

Daily Meditation 02/07/22

Eckhart on Creativity and Incorporating the Divine Feminine

Good morning,

In today's meditation I allude to Meister Eckhart and the 37 sermons in this large book which I translated years ago, or got translated, from the critical German edition of his sermons. It was the first book, I think, that did that, with commentaries in it.

I have nine of his sermons gathered under the theme of the Via Creativa--creativity--because, as Adrienne Rich has been teaching us this week, this aspect of the mother is very important for a healthy culture, and for healthy men, as well as women.

And I allude in my meditation today about the titles that I've given each of these sermons, with the commentary, because I think this says a lot about where Eckhart was at, and where he invites us to move as a culture and as individuals, both women and men.

So, I just want to share with you because I allude to it in the essay--the titles, because they say a lot, I think.

The first one, sermon 21 in this book: "Three Births: Ours, God's, and Ourselves, as God's Children." So, Divinity itself is being born, according to Eckhart, and we are the midwives for that birth. And of course, we are being born in the process.

So, in 22: "Our Divinity and God's Divinity. To Be God Is to Give Birth." And he makes that point that there is a birthing impetus in Divinity.

And, of course, I think we've seen a lot more since his time, in terms of how the universe itself is so vast today and is so busy birthing. We've been told by scientists that a star is born every 15 seconds. And, of course, just recently, we learned that the universe is 2 trillion galaxies large, each with hundreds of billions of stars. And it's still birthing; it's still growing.

Sermon 23: "We Are Children of God and Mothers of God."

And this is explicit in today's meditation, where Eckhart talks about how God lies like a woman on a maternity bed, giving birth.

He also talks about how the Holy Spirit, like a rapid river, divinizes us.

So, he has this wonderful image of the Holy Spirit as a rapid river. And my image and response is us being on a raft without any oars, just going down this rushing river. That's what the experience of creativity often is, that we're being carried along. We're not in charge; something bigger than us is.

And he is explicit about it. "The Holy Spirit," he says. "The Holy Spirit is what divinizes us." And that the Holy Spirit is this rushing river that's moving us along, not just as individuals but, I think, as a being and as a species. We're being carried along in this river of creativity.

And he talks about how we should "be creative as God is creative." And how "Creator is an artist." And Eckhart has a whole theology about creativity and the artist. He says, "Our best works come from within."

And that's where art comes from, from a deep place within us--deeper than we can even talk about, deeper than words. Ineffable place. And from there, we speak our truth. We give birth to our truth. And all that is the work of Holy Spirit.

So I think we can say that Eckhart has a very profound and big vision of the capacity of creativity that we all share,, both women and men.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.