

Daily Meditation 05-11-23

Joy and Work, Healing and Justice-Making

Good morning.

Today we continue to meditate on joy, joy being a sign of holiness, I think in our time especially. Because in the time of patriarchy, and we're at, I think, the culmination of patriarchy, hopefully the last stages of it.

But in the time of patriarchy joy is quite rare. Otto Rank, the great psychologist, says, "Pessimism comes with repression of creativity."

...Pessimism comes with the repression of creativity. And patriarchy represses creativity, to the extent that it represses the feminine, wants to control it. And creativity is not easily controlled, and it shouldn't be. It does need steering...need steering; that's why the four paths do not end with three paths, namely with creativity.

But there's the fourth path, putting creativity to good work, the work of healing and celebrating and laughing and letting go and healing, and passion, and of course, justice, and balance. Justice is about homeostasis, about balance.

And so in today's meditation we hear Eckhart talking about the relationship of joy and justice, and it's a topic that he often talks about. And he goes on to say that....well, let me share the beginning of this passage, because it is such a startling passage. He says,

The just person is one who is conformed and transformed into justice. The just person lives in God, and God in them.

That is panentheism, isn't it.

Thus, God will be born in this just person.

Now notice, God will be born, that we are mothers of divinity.

And the just person is born into God.

So the birthing goes both ways: again, panentheism.

And therefore, God will be born through every virtue from the just person, and will rejoice through every virtue of the just person.

So now we are getting into the rejoicing of divinity.

And not only at every virtue will God rejoice, but especially at every work of the just person, however small it is. When this work is done through justice, and results in justice, God will rejoice. Indeed, God will rejoice through and through, for nothing remains in the divine ground, which does not tickle God through and through out of joy.

This is on page 225 of my latest Meister Eckhart book, *Meister Eckhart: A Mystic Warrior for Our Times*.

Now, I don't know how often you've heard preachers say that it's your task to tickle God, to tickle God to joy. And that Justice-making is what really tickles God. So, we have to thank Meister Eckhart for moments like this and teachings like this.

And it is an invitation for us to reconnect joy and justice: justice does not have to be a lugubrious thing. It is something you can go in the streets to celebrate.

And as I allude to in today's reading, today's meditation, people are feeling that way about the court decision that became public last night. And that was one 79-year-old woman who had the courage, and the fortitude, which is a gift of the Spirit, to tell her story to a group of peers, and she was listened to and acknowledged.

So there are reasons for celebrating, on a day like this, justice, truth, joy. They go together nicely.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.