

Daily Meditation 12/25/2022

Christmas: 2022, Doxa and Moxa

Good morning. A blessed Christmas to everybody.

In today's Christmas meditation, I talk about Doxa and Moxa: "Moxa" being a derivative of the word "moxie." Now poets get to do this, to make up words, chop them up or reinvent them. Rappers do it all the time.

So I think Doxa and Moxa are wonderful words for naming the glory, the Doxa, of creation and of divinity in all of us. It names a mystical archetype, which is the Cosmic Christ in the Christian tradition. The Dabar, the word of God, and the light embedded in the universe, and in our own souls and consciousness, hearts and minds when we come alive. We see the world newly.

And "Moxa" represents to me, the chutzpah of Jesus the prophet, the historical Jesus who walked the earth and took on the Empire of his day and religious leaders who sold their souls to the Empire of his day. And the political leaders who did the same. It's an old familiar story; unfortunately, it's as near as our local news and Congressional investigations.

But I also just introduced the word "aspiration" from Nancy Abrams. She did a whole book on what is the name for God that works today, because Nancy Abrams is very immersed in the science of our time. Her husband, Joe Pernik, is a renowned astrophysicist. And they wrote the book together, *View From the Center of the Universe* and several other books, where they're trying to draw out the lessons of human behavior and morality and ethics from the new cosmology.

And Nancy is Jewish, and that's important, because aspiration and archetypes go beyond any particular denominational silo. And that's what's so wonderful about the stories about Jesus, that they are trans-religious, they appeal to the hearts and souls of all kinds of human beings, including atheists.

Many people could admire Jesus. Gandhi is one of them, who also did a great job of imitating Jesus, developing the philosophy and practice of nonviolence, got his countrypeople together to throw off an empire. And of course, got Martin Luther King and his followers together to throw off segregation, at least for a while, and get some voting rights laws passed.

So the application of the stories of Jesus is so important. That's where the prophetic comes in. That's where the Moxie comes in. That Moxie is about courage. And there is no prophet, there is no prophetic resistance, without courage.

So this is a day to celebrate, because it is about courage. It is about aspiration, about looking forward to bigger visions, visions where compassion really can happen, visions where justice really can happen, visions where joy

and celebration really can happen, and deep healing and forgiveness. And where the young are cared for and respected, recognized for the divine dimensions they carry, as babies, as children, as teenagers, not just as adults.

So adulthood is overcome. That's an aspiration.

And, in many ways, our prayers are aspirations, they are actions, hopefully not just words for hope for a better world. And that is all, I think, wrapped up in the great stories. And there are so many great archetypes and there are so many wrapped up in this Christmas story. We all live lives of Doxa, glory, emitting the Cosmic Christ from ourselves with all the light that is there. And if you prefer other words, bits of your nature, or shalem, the image of God, that's fine.

And also practicing the Moxa, the courage, moxie, that gets things done. That stands up and speaks out, even if one pays a price.

Thank you and blessed Doxa and Moxa on this Christmas Day for all of you.

See you tomorrow.