

Daily Meditation 02/01/22

Putin's Hyper-Masculinity, the Irish Fishing Fleet, & St. Brigid

Good morning.

We're honoring today the spiritual warriorhood, the courage and imagination of the Irish fleet of fishermen who are setting out to fish in the waters around Ireland.

But this particular day as the world now knows, this is a political act because a man who has not dealt with his authentic masculine, Mr. Putin, has his military, his navy ships there in the fishing grounds of these Irish fishermen.

They have no weapons, they are nonviolent, but just going about their job. And so it becomes an amazing tale that has caught on around the world, for good reason; it is certainly another David versus Goliath event. And this is being televised live around the world... that didn't quite happen with David and Goliath, although there were enough scribes to give the message over the generations as one of the important stories in the Bible.

So I invoke another dimension to the story today, it's a very important; this is not a coincidence, or an accident. But it is the feast of St Brigid. And St. Brigid is a very, very powerful figure in Celtic spirituality, even before Christianity. There was this Brigid figure and then she comes up again in the Christian world.

Now in this very fine recent book on Celtic spirituality by John Philip Newell - *Sacred Earth, Sacred Soul: Celtic Wisdom for Reawakening the Soul* - he has a whole chapter on St. Brigid of Kildare. And here are a few things he says. He says,

Who was this beautiful wild woman? We need the sacred feminine to be strong again within us, not just in women, but also in men. And not just in our individual lives, but collectively among us, in our communities and nations. The Sacred Feminine, who has great energy for new birthing.

Well, I think that this event, by the fishermen of Ireland beginning on St. Brigid's feast day -- and don't think that they don't know that it is St. Brigid's day!

Now it is a wonderful celebration of the return of the divine feminine. As I've been saying forever, the sacred masculine takes in the sacred feminine and celebrates it. One of the signs of a healthy male is the recognition of the importance of gender balance, and therefore of the divine feminine along with the sacred masculine.

And people like Putin and others in the news these days, men who are authoritarians and in denial about the feminine, carrying out the reptilian brain of an unleashed and toxic masculine - men like this need to be confronted by the strong and sacred feminine, whether through women or through men, and that's what's happening today, I think at the deepest level.

Let me share with you a few more stories about St. Brigid. Here's an ancient poem to her. It says,

"The teat of Mary, the teat of Brigid, the teat of Michael, the teat of God." Now as Newell comments,

You will not find such words in the traditional prayer books of Western Christianity. Teats are entirely lacking there, whether creaturely, human, or divine! And we need to learn to laugh at this almost unbelievable disconnect between the spiritual and the physical, between the feminine and the divine. If we do not laugh, let us weep, for it is a tragic separation between the realms of grace and nature.

And of course Rosemary Radford Ruether, the great American Christian Catholic feminist theologian, says that "dualism is the basis of patriarchy." So dualism reinforces that autocratic tendency, that reptilian brain, that distortion of the masculine. So even that is part of honoring the tradition of Brigid: "Mary of the Gauls, pray for us." So there's much more to be said of St. Brigid.

But again, I think it's very significant. Of course, she also represents a midwifing of new births, not just of literal childbirth, but a new era of a new consciousness among humanity. But I recommend highly this chapter, and there are other teachings on St. Brigid you can look up on the internet as well. But again, it is a special moment of grace and of healthy power that the Irish fishermen are daring to take on Putin's aspirations for an empire on this particular day, beginning launching on this day of St. Brigid.

Thank you, we'll see you tomorrow.