

Daily Meditation 05/19/2022

Courtney Milne, Mystical Photographer, continued

Good morning.

I'm holding Courtney Milne's book, *The Sacred Earth*, in my hands. Here is a wonderful book with amazing photographs that he took and explained from all over the world's sacred places. And he points out in the introduction that when he's talking about sacred places, he means "sacred" in the broadest possible sense, to include "awe-inspiring places where I and others have experienced a feeling of transcendence and harmony with the cosmos."

And he says, "While some of these places are designated sacred places, there are others that do not fall into that category."

That's right, he's using a generic understanding of "sacred" as an "awe-inspiring" place. And he says,

*if we are wise enough to heed the inner voice, we can be reminded that our planet can continue to nourish us, providing gifts, both physical and spiritual.*

So he takes us through, as I print out in the essay, dozens of countries and over 400 wonderful pictures of various sacred places in so many countries of the world. But also, in his last work, that he referred to as "The Pool of Possibilities."

I encourage you to go online and check out these marvelous photographs he took of the pool of possibilities, which was just one area in his backyard, and he's teaching that sacredness is everywhere, even in our backyards. And it varies with the seasons of the year, the time of day, the sunshine, the rain, all the shadows, the colors, the elements of the universe, all of which we're able to perceive.

And all this is a conjuring up of the sacred, too.

So we don't have to travel to Egypt to see the pyramids, even though he did that. We don't have to go to faraway lands, even though he did that with his first major book. But really it's the attitude we bring to everydayness: it's what we see in the everyday that reminds us, that conjures up the sacred.

And as Thomas Berry says, "We will not save the planet if we do not recover this sense of the sacred"...this connection to the sacred, that Courtney Milne felt so deeply and that he made visible for the rest of us through the art of photography and his gift of photography.

But again, the bottom line is that the sacred is everywhere. It's through us and we are in it, and it is in us. That is the meaning of pantheism, what Mechtilde of Magdeburg taught:

*The day of my spiritual awakening was the day I saw, and knew I saw all things in God and God in all things. All things in beauty and beauty in all thing. All things in the sacred and the sacred in all things.*

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.