

Daily Meditation 08/29/2022

Praising the Earth, Father Sky and the Cosmos

Good morning.

We have been meditating for a couple of weeks on the implications of the Webb telescope. Underlying it all is this urge and this need to pull out of our anthropocentric dive, or fall, that has been endemic to patriarchy and to modern consciousness.

"I think therefore I am," said Descartes. Bully for Descartes. Where did he get his food? Where did he get his air? Where did he get his lungs? He didn't come from his thinking. He came from 13.8 billion years that preceded him. He came from the universe. He came from the earth, which comes from the universe.

So interesting, that one sentence has two big egos: "I think, therefore I am." I guess that was his main consciousness, his main concern. It's not so for those who live in the presence of wisdom, and not just the power of knowledge.

Rabbi Heschel says in today's meditation, "The world is too incredible, too meaningful for us. The existence of the world is the most unlikely, the most unbelievable fact. Even our ability for surprise is beyond expectation. Who could believe it?"

Who could believe it?

"Who could conceive it? The existence of the universe is contrary to our reasonable expectations."

To face the universe is to face surprise beyond expectation, to face the incredible and the meaningful and to move beyond human expectations. And again, the Webb telescope helps us with that and all other human efforts, to ask the recurring question, 'Where do we come from?'

And I don't think we come from Descartes' mind. I don't even think Descartes comes from Descartes' mind. I think that sentence is one of the most ignorant sentences in the history of the human race, and dangerous. And dangerous.

And I dare say, I think academia, in our understanding of education, owes more to that ridiculous observation: "I think therefore I am." So solipsistic, so egoistic.

We exist, therefore we are.

And by "we" I don't mean just humans. By "we" I mean the universe, I mean, the Earth. I mean, all our ancestors, all those beings that preceded us--the flowers that fine-tune the oxygen for us, the trees that taught us to stand up straight and defy gravity with the circulation of our blood and to process the air for us and more. And the soil and the sun and rains and the clouds and the grains and the fruits and all the beings that have fed us their nourishment, both physiological and spiritual nourishment of beauty over the thousands of years that our species has been stumbling around.

So I think that the message from Julian of Norwich is very clear. "Are we charged by the quality of reverence and loving awe and gratitude to turn to action" that we are guided to today? Action that Thomas Berry calls "the great work," which is saving the Earth as we know it so that future generations of humans and many other amazing beings can cooperate and survive and thrive in the future.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.