

Daily Meditation 07/18/2022

Father Sky in Judaism and among Aborigines of Australia

Good morning.

In meditating on Father Sky and our home, the universe, and its 13.8 billion years that have birthed us and our Earth and all the rest, we touched on Christian mystics, in some instances from the Christian Bible, that very much honor Father Sky.

And then, the next day, we are talking about Judaism and its reverence for Father Sky and the tops of mountains, encounters and theophanies with the Divine, and also the aborigines of Australia, who are probably the oldest tribe on the planet.

But let me also bring in, of course, the African experience. African scholar, John Mbiti, writes:

"The heavenly part of the universe is a home of the stars, sun, moon, meteorites, sky, wind and rain, including phenomena attached to them, such as thunder and lightning storms, eclipses of the sun and the moon, falling stars and so forth. This is thought to be the home of God. Although people cannot quite locate where He dwells other than saying that He lives in the sky, or in heaven, or beyond the clouds. Or they simply say that God does not live on the Earth like man.

"And while the Heavenly Father is God, many Africans understand the Earth to be Mother. And she, too, is a living being called Mother Earth, the Goddess Earth, or the divinity of the Earth. Earth is sacred. She's honored with ceremonies and other expressions of respect. As well as her parts, such as mountains and waterfalls, and rocks and forests and trees and birds and animals and insects."

Now the Native American tradition also has a strong sense of the Great Spirit and is often identified as Father Sky. Big Thunder of the Olgonquin tribe says:

"The Great Spirit is in all things. He is in the air we breathe. Great Spirit is our father. But the Earth is our mother. She nourishes us. That which we put into the ground, she returns to us."

Chief Red Cloud of the Lakota people prays:

"I hope the great Heavenly Father who looked down upon us will give all the tribes His blessing, that we may go forth in peace and live in peace all our days. That He will look down at our children and finally lift us far above the Earth. And our Heavenly Father, we look upon our children as His children, that all

the tribes may be His children. As we shake hands today upon this broad plane, may we live forever in peace."

And of course, among the Greeks, the sky fathers were very present, although not necessarily admirable characters. Zeus, Kronos, others.

As Jean Bolen says, "The mythology of the sky gods, Uranus, Kronos and Zeus, reflect changes in the father archetype."

But for Aristotle, it was the order and beauty of the universe, the elegance of the sky, that moved him to posit a god, a craftsman, who designed the universe so beautifully.

And so, for all these peoples, the sky was alive. And the sky was a place of divine power and energy and blessing.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.