

Daily Meditation 05/17/22

Art, Interdependence, Compassion, the Feminine

Good morning.

We continue our meditations on the work of Suzi Goblik. And especially today, her emphasis on how interdependence is a feminine perspective...interdependence, interconnectedness is a feminine perspective that has been missing, she says, not only in our scientific thinking and in our policymaking, but in our aesthetic philosophy, as well.

And as I point out, of course, interdependence is another word for compassion. Compassion is the working out of our interdependence, our common joys and our common suffering.

So, I think what Goblik is saying is very good news, that interdependence and interconnectedness is a deep part of the new physics, that science is finally on board with this; at the same time, it is very much a part of compassion in a feminine perspective.

And so, one more argument for bringing the Divine Feminine forward and for there being a gender balance of the masculine and the feminine. This is integral to an awareness of independence and interconnectedness. And the new physics can really help, and of course, the feminist movement can really help, drawing on women's wisdom.

But another dimension, then to the whole discussion here about art and the role of the artist is this: this is how I draw the conclusion in this chapter on reinventing art, as part of our reinvention of work. I say that

Art without spirituality is cynical, manipulative, commercial and consumer oriented. It is pessimistic, ego centered, competitive, tired, afraid to die because it has not lived; it's fame seeking, exclusive, elitist, expensive, anthropocentric and self serving. The same is true with politics without spirituality, healthcare without spirituality, or religion without spirituality.

On the other hand, art with spirituality is inclusive, celebrative, joyous, courageous, capable of taking us into grief and beyond, energizing, open to the community in all its diversity, playful, joyful, justice oriented, compassionate, honoring of other art worlds. It is non-sentimental, surprising and therefore spirit filled, youthful, fresh. And as Meister Eckhart says of spirit, 'in the beginning.' In this way, art heals.

Aquinas says that there are two kinds of water: living and stagnant. Living Water is connected to its source; stagnant water is not and is therefore dead and putrefying. Spirituality is art's source -- as it is the source of all good work.

These comments are on page 214 to 215 in *The Reinvention of Work*, and I think they complement very wonderfully not only what Suzi Goblik is saying in today's meditation, but MC Richards too: where she talks about how art is “not a trade, but a spiritual discipline, an absolute and primal encounter, to which we must devotedly surrender.”

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.