

Daily Meditation 12/30/2021

Winter Festivals, Virtue & the Sacred Masculine's Return

Good morning.

Today we are meditating on how December festivals and the whole theme of virtue is part of the return of the sacred masculine, and how Webster's Dictionary tells us that the word virtue is directly related to manliness, strength, moral excellence, valor, virility.

And I want to invoke two thinkers from the West, who carry the same theme very strongly. Hildegard of Bingen says, "But you, oh man, say 'I am not able to do good works.' Now I will respond, 'You are able,' and you reply, 'I do not agree.' And I respond, 'Learn to fight against yourself.'"

...learn to fight against yourself. That's Muhammad's teaching of the jihad. The real, the primary meaning of jihad is the struggle within, the inner struggle.

Hildegard says, "Christ is a very strong warrior." In another place, she sees Christ in a vision, as "a virile young man who knows the fruit of a useful existence." She tells people to "perform the works of justice and holiness, and to build a house of wisdom in your own heart." And she talks about "the power of virtue" ...the power of virtue, virtue is a power.

In one of her letters, she addresses her client with these words, "Persevere in this battle, strong warrior"

...persevere in this battle, strong warrior.

And she writes, "The strength of God's justice is at work and shows itself as a warrior against injustice, until that injustice lies conquered on the ground. We are warriors against injustice."

And she says this about virtues as well. She says, "You began to go astray when you spoke your first lie against God, you did not want to stay close to justice, you have wandered into exile. You're not honest. I, however, hold the sword of God's strongest virtues and can cut out every injustice."

So again, she invokes that warrior archetype that we all have to develop in us, dealing with our own faults, but also with those in culture.

And she comments in the words of Isaiah: "The prophet speaks about 'The Lord goes forth like a hero, like a warrior, he stirs up his ardor. He shouts out his battle cry against his enemies, he shows his might.'"

That is found in Isaiah 42:13. And then she says -- she's commenting on this passage

about warriorhood in Isaiah, the prophet as a warrior -- she says, "God created all good things holy according to the divine plan, and commanded the beginning of all the virtues--"

...commanded the beginning of all the virtues...

"...since nothing can be found lacking in God. He also fought strongly against enemies who suffered from Pride. So the warrior stirred up ardor in the fullness of his work--"

...which means, of course, the burning fire in the angelic order.

"...He casts out the enemy when the enemy tried to cover heaven with the darkness of evil.... Who is like God? Those who stand up to injustice," she says.

Thomas Aquinas has an amazing passage, which I share in my book on The Tao of Thomas Aquinas, pages 97 following. He says, "It is a great thing to do miracles. It is a great thing to do miracles, but it is a greater thing to live virtuously."

It is a greater thing to live virtuously than to do miracles. Or we might say it is a miracle, to live virtuously. That itself is the greatest of miracles, to live virtuously, I think that is so amazing and so wonderful and so inviting and challenging. And he also says, and I quote, "Human virtue is a participation in divine power."

This is on pages 97-98 of The Tao of Thomas Aquinas.

"Human virtue is a participation in divine power."

So if you're looking for the real masculine, the healthy masculine, the alternative masculine, the sacred masculine, believe me, it has a lot to do with virtue, and meant gathering that kind of divine power, the power-with instead of a power-over.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.