

Daily Meditations 07-28-22

Mystics on the Wonder of our Universe, Part II

Good morning.

We continue our meditation this morning on the wonders of the universe as celebrated in song by the mystics. And of course there's a mystic inside all of us to do that celebrating and singing.

John of the Cross, 16th century Carmelite friar and prophetic activist who was almost killed by his own brothers. He sings this song that he created.

My beloved is the mountains --

My beloved is the favorite name for God. And he gets it from the mystical tradition of Islam which in his Spanish terrain was always very active, of course in Spain.

*My beloved is the mountains
and lonely wooded valleys,
strange islands,
and resounding rivers,
the whistling of love-stirring breezes,
the tranquil night
at the time of rising Dawn,
silent music --*

...silent music...

...sounding solitude--

...sounding solitude... notice the paradox in his writing, as there is so much paradox in Meister Eckhart's writing, and in other mystics, and Buddhist writings and koans, and so forth...

*...silent music, sounding solitude,
the supper that refreshes and deepens love.*

A beautiful poem, a powerful poem.

Albert Einstein says, "The most important function of art and science--"

What is most important function of art and science?

"...is to awaken the cosmic religious feeling and keep it alive."

Cosmic religious feeling. It seems to me that the Webb telescope is assisting us in awakening the cosmic religious feeling and keeping it alive. The Hubble telescope before it did some of that.

And the Gaia telescope did some of that. But the Webb telescope is also contributing to the cosmic religious feeling.

Raghavan Iyer, a philosopher who wrote major work on Mahatma Gandhi, says:

For Gandhi, to become divine is to become attuned in thought, feeling and act to the whole of creation--

...the whole of creation.

Dharma, or morality cannot be divorced from rta, or cosmic order.

So our morality is meant to emulate, or be patterned after the cosmic order.

And it's so interesting to me that the great Krister Stendahl, a very renowned biblical scholar, was himself a Lutheran Archbishop in Scandinavia for a while, but was dean of the Harvard Divinity School for a number of years. He has a very powerful teaching. He says that

The only way we could speak of the kingdom of God, in a territorial sense, in the New Testament would be in regard to the whole universe--

...the whole universe, that is the one description of the kingdom of God that works.

The establishment of the eschatological Kingdom can be nothing else than the perfect joy of the whole world [he writes] ...that the Psalmist celebrated in Psalms 96, 97, and 98. When Jesus uses word Kingdom, he says, he means creation, and you have every right --

He told me this personally, when he attended a workshop I gave on the Cosmic Christ. I was a pretty young theologian, and he was then in his 70s. He says,

When you see the word Basileia, which you translate as Kingdom, you can also translate it as Creation.

And the work of justice, the work of compassionate is to mend and to heal creation again. Tikkun: that is our work on Earth, to render creation, creation that humans are involved in, beautiful and just and compassionate and it cannot be beautiful without justice and compassion.

Much to ponder here, to meditate on, with these great mystics.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.