

Daily Meditation 12/13/2021

Light & the Divine Surrounding & Inhabiting All Beings

Good morning.

We continue to celebrate the themes of light, and miracles, or the marvelous, in today's meditation.

And I draw on some teachings from Buddhism, from Hildegard of Bingen, and Christ in Christianity, and also from Hinduism. And I'd like to share with you a little more about the Hindu teaching, that Hinduism is a very old religion.

These are from my book, *One River Many Wells*, where I take 18 themes that I think are common to all religions, and I sprinkle into each theme basic teachings from the scriptures of the mystics of those particular faith traditions. And one of the themes--number three, in fact--is light. Says right up front. Because light is so often a symbol of the divine in all of our human spiritual traditions.

So, here's the Bhagavad Gita speaking: Krishna speaks, representing the Supreme Godhead:

"The splendor of the sun which dissipates the darkness of this whole world comes from Me. And the splendor of the moon and the splendor of fire are also from Me. Krishna is a source of light and all luminous objects. He's beyond the darkness of matter and is unmanifest. He has knowledge; He is the object of knowledge; He has a goal of knowledge; He is situated in everyone's heart."

So, this light is in all of us.

Of course, remember, in the Bible, very first page, Genesis 1. Before the sun was created, before the moon was created, there was light. Light was the first thing created. But it's not the light of the sun, or the sun and the moon, it is something bigger than that.

Of course, in today's science, we talk about the original fireball, which is, of course, a very great light that glowed and burned for 750,000 years, immediately, after the burst of creation.

So there, too, light has this profound presence and meaning. And of course, it is the basis of the entire universe.

In the Mundaka Upanishads from India, we read:

"Radiant in His light, yet invisible in the secret place of the heart," (again they're connecting light and heart), "the Spirit is a supreme abode, wherein dwells all that moves and breathes and sees. He is self-luminous and more subtle than the smallest. From the light of the Spirit, the sun, moon and stars give light and His radiance illumines all creation."

In the Vedas, the Brahman is celebrated as light:

"Clouds of waters glow. I am light; the light glows; I am Brahman."

Of course, right now I'm thinking of Einstein, whose post-modern physics was launched in the context of his study of light. And he said, "If I could have my way, I would do nothing all my life but study light."

And that, of course, being Jewish, comes from that biblical tradition, too, that honors the omnipresence of light. And light as a birthplace for matter.

Again, Atman is a great light residing in us, according to Hinduism.

"There is a light that shines above this heaven, above all worlds, above everything that exists in the highest worlds beyond which there are no higher. This is a light that shines within humanity."

This is a light that shines within humanity.

And of course, the Christian story, at this time of the year, is that this light, this cosmic light, takes flesh. That means becomes light in a human body, becomes a child among us, and then an adult among us. And that we are all called to be participants in light and the teaching of light, which includes hope and joy, promise, and still more matter birthing in the universe.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.