

Daily Meditation 03/20/2022

Rank and Eckhart on Creativity and the Now

Good morning.

We're meditating together this morning on Otto Rank and Meister Eckhart, their teachings on creativity and "the now." Creativity and the now.

And I cite a sentence from Meister Eckhart, which is very, very rich, when he says, "God is creating everything of the past, and everything of the present, and everything of the future, in the depths of your soul, now."

I'd like to offer the context in which Eckhart says that, because it's a very rich teaching. It's found on pages 24 and 25 of my book *Meditations with Meister Eckhart*.

This what he says, "I have often said..." (Now notice that word "often." This is not a one-time thing. It's frequently on his mind and in his teaching.)

"I have often said that God is creating the entire universe fully and totally in this present now. Everything God created 6000 years ago... (That was his physics in his day. And even previous to that, he was open to today's physics--13.8 billion years ago, had he heard about it)

"As God made the world, God creates "now" all at once. Now consider this. God is in everything, that God is nowhere as much as He is in the soul--there, where time never enters, where no image shines in. In the innermost and deepest aspect of the soul, God creates the whole cosmos."

Now notice. He's talking about the depths, and the darkness. The deepest darkness; innermost part of ourselves.

"Everything which God created millions of years ago. And everything which will be created by God after man's fears. If the world endures until then."

It's a very practical statement.

"God is creating all that in the innermost and deepest realms of the soul. Everything of the past, and everything of the future, and everything of the present, God creates in the innermost rounds of the soul."

Now a physicist, cosmologist, whom I shared these thoughts with a number of years ago, said:

"You know, that's today's physics. Because after all, the 13.8 billion years that brought us here, including the fireball 750,000 years, it's gone. It's not here anymore. It's past. It happened. But for example, we pick up the light of stars that may have died million years ago. It's happening in our soul! It's happening in our soul. And the future, too, is not here yet. And yet, much of it is happening in our soul to the extent that we are going to give birth, and we're going to be part of this universe's continuing to give birth in the future, millions of years from today."

So, in many ways, Eckhart's teaching can be understood in light of today's cosmology, in today's science. And even if it couldn't be, it's an amazing teaching to meditate on. Because it expands our soul to realize that we are connected to everything.

"All our relations," as the Lakota people pray.

All this is happening in our soul that is in our consciousness, to the extent that we are aware. Our soul remembers not in our body, but the body is in the soul. This is what the medievals say.

So, our soul is much bigger than our body. Our soul is as big as the 2 trillion galaxies that we now count, each with hundreds of billions of stars; otherwise we couldn't talk about them, could we? We couldn't imagine them. If we're imagining them or talking about them or counting them. That's our soul at work. That's our consciousness.

So, this links quite directly with the theme, Otto Rank and Meister Eckart together, on creativity and the now, the eternal now, and its deep importance.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.