

Daily Meditation 07-27-22

Mystics on the Wonder of Our Universe, I

Good morning.

This morning we are meditating on the wonders of our universe, as seen through the eyes of mystics. Very appropriately, I think, many of these observations or quotations are taken directly from my book, *Original Blessing*. Because that is the heart of the book, namely, that the universe itself, creation itself is a blessing. It's a good thing, a very good thing, according to Genesis one.

So many Christians skip over Genesis one. And they go on into the stories in chapters two and three about Adam and Eve and so forth. But to leave out the cosmology of Genesis one, and today's cosmology of science, is ridiculous and an insult to God, to the Creator, because the universe was rendering the Milky Way galaxy possible for billions of years before humans ever showed up.

Even the forming of Earth was 4.5 billion years before humans showed up. And the whole parade was 13.8 billion years before humans showed up. In many ways, Genesis one is saying that. In Genesis one, humans were the last to show up, but all along the way the universe is called good and good and good. And when all of that came together, with the humans showing up, it was very good. And that same word can be translated as beautiful, very beautiful.

So of course, authentic mysticism begins with the *via positiva*, with an awareness of the wonders and beauty of our universe and how it touches our souls deeply.

So Kabir, from India in the 15th century, has that wonderful poem. In Robert Bly's translation,

Inside this clay jug --

...That's all of us, we all live in a clay jug....

...There are canyons and pine mountains,

and the maker of canyons and pine mountains.

All seven oceans are inside, and hundreds of millions of stars --

Today we can say, and trillions and trillions of galaxies, each with hundreds of billions of stars -- they're in us. We can say these words because our scientific community has found this to be factual.

What else is inside of us?

...The acid test gold is there, and the one who judges jewels,

and the music from the strings that no one touches,

and the source of all water--

What about the music from the strings that people do touch? That's there too. People do it. People compose music.

...If you want the truth, I will tell you the truth:

Friend, listen, the God whom I love is inside.

What I love about that poem is it brings together the inside and the outside. And it absolutely shatters the notion that the soul is in the body. It is saying its own way, the soul is not in the body; the body is in the soul! The soul travels to all seven oceans, to hundreds of millions of stars, to trillions of galaxies laced with billions of stars.

The soul is traveling to all these places; otherwise you couldn't think about them; we couldn't put them into poetry. It's a marvelous way of bringing together the inside and the outside.

These teachings from the East wonderfully echo the teachings from the West that are also shared here. To cite just one from Gerhard Von Rad, scholar of the Wisdom books in the Bible, the tradition from which the historical Jesus comes, he says,

Creation not only exists, it also discharges truth--

...discharges truth.

...Wisdom requires a surrender, verging on the mystical, of a person to the glory of existence.

The Scriptures say, "The whole world is filled with the glory of the Lord."

I hope you're tasting that glory.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.