

Daily Meditation 11-18-22

A Festival of Faiths: Sacred Stories

Good morning.

In today's meditation, we continue our theme of these last few days of praise, but in the context of a gathering that I attended this past week, entitled Festival of Faiths, sacred stories being the theme for this year. The gathering has been held annually in Louisville for 26 years.

And in my presentation, the theme was sacred stories, those that are most important for us today. And as I tell in the essay, I was accompanied by four giant puppets made by Mary Plaster, a puppet maker who lives in Duluth. She had made these previously for a big event in 2013 in Louisville, which was an environmental march, which I am told was the biggest march ever in Louisville.

And I found this to be a wonderful way to talk about cosmology, to talk about earth, air, fire, water, because who can resist a puppet? These giant puppets bring the best out of all of us, bring the child out of all of us. And it was wonderful, just seeing people's eyes when they encounter the puppets.

And all this is built into the theme, the overall title, of a festival of faiths. The whole idea of festival and festivity and celebrating and getting out of our egos, and into a place of childlike admiration and wonder, and magic.

And the universe is that kind of thing. So why shouldn't humans be making giant puppets about the elements of the universe, to delight us, to bring us together, to move beyond our everyday differences, and of course, beyond politics, which is differences spelled with capital letters these days, to that which we share in common such as air, such as breathing (duh!), such as water, which is becoming so scarce in some places, such as where I live in Northern California.

But around the world, the greatest rivers of the world are drying up. I've seen pictures of the Mississippi, of the Thames in England, of the Rhine River in Germany, the Danube in Austria, the greatest river in China drying up. China had to shut down all kinds of factories because this great river, the Yangtze River, was drying up and could not provide the energy needed to run such a factory.

So, if you're really going to engage all of us, in the environmental revolution and struggle, we have to learn again, to honor the sacredness of water and the sacredness of air and the sacredness of fire. Indeed, the whole energy crisis is around fire! That is to say, how will we fire up our engine, so to speak, to do energy in a way that is sustainable, and healthy and renewable.

Earth, Air, Fire, Water -all of them are endangered today. And all of them need us to fall in love with them again. They are original blessings: none of us manufactured Earth, Air, Fire, Water. We arrived here, and it was here. And we have not loved it enough, gotten out of our egos enough, which is what love does for us: to recognize how beautiful but also how precarious our existence is on this one very, very special planet.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.