

Daily Meditation 05/04/2022

Eckhart, Hafiz, Jung, & Rank: The Universality of Motherhood

Good morning. Good morning.

In this morning's meditation we are beginning to talk about the role of motherhood. In today's presentation, we see two great male mystics: Hafiz of Sufism, and Meister Eckhart, Christian mystic, both talking about being pregnant.

As Meister Eckhart says, out of his pregnancy is born the Son of God. And Hafiz telling us that he too, has been called a pregnant woman because God has made love with him and the whole universe is germinating in his belly, and his enlightening words take birth from him, and are cradled by thousands of hearts.

So once again, we're beyond the literal understanding of God as mother. And realizing that divinity as mother -- the powers of compassion, among other things, the power of birthing, and creativity, and art -- this is present in women and in men.

We ended our meditation talking about the opposite of celebrating motherhood and creativity and imagination and compassion.

And that is fascism, or the political version of patriarchy. I remember a number of years ago, I was in New Hampshire, doing some lectures. And driving me in from the airport, the natives of New Hampshire told me that there had recently been an election that fundamentalists had won in the area. And they dominated, they won the election for the school boards. And the first decree they put out from a new school board was this.

The teachers were not allowed to use imagination -- to use the word "imagination" -- in the classroom.

I was stunned by this. I said, repeat what you just said? The teachers were not allowed to use the word "imagination" in the classroom.

And I said, why not? And they said, Because imagination contains Satan. The devil is in our imaginations. Well, I responded, of course, everything is in the imagination. Plus things that don't exist, yet. That's what's so wonderful about imagination. Not only is the devil there, but so are the angels, and God, and all kinds of good energies in the imagination.

But for me, that was a striking moment, a striking revelation that there were efforts in our political system at the level of school boards, to banish, literally, imagination.

That was probably 20, 25 years ago. And today, we have the same kind of movement, taking books off library shelves in high schools, by authors who've won Pulitzer Prizes. And many of them of course, people of color.

So we can see that the attack on imagination, and creativity, and art is alive and well in the year 2022.

This contradicts the teaching of Julian, the motherhood of God that is found wherever people are being compassionate and wherever people are being creative. And the teachings of Hafiz and the teachings of Meister Eckhart, that we are to give birth to enlightenment, to healing and compassion and justice, and even, in Eckhart's language, to God, to the presence of God in our midst. He honors our abilities to bless one another as bringing forth the divine presence in history, on earth as it is in heaven.

Thank you; we'll see you tomorrow.