

Daily Meditation 02/18/22

The Petty Ego in Organized Religion vs. God's Cosmos

Good morning.

Today we're dealing with a topic that came up this week in the news. And I call that in my title, The Petty Ego of Organized Religion, Versus God's Cosmos.

I begin with a quote from Father Bede Griffiths that we dealt with several days ago. But that really, I think, takes flight and meaning in the context of this news that we received a few days ago. Notice what he says:

The self is not the little conscious ego, constructing its logical systems and building its rational world. Self plunges deep into the past of humanity, and of the whole creation--

...the whole creation, the cosmos.

...if I bear within my mind, my memory, in the deep sense, the whole world.

Now those are words of a mystic. Meister Eckhart said that "the soul is the world" -- the soul is the world -- it's everything we know. Yes, everything we think about is everything we see, everything we hear. Now that the Webb telescope is going to be beaming back to us humans the light from the origin of the universe, this grows our souls, and our memories. We bear within our minds, our memory in the deep sense, the whole world. So that's what humans are about.

This is exactly what Aquinas said, in the 13th century, we are all *capax universi*, capable of the universe.

Then we get this news from organized religion, the diocese of Phoenix. There's a priest who was so naughty, whenever he baptized children, he said, "We baptize you in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit." But canon law says, "You must say 'I baptize you in the name of the Father and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.'"

And now everyone's heads are exploded.

How many people did he baptize? They're all unbaptized!

How many of them have been married? Their marriages don't count!

How many became priests? Their priesthood doesn't count!

Oh, my God, I'm sorry. But anal-retentiveness, first of all, has to be laughed at.

Then it has to be addressed.

It's as if the accountants and the lawyers - the canon lawyers - have taken over religion, hook, line and sinker! No wonder the young are leaving! Not just leaving, running out the door and not signing up!

This is -- it's the history of religion versus spirituality! People wonder, what's that about? What's that about? This is what is about! There's no room for the mystic in an organization that freaks out over one word.

Furthermore, furthermore, it's a fact that the Roman Catholic Church accepts the baptisms of Orthodox Christians. And the truth is that Orthodox Christians do not give baptism with these exact words from the canon law books of the Roman Catholic Church. They use different language, and we accept it, Catholics accept it, officially. Furthermore, Protestants are not all hung up on this exact language either. And we accept their baptisms. So what's going on here?

It's the explosion of anal-retentiveness in the name of religion. Accountants, move over please. And I mean, canon lawyers too. You, I'm sorry to say, are very often nothing better than accountants. Read the mystics, for damn sake.

Read Bede Griffiths right here, it's right in front of you. Find the mystic in yourself. If you haven't found it, you're not an adult spiritually yet. You're a child, in the bad sense, not in the sense that Jesus said, "become like a child," not in the spontaneous sense.

Now I point out that this is an issue of masculinity. We've been talking about the sacred masculine. The sacred masculine does not get in a pretzel about rules. Thomas Aquinas points out: magnanimity, a great-souled person, and that should be all of us, does not live his or her life by rules. In fact, they're smart enough to know the virtue that Aquinas calls *epikeia*, the virtue of knowing when to suspend the rules.

You know, as I end my essay, healthy masculinity has already drunk in Father Sky. And in doing that has grown one's soul far beyond man-made rules. Isn't that what Jesus was criticizing the Pharisees and scribes about? That they were all about rules?

And the Blue Man, another of the archetypes of the sacred masculine, the healthy masculine, the Blue Man is all about intuition and creativity. And so is the cosmic Black Madonna: about growing up and growing your soul.

Meister Eckhart says "God is delighted to watch your soul enlarge." If you are addicted and obsessed with petty little rules, your soul hasn't grown at all. So you're not delighting God at all.

Jesus said "The Sabbath is for people; not the people for the Sabbath."

Now in my chapter on the Blue Man, in the book on the Hidden Spirituality of Men, the sacred masculine, I cite both Hildegard of Bingen and also Swami Muktananda. We had a very deep experience of the Blue Man, and the Blue Pearl, as did Hildegard.

But he goes on and on, about the power of the universe of consciousness, representing the creative aspect of God portrayed as a universal mother. That links up, of course, to the Black Madonna meditations we've been doing.

She stands for "the beauty of the whole world." Beauty of the whole world. Be meditating more on that, a little less on canon law.

Our expanded consciousness: this is what the blue man represents - our creativity, our powers of creativity and art, our powers of healing and an expanded consciousness; that the Christ is with all, within all of us. As Hildegard put it, the Blue Man, the healing Christ, is with all of us.

And here's how Thomas Berry puts it in his book, *The Great Work*:

While the universe celebrates itself in every mode of being, the human being might be identified as that being in whom the universe celebrates itself....in a special mode of conscious self-awareness... to bear the burden and responsibility of human intelligence, [the human] needed a magnificent world of beauty, in order to give us the meaning we would need....We are genetically coded to exist in a world of beauty. Your first experience is a communion experience: how wonderful this is!

How wonderful the world is. The vast world, our blue planet. Our blue planet, and our blue souls that can connect, as Aquinas said, psyche to cosmos.

A little more of this mysticism, please, and a little less anal-retentive religious laws.

This is what Jesus spoke to in his day. And we all should have learned this by now, after 2000 years. Good heavens.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.