

Daily Meditation 04/18/2022

The Paschal Mystery and the Mystery of the Cosmos

Good morning.

In today's meditation, we're considering the generosity of nature, the generosity of the sun that Hafiz celebrates in his wonderful poem.

Annie Dillard talks about what she calls "extravagance in nature."

This is how she puts it:

"If the landscape reveals one certainty, it is that the extravagant gesture is the very stuff of creation. Nature is, above all, profited. Don't believe them when they tell you how economical and thrifty nature is, whose leaves return to the soil. Wouldn't it be cheaper to leave them on the tree in the first place? This deciduous business loan is a radical scheme, the brainchild of a deranged manic depressive with limitless capital. Extravagance! He will try anything once. This is a spendthrift economy. But nothing is lost, all is spent."

I think that echoes very nicely the poem of "The Sun is generous" that Hafiz put so succinctly and wonderfully in his poem this morning.

Ernesto Cardenal, the poet from Nicaragua, says, "The greatest discovery of the 20th century is the expanding universe."

It is an amazing discovery, for sure. The universe is expanding, and it raises an obvious question: Are we expanding? Or do we choose to shut down and to operate from a smaller heart, a smaller awareness, and smaller consciousness than that pattern, that habit by which the universe operates, which is one of expansion?

I say in the book, here, *Creation Spirituality: Liberating Gifts for the Peoples of the Earth*: "When in doubt, expand." And that's what Jesus is saying, I think, about calling forth love under every circumstance.

So, there is a dying, and being reborn, and all living this going on all around us. The Paschal mystery is not just a religious item, or a theological doctrine. I think it's much fuller than that, much more real than that, much more every-day, much more cosmic than that. And we find it in microcosm, and we find it in the macrocosm--this habit of the universe, of life, dying, living, dying, and resurrecting.

I think that in some ways, Jesus kind of puts a stamp of approval on it, gives it a push to realize that we are in league with, we are in communion with, the rhythms of the universe itself. That is what makes us whole. And that's what makes life as meaningful as it is. That death does not have the last word. It never has. That we now know, thanks to today's science, that galaxies and stars and the fireball and all--they live, they die, but they resurrect in the process of dying. They give out their energy, their seeds, to other beings--all part of the expansion of the Universe.

What an invitation for our hearts to choose expansion, to choose joy, to expand our consciousness and our ways into places of joy and peace and understanding in ever greater waves, ever more expansive, ever more generous, and even extravagant.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.