

Daily Meditation 08/22/2022

Thomas Berry on the Cosmic Christ

Good morning.

We continue our meditations on the sacred cosmos and the mystics who bring this to our attention. And today we're back in the 21st century with Thomas Berry, green eco-prophet of our times.

And he tells us that, first of all, there's a history of recognizing the sacredness of the cosmos and its importance in any authentic religious teaching. And he cites in the Christian tradition, St. John and St. Paul, who spoke of Christ, as he says, as a form of the universe, the pattern that connects. And, as he says, the universe is the sacred, ultimate sacred reality. It's the ultimate sacrament, really.

"The universe itself is a primordial, sacred community. There's a grand liturgy that is performed by the universe, if we look on it, with the eyes and the awareness of the sacred. All of it is a holy unfolding of the divine plan, a journey of evolution."

And this can take us beyond any particular religious tradition so that religious traditions can chill a little and gather their wisdom and present that to humanity and not become separate, competing entities, but rather part of the cooperation that nature requires for a survival of the species. Especially when as fragile as ours is, we can "cease our industrial assault, abandon our inner rage against the conditions of our earthly existence, and renew our human participation in the grand liturgy of the universe."

And he tells us that we have to do some letting go, that our cultural resources are not up to the task. They were born in a different era, the era of modernism, and we're now living in another era. And you might say they were born in the era of Pisces. We're now living in the era of Aquarius.

Says "none of our existing cultures" --none-- "can deal with this situation out of its own resources. We must invent or reinvent a sustainable human culture, by a descent into our prerational, our instinctive resources."

We have to go down deep. This is why the mystics are so important today, and bringing forth the mystic in ourselves. We have to go down deep to call up those deeper recesses that are in us, deeper even than our culture is aware.

And he says that "our cultural resources have lost their integrity. They cannot be trusted."

Well, it seems to me that information is on the news daily, isn't it? Tell me one profession today that is living up to its purpose or its honor, whether we're talking the legal profession, the political profession, educational profession, religious professions, the media, too. All of it has been so waylaid, so on detour from the real meaning of work, which is to create communities that are joyful and just, where fairness and balance reigns, where the masculine and the feminine are in a dance, a dialectic, but one of equality, not one of subjugation.

"Our cultural resources have lost their integrity. They cannot be trusted."

And so this is why we are calling on that mystic in all of us to come forward and with the creativity that is ignited, to give birth to new forms of humans living on this earth; patterns that are sustainable, that allow us to respect the generations that are to follow by leaving behind a healthy planet and a healthy species.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.