

Daily Meditation 06-06-23

Holiness and Generosity: The Wave of the Future

Good morning.

We're talking today about generosity as a third sign of holiness in our time.

And scientists tell us today, stories about how generous the universe is. For example, our sun, we are told, is giving out so much energy that the entire earth system runs at 1 billionth of that energy. One billionth of the sun's energy makes our Earth work.

So, one could ask, in what ways are we fitting in to the habits and patterns of the universe? And generosity is part of it. Of course, we're often generous.

Our parents are generous, when the kids get sick and all the rest, it's about struggling to survive. And all kinds of people in all kinds of work are also generous. I tell the story about the nurses and Sister Jose Hobday, the Seneca woman who addressed them and in doing so, turned off the lady who hired her.

But interestingly enough, long before today's science, the mystics were saying something similar about generosity. So this is Hafiz the great late 13th, early 14th century Sufi mystic, contemporary of Meister Eckhart. He's talking about the warrior. He says,

The warrior wisely sits in the circle with other men, gathering the strength to unmask himself, then sets, giving, giving like a great illumined planet on the earth.

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So wisdom, who's sitting in a circle gathering the strength, the ideas from others, and giving, giving generously, like a great illumined planet on the earth. And he shares this story about the sun. And this is seven centuries before science tells us how generous the sun is. Says Hafiz,

Even after all this time the sun never says to the earth, you owe me. Look what happens with a love like that. It lights up the whole sky.

So the sun gives without a return, "giving without a Why," as Meister Eckhart says.

So the Earth isn't being sent a bill, isn't being told "you owe me" -- there's no debt there. But look what happens, says Hafiz. A love like that lights up the whole sky.

So generosity and giving, are intrinsic to loving. That's the lesson from Hafiz, and a lesson we can pick up from the rest of nature.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.