

Daily Meditation 06-25-22

Hildegard on Angels Praising the Good Works of Humanity

Good morning.

Yesterday we meditated with Hildegard of Bingen on how humans actually amaze the angels; especially our works amaze the angels.

And today we're continuing that line of thought in Hildegard. When she talks about how angels praise the good works of humanity, she says they intone a new song to honor the works of humanity; they create music to celebrate our existence, and our work and our being; a new song to the universe.

Now, one of the works that she praises for human beings is our languages, and she recognizes how diverse and multiple human languages are. And Noam Chomsky, a very well-known linguist, says that all human languages participate in a common archetypal grammar, a universal grammar. So there's a common basis behind all the human languages, which implies a common origin for all languages.

And part of the human languages, of course, are symbols and archetypes, and art. And, of course, music itself, which is obviously an art.

But we can think of the ancient peoples who painted on cave walls, such as Lascaux cave in France, and all the art that our ancestors created, including jewelry that we find with bones of bipeds, from tens of thousands of years ago.

So, when we're speaking of language, we're speaking of this great diversity of art forms, and expressions, and stories that are remembered through painting, through writing. And, of course, hieroglyphics, which is kind of a mix between letters and figures, and all the figures that humans like to come up with, right through to today's movies, videos, and so forth.

So we are a species that is eager to put our thoughts and experiences into language in order to communicate with others. And all that is celebrated by Hildegard; that's part of human work. And she's insisting that it is celebrated by angels too; that they are applauding. They are applauding our theatre, and our film, and our painting, and our dancing, and our sculpture, pottery, jewelry, and all the ways in which we put our imaginations into practice. And of course, that includes political imagination, too, and moral imagination to create societies that are more just and compassionate, where more celebration and more praise is at hand.

And that way, we will be imitating the angels whose primary work, singular work really, is praise. But we humans have so many other works, but can we steer them into the direction of praise, not the direction of beating up on one another, not the direction of unchained reptilian brain where I win/you lose, I'm on top and you aren't -- not that direction.

But the direction that spiritual leaders that were prophets call us to: the direction of community, the direction of joy and justice, that of tempering the negative energies we carry with us, whether that be greed or egoism or violence or envy, tempering that so that the best of ourselves can come up to play, to celebrate with each other and with the angels, because we do know, from Hildegard and others, that the angels love to celebrate. They love to praise in the context of worship, to say thank you together.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.