

Daily Meditation 02/02/22

Joy: The Reason for Our Existence?

Good morning.

Today we're taking up the subject again of joy. And in the context of recovering the sacred masculine and the healthy, divine feminine.

Adrienne Rich has said that patriarchy produces "fatalistic self-hatred"... fatalistic self-hatred. That's not joy. And it's not a pathway to joy. So in many ways, the negative masculinity, the negativity of patriarchy is an obstacle to joy. Remember that Aquinas said, the only person who truly has joy is one who lives in love. And fatalistic self-hatred is not about love. It's not about self-love, and it's certainly not about love of others, as Jesus talked about. We love others as we love ourselves.

So the true self, the deepest part of ourselves, the spark of our soul, is about experiencing the love of existence, the love of being here, that's the bottom line of the via positiva.

Being here, and what is here? Here is the universe; here is 13.8 billion years, and we're on board, however tardy.

And we're on board for what reason? Well, as Aquinas says, in today's meditation, to undergo joy and to spread joy. And there's a deep connection between the joy we experience at being alive, and the work for justice. Joy and justice go together, because justice makes Joy possible for others.

And if you look at it, with that question in mind, what is racism, except an effort to deny others because of their so-called race, the color of their skin or what have you, to deny them joy, and to deny them their rights, that allow them to develop themselves in their communities, families, in order to - what?

Experience joy, the joy of living. It's not that complicated.

Now, in today's meditation, I recommend that we broaden, of course, our understanding of joy, to include all creatures who assist us in our life's journeys. And I even propose that you make a list of the species.

So I made a little list. And I talked about trees and soil, fish, animals, including our pets, flowers, rivers, underground aquifers that blessed us with drinking water, birds, their music, clouds, the rain, the mountains, the fields.

And notice not one of these beings is a Christian or Jew or a Muslim, or an atheist, or a humanist. And they love us anyway. They're there. They've been there, most of them, for millions of years longer than we Homo Sapiens have.

Are we loving them back? And are we learning that one does not have to be of the same tribe, whether the religious tribe or ethnic tribe or national tribe or gender tribe, to love and to share the joy, joy and love, joy and justice?

These are companions. And this is the kind of reinvention of our species that needs to take place, and can take place when we displace patriarchy with a healthy masculine that is very much at home with the divine feminine.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.