

Daily Meditation 11/17/2022

Let Us Praise the Air, part II

Good morning.

Today we are praising air. And we are learning more and more of the complexity of air and the uniqueness of air and how wonderfully our Earth holds air in, whereas on so many other planets, the gases disappear, they cannot be held in.

And this of course raises the whole question: is air appropriate on other planets to sustain life and especially complex life, intellectual life, great creatures such as we share this planet with. And I raise the question of -- what if it's not? Many scientists are presuming that there are so many exoplanets, so many planets out there in so many galaxies, that there must be other planets that sustain life like ours.

But it's not a done deal. Because it's really very, very complicated and very special that this planet has accomplished what makes our life possible, and so many other species that are amazing, indeed.

But I really find it interesting to meditate on the two or three options here.

What if there's no other planet in the universe as unique and air-filled as this one? Imagine! Yet here we are, close to rendering our planet less than habitable for all kinds of wondrous creatures, from elephants to giraffes to polar bears, to whales, to rainforests and the rest: what a responsibility we have to preserve this planet!

Remember that Thomas Aquinas defines salvation as "preserving things in the good" ...preserving things in the good. It's our chance to step up. And to not only co-create, but to co-redeem, to co-save the beauty, inestimable beauty of this planet, and of our species, along with so many others. What an opportunity we have, if we fall in love enough with this planet to do so.

The Masters of Taoism, when asked how to find the Tao--

-- the great mystery that makes things run, the great mother,

...pointed one hand to the sky and the other to the earth. This profound gesture, we are told, places human beings between heaven and earth, but also after heaven and earth in importance. It serves as a reminder that people are a part of all things under heaven.

So Father Sky and Mother Earth together are those great mysteries to sustain everything.

And the word for sky in Chinese Taoism, Tian, means heaven and nature, as well as sky--

...heaven, nature sky, the same word.

We are told, in that tradition, the sky is endless, vast, ever present, yet ever changing. The wind blows through its blue expanse, clouds gather and disappear in its vastness. Without its air we could not breathe. Without the sun we could not live. Our spirit could not be content, unless it has a greatness as vast as the skies in which to roam. Our spirit itself is vast like the sky and wants to roam.

And yet in Taoist teaching, "Heaven is always greater than humanity."

Heaven is always greater than humanity. Let us learn to praise the sky.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.