

Daily Meditation 03/24/2023:

Actions of Love, Actions of Compassion—God in History

Good morning.

This morning we're doing our meditations on how being opens us up and energizes us to pass being on, if you will, to encourage others in our commitment to love, and to compassion, and to healing and justice-making, working out our interdependence together or sharing our joy and our suffering.

And I have some wonderful observations by Meister Eckhart and by Father Chenu, building on the teaching we find in the scriptures, that God is love, and that the primary commandments are to love God with one's whole heart and soul and body, and to love one's neighbor as oneself.

Now, Father Chenu, who was my mentor in Paris, and a wonderful human being, a French Dominican, he's been called the father of liberation theology, and he certainly is the father of creation spirituality because he named the tradition for me....he has a wonderful phrase that he uses a lot called continuous creation and continuous incarnation. And I think another translation could be ongoing creation, and ongoing incarnation.

And, of course, the ongoing creation theme is very common in the Jewish tradition; Rabbi Heschel says that creation is still going on. It's not something in the past. And of course, science is telling us that too; I mean, the past is past, we can look up at stars that we know are millions of light years away. And they may be dead now, but their light is still coming toward us, because light is on a journey and it takes a while to get here, if you're talking about huge distances.

So creation is still going on; the creation from the past that we've inherited, that's made us possible. But of course, what we're giving birth to is part of creation, and that I think is where incarnation comes in, that the earthiness of divinity, divinity joining history, joining human history in all our travails, all our ups and downs, especially the downs. This is ongoing incarnation, it's continuous incarnation, and is incarnating in us, it's not some kind of vague thing floating around in the vapor.

It either is or is not taking root, taking flesh, becoming incarnate, in our way of living in the world: the ways we choose to live with one another, to forgive one another and to celebrate with one another, and to heal one another and to get ourselves trained, to be capable of assisting one another in whatever good work we feel called to do, whether it's fixing car engines, or cleaning houses, or art, painting the stories of our ancestors, or photographing the beauties of nature, or being nurses or doctors to heal others, teachers to heal others, waken the wonder of one's mind, and of course, to be spiritually present and capable to assist others and guide others with concepts and practices, encouragement... so many ways that humanity can love, love one another.

And this is the playing out of what Eckhart says in today's meditation: "Love is nothing other than God. In the same love in which God knows the Godself, God loves all things." And as Rumi says, "Love causes the earth to tremble"... it causes the earth to tremble. It shakes things up, and it brought everything into existence.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.