

Daily Meditation 02/20/2023

Further Teachings on the Cosmic Christ from Pre-Modern Mystics

Good morning.

We are recalling the deep commitment in the Middle Ages to a good understanding of the Cosmic Christ, the Living Light that dwells in all beings.

Today I want to share with you some of the teachings of Mechtild of Magdeburg from the 13th century. She lived from 1210 to 1280. She was a Beguine, a member of the women's movement of the Middle Ages. Not a nun and not a married woman.

And I'm reading from page 117 in the *Cosmic Christ* book. Here's one of her teachings:

"You ask me where God dwells. I will tell you. There is no Lord in the whole world who lives in all his dwellings at once except God alone."

So she's saying that Divinity dwells in every creature in the universe.

Another teaching. "One day..." (This is a personal experience she had.)

"One day I saw with the eyes of my eternity, in bliss and without effort, a stone. This stone was like a great mountain. It was of assorted colors. It tasted sweet, like heavenly herbs. I asked the sweet stone, 'Who are you?' It replied, 'I am Jesus.'"

She reports this conversation between the soul and God. God is talking.

"You alone are like God. Come racing like a hunted deer. For you are the image of my divine Godhead. You are a foundation of my Divine being. This is why the pure lamb laid itself on his own image in the stall of your body."

So the message is that we are mangers for the Christ who is born anew in us.

Another experience she had. Remember the letter, the first letter to the Corinthians 15:28? It talks about "Christ being all in all."

Here's Mechtild:

"Woman, your soul has slept from childhood on. Now it is awakened by the light of true love."

Now she sees clearly. She recognizes for the first time how God is all in all. How God is all in all. That's very much panentheism. Cosmic Christ present in all beings.

She says, in fact, about panentheism: "The day of my spiritual awakening was the day I saw, and knew I saw, all things in God and God in things."

And here's another poem of hers:

"I who am divine am truly in you. I can never be sundered from you. However far we be parted, never can we be separated. I am in you, and you are in me."

I am in you, and you are in me. That's panentheism.

"We cannot be any closer. We two are fused into one, poured into a single mold. Thus, unwearied, we shall remain forever."

And finally, she brings this union -- Christ and the soul-- into the arena of behavior and of action. She writes:

"When are we like God? I will tell you. Insofar as we love compassion, practice it steadfastly. To that extent, we resemble the Heavenly Creator who practices these things ceaselessly in us."

So compassion and justice-making are born of us. But it's a co-creation that Divinity itself is ceaselessly practicing these actions--love and compassion-- in us and in all beings, and through us, through our work through other beings.

So Mechtild has a lot to say to us today.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.