

Daily Meditation 02/15/22

A Sacred Marriage of East & West, Feminine & Masculine

Good Morning.

It's a privilege to share with you this morning some of the teachings of Father Bede Griffiths, a wonderful human being, a wonderful monk, and a wonderful teacher and observer of religions, and especially the coming together of East and West.

As I pointed out in the essay, he lived in India for over 50 years in an ashram, Christian ashram, modeled after Hindu ashrams, and of course, he immersed himself in the Hindu culture very deeply and wrote a lot of important books on India and Hinduism and Christianity. And so, one of them, *The Marriage of East and West*, I draw from today in the meditation.

And he makes such an important point about how the greater realization of what it means to be human is a wonderful thing. And the West has contributed to that -- Western science in recent centuries -- but the East has so much to offer.

And in fact, he thinks that Western science, unbridled and untempered by Eastern wisdom, including the feminine, the important role of the feminine, such an enterprise is self-defeating, and very, very dangerous. And, of course, he wrote this book in 2002, I believe, or at least it was published then.

He says it is the physical, social, psychological, Western industrialism that is polluting the world, threatening to destroy it. And this is evident to everyone, he says, so the climate change in its very destructive path that it's carving, he was alerting us to.

But he thinks it comes from the consciousness of ignoring the feminine again, ignoring what he calls the intuitive mind. And he points out the the medicine for this can be found in a lot of Asian and African and tribal cultures and religions around the world. Because, as he says, this is a problem not only of the world as a whole, but also of religion itself. Religion is part of the problem. And he was writing as a Christian monk, which he remained to his last days.

It was a pleasure to meet him; he finally came to the Bay Area in his latter years. And we had some public dialogues together and some private ones. And he said in one of the public dialogues that for him, creation spirituality is the future of spirituality, and that the Cosmic Christ is the future of theology. We were very much on the same page on a lot of important issues.

And his language of the sacred marriage of East and West is wonderful language; again, it so echoes what we've been talking about, in our discussions of the sacred masculine and the divine feminine, of the Green Man and the Black Madonna, of East and West there. But he put a lot of hope and trust into deep ecumenism, that if we could really explore the deepest parts of our religious traditions, which are the spirituality parts, not so much the dogmatic or legal or institutional parts, that religion could provide a very favorable foundation to a new way of, as

he says, living in the world or being a human being. And it is this practice of deep ecumenism that is called for so deeply in our time.

But as the Dalai Lama warns us, the number one obstacle to deep ecumenism or interfaith is a bad relationship with one's own faith tradition. If we do not know our mystical tradition in the West, and if we aren't teaching it, then what do we have to offer?

And Bede Griffiths said that: he said, if we cannot know and teach our mystical tradition in the West, religion is over: that we should just pack up and go home. He was very direct about that.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.