

Daily Meditation 03/06/2022

Praise and Lament in a Time of Darkness

Good morning.

Today we are dealing with the experience of lamentation in a time of darkness. And praise is especially important in a time of lamentation.

The via positiva is not something to taste and forget. It's something that needs to feed our memories, especially in difficult times. I think the poet Rainer Maria Rilke said this as good as anybody, "Walk your walk of lament on a path of praise."

So, praise is bigger than lament. And good is greater than evil.

So here is Rilke, again, celebrating the importance of praise, of the via positiva, therefore. He writes:

***"Oh, tell us poet. What do you do?
I praise.***

***But the deadly and the violent days, how do you undergo them?
Take them in. I praise.***

***But the namelessness, how do you raise that? Invoke the unnameable?
I praise.***

***What right have you through every phase, in every mask, to remain true?
I praise.***

***And that both stillness and the wild affray know you like star and storm?
Because I praise."***

Beautiful poem. An amazing poem. And such an affirmation of the via positiva in the midst of via negativa.

So, we have to stay connected in a time of danger and evil. We have to stay connected to our first experience of the Divine, which is that of praise. That which calls forth praise--beauty and awe and

wonder. The beauty of our existence and knowing that humans are capable of rupturing beauty, of rupturing the via positive. That humans do not have the last word.

Let me say it again. "Humans do not have the last word."

That is certainly the story of the cross, isn't it? The empire of Jesus's day killed him and tortured him, but did not have the last word. That is power of the Easter story.

And Meister Eckhart has this amazing teaching:

"Everything, praises God." Everything praises God.

"Darkness, privations, defects, evil, too, praise God and bless God."

Even evil praises God and blesses God. Now there is a challenge to draw lessons from our experiences of evil and suffering.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.