

Daily Meditation 12/08/2021

Filling Up Like Camels with Good News from the Mystics

Good morning.

Today we're kind of coming up in the sunshine and the air for a few days, before we go back into the serious work on false masculinity and authoritarianism and fascism that are speaking so loudly today. I'm not going to spend a lot of time there, we're going to move on to the healthy and sacred masculine.

But I do think it's appropriate that we deal with these shadow forces beforehand, because that undergirds the real importance of coming up with a healthy masculinity.

So we're living with the mystics a little these days, to give back that energy that is positive, and the via positiva and more. And here I have a beautiful passage from Thomas Merton. He wrote in his journal,

I stepped out of the north wing of the monastery and looked out of the pasture where the calves usually are. It was empty of calves. Instead, there was a small white colt, running beautifully up the hill, and down and around again, with a long, smooth stride and with the ease of flight. Yet in the middle of it, he would break into rough, delightful, cavorting, hurling himself sideways at the wind and the hill, and instantly sliding back into the smooth canter. How beautiful is life this spring?

How beautiful is life, this spring?

Life and spring are so much bigger than our own everyday concerns. And more beautiful, if we give it some pause and some attention. And of course, that is what Merton was doing. And by his very poetic telling of the story, he invites us in, of course, and this is what so many artists do: they invite us into the better news and the uplifting news. So we thank him for that.

And obviously we ask, what are we experiencing of the beauty of life, even at this time of autumn, and winter, to pause and to take in just that, that deep reservoir of goodness, joy and beauty that is deeper than all human machinations and wars and narcissism and pugilism.

So that's our pause for today to drink in the beauty that is everyday beauty. It is around us. And it's interesting that it was a colt, it was a small horse, a baby horse, that so delighted Thomas Merton.

So with us, very often animals.... maybe you have a cat, or a dog - I have a dog - or a bird, or a parrot (well, a parrot is a bird!). And then of course, they're all living beings that are continually celebrating.

And Thomas Berry puts it so wonderfully when he says that "In the end, the universe can only be explained in terms of celebration. It is all, all an exuberant expression of existence itself."

So the essence of the universe is celebration. And that's why Thomas Aquinas, who had a big influence on Thomas Berry, says that sheer joy is God's.

And this demands companionship: the universe is a companion. All its beings are companions to divinity itself. And the joy flows both ways, as you know as a as a parent, with a child and so forth: the being is bestowing joy on you, and you smile and bestow joy back. So it is with us and the Creator, according to Thomas Berry, Thomas Aquinas, and so many others.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.