

Daily Meditation 06/15/2022

Spark of the Soul as Cosmic Christ in Merton & Eckhart

Good morning.

We continue our meditation on the spark of divinity, the Cosmic Christ that is in all of us, according to Thomas Merton and Meister Eckhart.

Thomas Merton tells a well-known story that's worth repeating. He tells us in his journal, that one day he was in downtown Louisville, near where his monastery was located. And it was rush hour, around noon, and people were scurrying about everywhere. And he crossed Walnut Street and in the crossing of the street, he had this mystical experience of all these strangers he was meeting, crossing the street with, were lit up, lit up with a light from inside of them.

And he wrote in his journal the next day, "How is it possible to tell people that they're all walking around shining like the sun?"

...that we are all walking around shining like the sun.

That is, of course, the spark coming to its fullness. That is the seventh chakra, extending the light into the world. It is the Christ in all of us, the Buddha nature, the image of God.

But he saw it, he experienced it. And it overwhelmed him in the most positive way. Then he asked this question, how can we tell everyone this?

Well, of course, one way is to remind them that we are other Christs, other Buddhas, and living images of God.

Now in today's reading, Meister Eckhart adds a very important dimension to this reality of our being other Christs, when he says it's not enough that we be other Christs: we have to act like other Christ, imitate Christ, especially in the work of compassion.

He says that "We are to be doing Christ's works, and behaving exactly like Jesus. Christ said, 'Follow me.' But follow is a command to act –"

...to act.

And then Eckhart adds, "mold yourself and all your works on Christ's pattern."

...mold yourself in all your works on Christ's pattern. That's a very interesting word, "pattern." There's a rich phrase that Paul invokes from the Jewish tradition, that "the Christ is the pattern that connects"... the pattern that connects.

But to mold ourselves and our works on Christ's pattern is a very, very rich phrase that calls us to action, calls us not just to be and to grow in our being, but to grow in our works. It's a very great affirmation of the importance of work, not just our inner work, but our outer work, where we put our inner work into action into place into history.

So we want to ask ourselves, in what way are we molding ourselves in all our works...in all our works...on the Christ pattern, the Christ pattern, the pattern of compassion, a pattern of justice, a pattern, therefore, of love.

Thank you, we'll see you tomorrow.