

Daily Meditation 07/23/2022

A New and Sacred Creation Story from Science

Good morning.

Our meditations recently on the Webb telescope are another way of speaking to the awe that comes to us, when we look at Father Sky, when we learn our origins and follow our sense of curiosity to pursue our origins. And that includes, of course, empowering scientists to pursue these questions that are always so foundational to human tribes. And today with science agreeing in many of its methods and pursuits all over the world, over the globe, we have a new creation story from science. And it does not totally displace all the other stories and myths that humans have derived over the many centuries of our existence.

But it is special because it is universal. And you can play with the ancient stories, looking at mining the wisdom that is there, at the same time that we can listen with our hearts, as well as minds, to the new story from science.

And that is what struck me when I was moved to write the poem that I'm sharing in today's meditation and completing in tomorrow's meditation. And I built the story around the idea of gifts. We come from a lineage of cosmic gift-giving, I propose.

It's very likely that one reason I chose that key theme comes from the psychologist Otto Rock, who says "the artist is one who wants to leave behind a gift"... the artist wants to leave behind a gift.

And Thomas Aquinas in the 13th century, he spent his whole life trying to bring science and theology together. In his day, that meant Aristotle, who was new to the west. He makes a big point about how God is "the artist of artists"... the artist of artists. So if to be an artist is to leave gifts around, then divinity, the artist of artists, bestows many gifts upon all of us, the Creator.

And I think it behooves us to look on creation as an original blessing. Blessing is a theological word for goodness: gift giving is about goodness, after all; you're giving good things when you're giving gifts, you're not giving dangerous things, bad things. The universe overall has brought us here this amazing gift, we call the earth and the supernova that brought the Earth into being and the galaxies that preceded that, and so forth.

So there's my effort in this simple poem to name this story of gift giving. And we are the recipients of all this gifting on the part of the biosphere, on the part of the original fireball and everything that went on there, and to meditate on this reality on this creation story, making it our Lectio Divina, or contemplative source, can, it seems to me, lift us from our slumber and inspire us, fill us with gratitude, and with awe and with reverence for the universe that birthed us.

And wonderful things can transpire when humans drink awe in deeply, including, of course, a commitment to saving the earth and all its creatures as we know them in this special time in planetary and solar and universe history.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.