

Daily Meditation 05/18/22

Courtney Milne, Mystical Photographer Reinventing His Profession

Good morning.

Photographer and bookmaker Courtney Milne says, "All joyous photographers, artists, and all artists are mystics."

And he himself discovered his vocation as joyous photographer, artist, and mystic. So let me share with you a few observations about mysticism that I touch on in the book that he told me mattered a lot to him, *The Coming of the Cosmic Christ*, especially Chapter Two, which is on mysticism.

Rainer Maria Rilke, the great poet, says "Work of the eyes is done now. Go and do hard work."

Well, that's the mystics' specialty: Heartwork.

Rumi says,

If you wish your heart to be bright, you must do a little work. If metal can be polished to a mirror-like finish, what polishing does the mirror of the heart require?

Rabbi Abraham Heschel said:

Normal consciousness is a state of stupor, in which sensibility to the holy real and responsiveness to the stimuli of the spirit are reduced. The mystics, knowing that humanity is involved in a Hidden History of the cosmos, endeavor to awake from their drowsiness and apathy to regain the state of wakefulness for their enchanted souls.

Teresa of Avila wrote:

Though no more than seven dwelling places were discussed (she's talking about her book on the soul), in each of these, there are many others, below and above and besides, with lovely gardens and fountains and labyrinths, such delightful things that you would want to be dissolved in praise of the great God who created the soul in his own image and likeness.

Irish poet Patrick Kavanaugh says: "God cannot catch us unless we stay in the unconscious room of our hearts"

...the unconscious room of our hearts.

Scientists Gregory Bateson says:

The mere purpose of rationality, unaided by such phenomena as art, religion, dreams and the like, is necessarily pathologic and destructive of life.

...pathologic and destructive of life.

Physicist Fritjof Capra says:

The concepts of science show strong similarities to the concepts of the mystics; the philosophy of mystical traditions, the perennial philosophy, is the most consistent philosophical background to modern science.

Dorothee Soelle, a German theologian, feminist theologian says,

In Orthodox Christianity, there's a dangerous inclination to abandon the ecstatic dimension of our relatedness to God. By contrast, the great saints kept the fire of ecstasy alive--"

...fire of ecstasy alive...

...and understood our capacity to praise God in creation as a form of participation in life's ecstasy."

It's interesting, she uses the word "ecstasy" several times, because that is Thomas Aquinas' one-word naming of the mystical experience, just like "breakthrough" is Meister Eckhart's naming of the mystical experience, when he says "In breakthrough I learn that God and I are one."

And Julian of Norwich's one-word naming of the mystical experience is "oneing". She invented that word.

Again, Rainer Maria Rilke:

One who knows distances out to the outermost Star is astonished when he discovers the magnificent space in your hearts.

... magnificent space in our hearts.

And Hildegard of Bingen says,

How wonderful the wisdom in the Godhead's heart. It is the heart that sees the primordial eternity of every creature.

Finally, Henry David Thoreau:

It is easier to sail many thousands of miles through cold and storm and cannibals in a government ship with 500 men and boys to assist one than it is to explore the private sea, the Atlantic and Pacific Ocean of one's being alone.

...of one's being alone. So solitude leads us to the mystical state.

I hope that you are coming to your own mystical state.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.