

02/07/2023

Light, Matter, Spirit and Trees

Good morning.

This morning we are meditating on and celebrating the miracle of trees, and how filled they are with light.

Fred Hageneder has written this fine book called *The Spirit of Trees*. He tells us that trees were the most successful life forms on Earth, and the most dominant since they first appeared 300 million years ago.

And of course, the Green Man is this marvelous archetype which I celebrate in my book on the archetypes of the sacred masculine, titled *The Hidden Spirituality of Men: Ten Metaphors to Awaken the Sacred Masculine*. And of course, the Green Man is what we celebrate in those who are working hard to defend the forests and the trees and to plant trees today all around the world, because they play such an important role in the survival of our planet, in sequestering carbon dioxide, and therefore contributing to the saving of our planet.

Trees of course have comforted humans from the beginning. And they offered shelter and dwelling places in the woods of Africa, and when we left the woods, for the savannas and so forth, of course, we could build fire for cooking, for warming, and for campfires, rituals. Most of the stone tools in the Stone Age served to work wood. And the great medieval cities were built mostly in wood. Human writing first occurred on bark and wood tablets.

Sacred groves are a universal phenomenon. As the author says,

Almost everywhere in the world, the beginning of social and religious life took place under trees. Every Greek deity was linked to a particular tree: the laurel consecrated to Apollo; the myrtle tree to Aphrodite; the olive, to Athena; the pine tree, to Pan. What we today label as gods were originally the spirits of trees to whom goodwill and gratitude was bestowed.

Says one author, "Every leaf of a tree is a page in the holy book that contains divine revelations."

And of course, the Green Man emerges from the throat and the mouth, the fifth chakra therefore, honoring our throats as birth canals: what we give birth to.

And Hildegard of Bingen celebrates how Christ is a green man.

So, we all carry these profound memories, this archetype of the tree and of the Green Man within us. The Green Man is alive and well today, thankfully, in this time of ecological crisis and challenge.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.