

Daily Meditation 12/01/2022

Deep Ecumenism, continued

Good morning.

Today in meditation, we continue our reflecting on deep ecumenism and how so many of our traditions, when it comes to their mystical lineage, emphasize the role of joy.

And joy is really one of the signs of the spirit. In today's meditation I bring this out in terms of the theme of Work, work and joy.

As I point out, the Tao te Ching teaches "In work, do what you enjoy," and the Bhagavad Gita, "They all attain perfection when they find joy in their work." And Thomas Aquinas... so we have Taoism, Hinduism and Christianity: a consensus on this topic.

So Aquinas says, "always rejoice in the good work that you do."

And in Julian of Norwich, we also have a great emphasis on joy. In fact, she invented the word "enjoy" in English. She invented many words, but that was one of them, and I propose it's a pretty significant word.

She says, "God undergoes supreme delights and five supreme joys in particular that God wants us to rejoice in also."

So our joy and God's joy journey together.

And this parallels what Thomas Aquinas wrote when he said, "Sheer joy is God's. And this demands companionship."

And so for Aquinas, it is the divine joy that birthed the world, that birthed all this diversity and all this beauty, including, of course, our planet, Mother Earth with its amazing variety of beauty and joyous beings, including the human being.

And Julian goes on. "We are all born into a birthright of never-ending joy."

Have you tasted a birthright of never ending joy? Have we been told about this? Does our culture teach us about this --education? media? politics? economics? and religion? Is joy on the agenda? Is it on the menu for our various institutions? Says Julian:

"To behold God in all things, is to live in complete joy."

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So that is the test, if you will: can we find joy, no matter what is going on around us and even within us? Joy is bigger than all the suffering of the world.

And it's this joy that we bring to our action, according to Julian. And it is born of the "endless goodness and the unending goodness that God is."

So joy is intrinsic to the Godhead. And our existence is an invitation to join in this world of joy.

Yes, suffering too. But the joy trumps the suffering, the joy is bigger and it lasts longer.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.