

Daily Meditation 02/04/2022

Adrienne Rich on the Healthy Masculine & Divine Feminine

Good morning.

Today we are meditating again on the healthy masculine and the divine feminine. And I'm calling in the wisdom of Adrienne Rich, wonderful poet and philosopher, and her book *Of Woman Born*. It's a very beautiful and powerful book.

And I cite from it in today's meditation, where she talks about how pre-patriarchal religion acknowledged the female presence in every part of the cosmos, and she goes on about the moon and so forth. Later she talks about water, the role of water and the Goddess. She says the ocean,

...whose tides respond like women's menses to the pull of the moon, the ocean which corresponds to the amniotic fluid in which human life begins. The oceans on whose surface vessels, personified as female, can ride, but in whose depths, sailors meet their death, and monsters conceal themselves.

So she sees the presence of the Divine Feminine everywhere in nature, and is certainly supported here by the cultural philosopher Joseph Campbell, who says,

There could be no doubt that in the very earliest ages of human history, the magical force and wonder of the female was no less a marvel than the universe itself. And this gave to women a prodigious power, which it has been one of the chief concerns of the masculine part of the population to break, to control, to employ to his own ends.

Female figurines were "the first objects of worship by this species Homo sapiens." This awareness of the divine feminine and its presence was ruptured when patriarchy took over, some 500 years ago. And Adrienne Rich comments on that.

"Patriarchal monotheism," she says, "did not simply change the sex of the Divine Presence."

...It didn't just change the sex of the divine presence from female, as found in nature and the cosmos, to male...

"...it stripped the universe of female divinity, and permitted women to be sanctified, as if by an unholy irony, only and exclusively as mother" in the literal sense of the word.

So she's talking about what was lost. And patriarchy took over, including patriarchal religion, and denuded the universe of the feminine presence.

And I think that is the deep struggle we are undergoing today, in trying to bring back the divine feminine, the feminine presence, the Great Mother, the Magna Mater, and order again, to balance what has been the abuse of women and of Mother Earth, Gaia, and of so many other elements of a society that celebrate and see that as our

purpose on earth, sharing of joy and gratitude, and does not see conquering others, being number one, the reptilian brain agenda, as what life is all about.

So all this stirs in us, as we talk about recovering the divine feminine, but also recovering the healthy masculine, a masculine that does not define itself in terms of power over others, but rejoices at the presence -- that word "presence" -- the presence of the feminine around us, within us, both men and women, and within the children.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.