

Daily Meditation 10/08/22

Cosmologist Brian Swimme on Order of the Sacred Earth

Good morning.

Cosmologist Brian Swimme speaks very directly to us today. And this is a section of his essay in our book, the *Order of the Sacred Earth*.

We invited diverse people to respond to the vision and to address this question that we put forward: “What might a new inclusive spiritual order contribute to our world?” And Brian, as he's wont to do, brought forth this story of the miracle of creativity that occurs in the cosmos.

When, as he says, in the center of stars hydrogen atoms are transformed, it's a real transformation that goes on in the community of the star--transformed into carbon, nitrogen, oxygen, all the elements that make up our bodies, and the bodies of every living being. Every living being.

But if the hydrogen atom was isolated, and just by itself, an individual atom cannot transform itself into carbon, nitrogen, or phosphorus. He says it will persist, without change, for billions of years for the most part, but never create anything new by itself.

So, he offers this exciting comparison between a new order based on a commitment to healing our sacred Mother Earth--comparing that to a star, that a community brings forth creativity more than just an isolated individual.

And so that was his vision. And I think it's a very rich one, and a very enticing one. And, of course, a very challenging one.

When people do commit to a community, and we're defining community in a very loose way, a lot of it is virtual. We meet once a month, usually the last Tuesday of the month, online, talk about what we're about. But locally, people gather in their pods or groups by regional groups, and work together in various capacities given their common interests and common concerns about their bioregion; and also, of course, their common gifts and crafts and what they have to share with one another. This is all part of the vision of the *Order of the Sacred Earth*.

And I think that Brian really, really helps to bring that vision alive and to relate it to the bigger story, the great story of the universe, and how it goes about its creative work. Because we, too, are called to our

deepest creativity today, to participate in what Thomas Berry calls the Great Work. The Great Work is to make Mother Earth sustainable and thriving again, with all this beauty of diverse species--ourselves included--to steer it in directions that are positive for future generations.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.