

Daily Meditation 05/13/2023
Mother's Day 2023

Good morning.

Happy Mother's Day to all mothers and all of us, because mothering is an archetype we all carry within us. We should be tapping into this, no matter what our gender or age.

I refer in the meditation today to the teaching of historian Pere Chenu about a renaissance, and how renaissance is a new view of the world based on a spiritual initiative. And his specialty was the 12th century.

So, I want to elaborate more on this teaching of his because it very much, I think, echoes the 21st century. He says:

Renaissance literally involves new birth, new existence, and other change conditions of time, places and persons. It represents an initiative all the more irreducible to the ancient materials it uses because it is a spiritual initiative. And inventiveness, or creativity, is key to the awakening. It's not just an individual awakening, it's an awakening traceable to geographic, economic, social, political, and religious contexts.

Now he's talking about the School of Chartres in the 12th century, how there are many commentaries being written on Plato as Timaeus, and being studied by the young people.

He says these were "the means of satisfying minds eager to know the origin of the universe."

Eager to know the origin of the universe. This was the foundation of this explosion of creativity that we call a renaissance.

"The study of Euclid came about because of a native interest in the scientific exploration of the universe, and not by the curiosity of some librarian lovesick for the past."

He was criticizing historians who talked about renaissance as returning to antiquity. It's not that. "Its minds were eager to know the origin of the universe."

"There is a hunger of spirit," he says. A groundswell of curiosity and eagerness to learn which produced an advance in culture.

And he says, and I quote, "It is within the spirit that the joyous rebirth takes place. Newly found sources have long been accessible, but had remained unproductive for want of some spirit to breathe upon the waters."

Again, it is the Via Creativa that is coming into its own.

Surely this applies to our time, too, when we have a new creation story, a new cosmology named cosmogenesis that can inspire and awaken us and bring this joyous rebirth.

And notice he's talking about spirituality as a communitarian of awakening, not an individualistic phenomenon and history. And he talks about how this very time when all this was happening, Chartres Cathedral was being constructed, as he says "in a burst of creative zeal."

A burst of creative zeal.

So, art carried the feelings and the message and the new views of the world that were awakening everybody.

Can this happen? Is this happening today?

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow. And Happy Mother's Day.