

Daily Meditation 01/23/2023

MLK, Chenu & Aquinas on Non-dualism & the Body Politic

Good morning.

In our meditations with Martin Luther King, Jr. and Pere Chenu and his mentor, Thomas Aquinas, on non-dualism and the body politic, that a consciousness of incorporating matter, spirit, and history is what results in an awakened social awareness and awakened society. Because when we're talking about matter, we're talking about economics, we're talking about farming. What do we eat, and how do we pay for the food that we eat, for the farmers who grow the food, so forth? And of course, we're talking about the Earth today, especially, because she is in so much peril.

So to bring spirit and history to the body politic, the issues of our time, all this is the work of healthy religion or spirituality. And in it all, Thomas Aquinas insists that the common good is the ultimate test. As he says in today's meditation, "It is more divine, *divinius est*, than personal liberties alone" -- the common good, that is.

This was so important to Dr. King that he cites Aquinas in his significant letter from Birmingham jail. And also because Aquinas draws practical conclusions from putting the common good forward. And that is that if laws do not support the common good, that we have the right, and even at times the responsibility, to disobey those laws, and of course, to create new laws.

And Chenu says that to construct a new world of justice and of peace takes body (he equates that with justice) and spirit. or love, working in mutual harmony, just as body and soul do.

In other words, he's applying the template, a pattern of consubstantiality of matter and spirit, body and soul. In other words. of equality to our work in politics, in the body politic.

He says a very interesting sentence: "To do this takes body, justice, spirit, love working in mutual harmony, as body and soul do."

So it's a beautiful way of summarizing the relationship between body and body politic, the attitudes we bring that matter, and specifically to our bodies as humans, and of course to the body of Mother Earth, to Gaia, and all the other bodies we share the Earth with.

Our attitude, there, is to match the love. It is to be on the same scale, even, as love is. That, together, body and soul, love and justice, work to procure the common good and, therefore, a society that can live

in peace with one another and can provide the healthy future for future generations, for the children to come. Because it cares, because it has embodied love into justice, and therefore, into the future.

The sustainability, as we would say today. The sustainability of the Earth, the sustainability of our species, the sustainability of our societies.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow,