

NOV 14, 2021

Bede Griffiths on Balancing the Masculine and Feminine

Sat, 11/13 5:10PM • 7:25

Good morning.

We continue our meditations with Father Bede Griffiths; and in today's meditation, especially, that yearning of his to balance the masculine and the feminine; and how unbalanced Western culture is in this regard, but that a better balance can be achieved if we were to take in some of the consciousness from the East, which has a more fully developed sense of the feminine.

Now, as he points out, this too, is part of the climate crisis that we have today. It's part of our relationship to nature and to Mother Earth, the Divine Feminine, therefore.

How are we treating Mother Earth? Has she been a part of our value systems, of our economics and our politics of late? Surely she hasn't been of late, and that is why we are suffering the extinction spasms that are happening all around us and due to us, and of course, facing our own extinction.

But again, he sees these underlying problems as the pathway to changing our consciousness to bring in a better balance of masculine and feminine. And he points out that the great religions that build themselves on great myths and great stories--and Hinduism is that kind of religion and certainly Christianity is, too--he says that the work of renewing these religions cannot be the work of reason.

I'm on page 175 of his book, *The Marriage of East and West*.

"Of Learning and of Scholarship.

It has to grow out of a mystical experience in which the primordial meaning of the ancient symbols is recovered; and their relevance to the world today is received and discerned. It is in this process of demythologization and reinterpretation, in the light of a profound mystical experience, that each religion has to undergo."

Each religion has to undergo.

Again, in his understanding and practice of deep ecumenism--and he is one of the great pioneers of that movement--he's not afraid to look at the shadow, as well as the insight in all of our religions, that they all carry shadow as well as light. And that's why none has all the answers, and yet all have something to offer us.

But this light, this breakthrough of light happens in the mystical dimension, not the legal, the structural dimension of our religions, but in the mystical dimension. And this is why the awakening of the mystical is such a wonderful gift in our time, and a necessary one, because we're not going to solve our problems just with more pronouncements and more doctrines and dogmas.

And he points out the wonderful stories upon which Hinduism is built: the cosmic myths of Vishnu and Shiva, Rama and Krishna, who are legendary heroes, Ganesh and other important beings in the Hindu tradition. But then he talks about the Christian myth. And he says that the Christian stories of the Messiah, the kingdom, the promised land, the myths of a virgin birth that accompany the death and resurrection of Jesus; he says, "All this is clearly the language of mythology."

But the Christian myth derives from the Hebrew tradition. And what distinguishes this tradition is this historical character. "The Hindu myth is essentially a cosmic myth belonging to the cosmic revelation, based on a cyclic view of time. Like nature, everything is in cycles: the sun rises and sets, moon waxes and wanes; Spring is followed by summer, autumn and winter, and then returns again. The Hindu myth: man is born and dies and is born again, and again, and again."

But he says the essence of the Christian story is that Jesus of Nazareth was crucified under Pontius Pilate. That's an historic statement. And he says,

"This is enshrined in the earliest Christian creed and is a fact of history known to the Roman historian Tacitus. This setting and concrete historical time is the essence of the Christian revelation. While Hindu religion, on the other hand, has very little sense of historic time."

And so, the Christian rebirth of myth will have everything to do with time--with a humanity willing to move to a new stage of evolution, a new stage of time; where we are willing to move out of a pattern of what I would call reptilian brain dominance and patriarchy into a pattern of a healthy masculinity and a healthy and very present Divine Feminine; putting values of wisdom and receptivity, and love of life and compassion--the special word that connects us to motherhood--the motherhood not just of women, but within men as well--our powers of compassion.

So all these are ways by which I pick up on what Father Bede is teaching about the Christian myth coming alive, that we are capable of justice, compassion, and healing the Earth.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.