

Daily Meditation 01/11/2022

Father Sky in Scripture

Good morning.

We continue our meditations on Father Sky. And today we're treating Father Sky as found in the scriptures. And there are so many instances of it.

Indeed, whenever we hear the word glory, or doxa--such as is painted over here by MC Richards, her painting of Christmas night--the first word out of the mouth of the angels was glory. Doxa. Whenever we see mountains in the scriptures, whenever we see clouds, and whenever we see sky, we're talking about the Cosmic Christ, because the Cosmic Christ is the archetype that awakens the sense of the vastness of the Universe, and the sacredness of it. That Christ is in all beings, and these revelations from mountaintops, from being in clouds, from the angels.... Whenever you see angels in the scriptures, we are talking about the Cosmic Christ, because angels are cosmic beings.

So, all of these references, if you will, in the scriptures are to the doxa, the glory of the Universe. As it says in the psalm, "The earth and the sky are filled with the glory of the Lord." The glory. Doxa.

Now, I want to tell you a story from the aboriginals in Australia.

Eddie Kneebone was an Aboriginal activist and a friend of mine. We met in Australia, and I remember one day we were there, and it was a dark night of the sky, the stars shining. And he said, very simply, as we looked up at the stars, he said, "In our culture, we don't talk about how many miles away the stars are, and so forth. What we tell our children is that the stars up there in the sky are campfires of the ancestors."

Campfires of the ancestors. And they're sitting around their campfires up there, looking down on us, on Earth, wondering what's cooking? What are we doing these days, we who are descendants of these ancestors?

I think that's not only a beautiful story but a powerful, powerful and meaningful story. Because it's one thing to talk about the sky and the Hubble telescope and what it is teaching us, the Webb telescope and what it will teach us; but we need to relate this to our hearts, and to our interactions, to the sense of wonder, and the sense of what we're teaching our children, what matters. What are the values we're trying to pass on?

And I think this ancient tribe, probably the oldest tribe on the planet, the Aboriginals of Australia, has wisdom to teach us about this. That gathering information from the Webb telescope or Hubble telescope

is not enough. It is very important to personalize the sky. And that is what, in many ways, the scriptures are doing too. And the mystics.

I cite Meister Eckhart today, about how the human soul “is not easily satisfied, it storms the firmament, scales the heavens, trying to reach the spirit that drives the heavens.” And it goes on and on. And you read that passage and you feel this immense energy that he's calling on, and naming, and that Father Sky gives to us.

I think as we learn more and more about Father Sky and what's going on there, we will all be energized by it. And delighted by it.

And speaking of delight, you look at Thomas Aquinas, as I take him in this small book called *The Tao of Thomas Aquinas: Fierce Wisdom for Hard Times*. It's so amazing to see how often he's talking about the Universe, therefore about Father Sky.

For example, chapter two. (Each of my chapters is a sentence from Aquinas.) "They should be drunk with the beauty of Thy house, that is the Universe."

Okay, so the universe is able to get us drunk? It's there to overwhelm us with its beauty, therefore, to wake us up. And he says the greatness of the human person consists in this. This is chapter four. That we are “capable of the Universe.”

That's the greatness of humanity, that we can ask these questions in the Universe. That we can send our inventions a million miles away to pick up pictures from shortly after the birth of the Universe. That we can pick up the sound, we are picking up the sound of the original fireball.

And when he says that "the same spirit that hovered over the waters at the beginning of creation hovers over the mind of the artist at work," connecting the same energy that birthed the Universe, with the same energy that pours forth through us when we create, when we give birth.

And there are so many instances in Aquinas's consciousness, as there is among all pre-modern peoples, of the immense beauty and power and energy that we derive from even our little manmade worlds, our little anthropocentric closets, and waking up to what birthed us.

Maybe this waking up to what birthed us, the immense sky and its stories, history, maybe that would be enough to move us to save this planet as we have it, because this Universe has birthed an amazing place. And we call it home. We call it our Mother Earth.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.