comes next.

Rank uses a phrase, "vital human values," vital human values are so needed. And he says: "The irrational is that which does not fit into our scheme of things. It takes us beyond our personal, private, tribal anthropocentric agendas to a vaster world, a cosmic place."

And he says: "The only remedy for the struggle in life is an acceptance of the fundamental irrationality of the human being and life in general. Acceptance, which means not merely a recognition, or admittance of our basic primitivity, but a real allowance of its dynamic functioning in human behavior, which would not be lifelike without it. That which is irrational -- music, celebration, sexuality, beauty -- all this moves beyond the rational mind," he says, "absolutely primitive and primordial, and foundational in our view of the world."

And this is why the great stories like Hanukkah and like Christmas, touch us as deeply as they do as stories: they're archetypal.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow