

Daily Meditation 12/07/2022

The Panentheistic Pleasure of Repose

Good morning.

In today's meditation, we continue our reflections with Meister Eckhart on a theme very important to him, and I think to us at this critical time in history when there are so many crises and concerns and so much information pouring into us from the media, including social media, and the Internet, that we do seek places of repose. And we need them, we need them badly.

Now, the same theme of silence is brought up in other spiritual traditions besides Meister Eckhart's.

In the Buddhist tradition, for example, there is the following hymn that honors wisdom, wisdom as feminine in the tradition of Prajñā . Prajñā or wisdom lies at the core of all forms of Buddhism and the elimination of all dualities. She's frequently called the mother of the Buddhas. But here's a hymn to this mother:

Spotless, unobstructed, silent --

That's how the hymn begins. Silent -- there's that dimension of repose, again, that Eckhart is talking about,

...like the vast expanse of space --

...vast expanse of space, again, we're getting cosmic, but the vastness of space.

*...as the moonlight does not differ
from the moon, so also Thou
Who aboundst in holy virtues,
And the teacher of the world...
Thou a mother who does nourish
Who gives birth, and who gives love.*

We find that in God's teaching today: God is love. God loves God's self in all creatures, and is seeking also her own repose in them. Silence and love: they go together here, as they do in Eckhart.

*...Teachers of the world, the Buddhas
Are thine own compassionate sons.*

The sons of the Divine Feminine are compassionate sons. And, of course, this is what the Buddha taught. The Dalai Lama says we can do away with all religion, but we can't do away with compassion: "Compassion is my religion."

And so Jesus teaches in Luke 6: "Be you compassionate, as the Creator in heaven is compassionate." And of course, in Matthew 25, where he was talking about the hungry, and the prisoner, and so forth, that when we do it to the least, we do it to Him. This is the Christ at work, and this is compassionate work.

So wisdom in the Buddhist tradition, as in the Cosmic Christ tradition of Christianity, includes the universe, and it passes through the heart.

And just as we talked about when the heart breaks, the whole universe can pour through -- a teaching from Joanna Macy, the Buddhist activist and scholar -- so really, Christ is talking about that too, that the heart is filled with compassion, but it also needs to be broken open at times. Meister Eckhart says, "If you want the kernel, you must break the shell." So suffering often makes our hearts bigger.

So that the truths we're talking about with Eckhart here -- about the darkness, about repose, about night, about winter -- these are truths you find around the world in other traditions as well. These are archetypes that speak deeply to the human heart, wherever we are, in whatever time of history, or of the seasons of the year we find ourselves, especially in this month of the darkness for those of us who live in the northern hemisphere, the darkness we call winter.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.