

Daily Meditations 12/06/2022

Repose among all Creatures and Divinity Itself

Good morning.

We continue our meditations with Meister Eckhart on repose. Again, it seems like a very appropriate theme for Advent, for darkness, for winter.

I often observed when I was a child, when snow came, growing up in Wisconsin, how it was like a blanket. And people often use that verb, how snow blankets the city. And in that sense, it creates a sense of quiet, stillness, and lightness.

It's one thing that happens in the dark, is that the differences we see in the light are dispensed with; they're covered up, in a sweat lodge, for example. You do not see individuals; you hear their voices, when they speak and pray. But in the dark things are one, an experience of oneness is it.

And often that oneness can create repose, as when we sleep in the dark. But it's interesting that Eckhart makes such a big thing about repose. And that really, he compares it to what the Creator is about, the purpose of creation: what the Creator's aims were when he created all creatures: the aim was to repose.

And then the Holy Trinity, in seeking all its deeds, repose is the purpose; and the soul seeking all its movements, all its motions, all its deeds, is about repose. And all creatures finally, so he works through the Creator, the Trinity, the soul, the human soul, and all creatures: that we seek repose, we seek rest.

Now, compare this to Thomas Aquinas, because Aquinas says, "Sheer joy is God's and this demands companionship." So Aquinas, he says the purpose of the whole universe is joy.

But actually, there's a very close alignment between joy and repose. Because Aquinas defines joy as "repose in the Beloved," ...repose in the Beloved. So it also is wrapped into love; love is about repose and joy. Joy is the fruit of love, it's a result of love.

So really, they're talking something very parallel, when Eckhart is talking about repose and Aquinas is talking about joy.

And as we'll see, in the next meditation, Eckhart talks about love and repose. So all this goes together. But notice, too, in this passage, that Eckhart talks about meditation as repose, but he says something very strong:

God neither heeds nor needs vigils, fasting, prayer, and all forms of mortification in contrast to repose

...the one thing God needs is repose. He says that

God needs nothing more than for us to offer the Divine a quiet heart. Then He accomplishes in the soul such secrets and divine deeds that no creature can serve them, or even add to them.

And then he brings in the beautiful teaching from Hosea:

I shall lead My Bride out into the desert and shall speak there into her heart.

And this means he says, the wilderness from all creatures, distance from all creatures.

So there's much to ponder here, to be pondered in the heart, not just in the head. And I think it can be summarized in one word, and that is the word grace. He's warning us not to put too much emphasis on X tactical practices that humans develop. Simply learn to develop a quiet heart.

Now sometimes it takes a lot of practices to get to the quiet heart, but do not confuse the practices with the quiet heart.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow