

Daily Meditation 08/14/2022

God, an Ocean of Unfathomableness

Good morning.

We continue our meditations on the apophatic divinity, God of nothingness, with a powerful statement from Eckhart: "Reason can never comprehend God in the ocean of his unfathomableness."

The ocean of the Divine unfathomableness.

A marvelous way of picturing the mystery that divinity is--that divinity resides in an ocean of the unfathomable. And of course, oceans themselves are deep, dark, full of mystery, and unfathomable. So it's like a divine ocean of unfathomableness, so get used to it! Not everything can be fully understood by the human mind.

And I make reference to John of Cross's invitation to "launch out into the deep."

"Launch out into the deep." Parallel language to Eckhart about the ocean of divinity.

They also refer to the New Age of Aquarius that we are in. Because people look around and see a lot of young people today leaving institutional religion. They're leaving a lot of institutions, I think.

Many are quite fed up with academia, for example, and therefore, education as we've been defining it. And many are turned off by politics and the legal system and the Supreme Court because all of these institutions are failing us. They have not moved from the modern to the postmodern mode of activity yet. And of course, much of that is understandable. It's a big leap to move from one mode to another.

And now we're moving from the mode of the Piscean age, which lasted for 2000 years. And it's the only mode; it's the only moment in 2000 years that Christianity has lived under--the Age of Pisces--which is signified, among other things, by dualism. Two fish swimming in the opposite direction.

But the Age of Aquarius is different from the Age of Pisces. It is more about being together in the waters of the unconscious, the waters of the depth, such as Eckhart is talking about--the unfathomableness, the mystery and the depth of the spiritual, of spirit.

And I think this is why many young people are leaving the institution of religion, because institutions have not caught up with the time, with few exceptions here and there. Exceptions within the institutions, I mean, not exceptional institutions.

All religions are undergoing a chaotic, chaotic mixing at this time. And that's one reason why deep ecumenism is so prevalent and so important. That we're beginning to mix our religions and to respect one another.

I know a 40-year-old Buddhist who has made several pilgrimages on the road to St. James Compostela, a Christian pilgrimage. But he goes and he pays the price of bloody feet and all the rest. But he finds it obviously to be a very physical and spiritual experience to do so.

And of course, we all know many people--young people and not so young today--who've gone east to learn a lot from Hindus, and from Buddhists, and from Taoists and so forth. So, there's this mixing going on. But again, there's a consensus.

Thomas Aquinas, "The cause at which we wonder is hidden from us. We are united to God as to one unknown."

One unknown. See, the mystery of the Godhead.

"God alone knows the depths and the riches of the Godhead," says Aquinas. "And Divine Wisdom alone can declare its secrets."

So again, the recognition of the unfathomableness, the unfathomableness of the divine reality.

But Aquinas goes on. He says, "The human mind's greatest achievement is to realize that God is far beyond anything we think. This is the ultimate of human knowledge to know that we do not know God. By its immensity, the divine essence transcends every form attained by the human. The ultimate human knowledge to know that we do not know God."

Seems to me we ought to take some erasers to the "in God we trust" that we stamp on coins and dollar bills and MX missiles and all the rest, if Aquinas is right. And he is.

Eckhart: "Whatever one says what God is, God is not. God is what one does not say of God rather than what one says God is."

And then the Jewish mystic and psychotherapist, Estelle Frankel, in her wonderful book on the apophatic divinity called *The Wisdom of Not Knowing*, talks about how we have to wrap our minds around God. "You can't wrap your mind around God," she says.

So she, too, is drawing on the apophatic divinity of the Jewish tradition.

So, this tradition is everywhere in humankind's experience of the Divine. But it has been neglected during the modern era, during the era of colonialism, and of empire building--often in the name of religion, and in the name of wiping out other religions, and not recognizing that all of them shed light on a great mystery that is beyond me.

Great Mystery.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.