

Daily Meditation 03/18/2022

Rank on Wisdom and the Need for a Whole New Civilization

Good morning.

We're continuing our meditations today with some insights from Otto Rank. And one of these insights is that he claims that the irrational has been ignored in a lot of, what Otto called, patriarchal dominance in our cultures for a long time. And, of course, part of this patriarchal value system would be the put-down of mysticism, and therefore, what Rank calls "the irrational." I would call it the "more than rational."

But he says that it is the irrational that includes "the dynamic forces governing life and human behavior. For human nature is, at bottom, irrational," he says.

Human nature is, at bottom, irrational.

This word "bottom" or "ground" or "depth" or "foundation" that we are--our biggest selves, you might say--is the energy of our hearts to love. And, of course, also to hate. And both of those fall more in the arena of the irrational than the rational; a deep feeling of what Einstein calls intuition, where he also says we derive values. The values do not come from the rational, Einstein says. They come from intuition, which is something bigger than just the rational.

But there's another statement from Meister Eckhart that I put it in yesterday's meditation. He says, "All creatures are gladly doing their best to speak of God."

All creatures are gladly doing their best to speak of God.

The word "gladly" is what really strikes me. Because gladness, joy, is also in the category of the irrational; it's more than rational. But it is so primary. And it dictates to us what choices we make, you might say, if we open our hearts up. And so, in this essay, I have a whole paragraph about examples of the irrational--and laughter and joy is among them.

And so we're hinting at what a new civilization might look like, that really puts an emphasis on our gladly doing our best to give thanks to creation and the Creator for our existence.

What would it mean to build a civilization around these values, which are clearly not part of our current civilization? They're not part of patriarchy's view of the world.

So, we'll be dealing with this important topic tomorrow.

But I think it behooves us simply to meditate today on this one sentence, from, actually, yesterday's meditation:

Are all creatures gladly doing their best to speak of God?

Are all creatures gladly doing their best to speak of God? And are humans among them? Are humans among those creatures who are so in touch with the marvel of creation, with our gratitude for it, with our wonder that we are busy, really busy, about gladly doing our best to speak of the source of all this marveling at creation itself?

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.