

Daily Meditation 12/08/2022

Black Elk on Peace and Repose

Good morning.

Today we invoke the wisdom of Black Elk. And, of course, his indigenous tradition as we continue our meditation on Advent, peace and repose.

And I've always been struck by this teaching from Black Elk about how the first piece is the most important piece, and it comes within the souls of people when they realize their relationship, our relationship and our oneness with the universe and all its powers.

It's wonderfully un-anthropocentric, it does not put the human, and our agendas, and our technologies, and our gadgets, in first place. It puts the universe in first place, which is after all what birthed us, birthed our Earth, our sun, our moon, our tides, our very existence. And of course, it was a 13.8 billion year project.

So why wouldn't this be the source of peace, our making peace with, our making communion with our oneness with the universe, and all its powers.

And there, he says, you come to realize that at the center of the universe is Wakan Tanka, the Holy One. And that this center is really everywhere, it is within each of us.

Now, this is today's physics too, that there is no one center of the universe; the center is where the energy is. So the idea that divinity, the Holy One is within all of us, is a very ancient idea, and very powerful archetype. And it's certainly what Jesus was teaching when he said the kingdom and queendom of God is within you, and among you.

The word he uses in the Greek, he did not speak Greek, but the word in the gospel means both "within" and "among".

And as Black Elk says, it is within each of us. This is the real peace, and the others are broad reflections of this. So finding our connection to the universe, and in turn, finding the Holy One within our relationships to the universe, and its powers -- this constitutes home for us: this is where peace will be found, and this is where peace will flow from.

I'm also reminded when I listen to Black Elk, about Meister Eckhart's teaching, where he says, "The eye with which I see God is the same eye with which God sees me." And this to me very much echoed Black Elk's teaching that the heart is a sanctuary, at the center of which there's a little space where the Great Spirit dwells, and this is the eye. This is the eye of the Great Spirit, by which divinity sees all things and through which we see divinity.

It's interesting, too, that Hildegard of Bingen, who sits over my shoulder here, she also often paints pictures of the Divine Eye, of it being omnipresent and in all beings and so forth. So in her way too, she is speaking the language of Black Elk, that the eye with which the Holy Spirit sees us is the eye with which we encounter the Holy Spirit.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.