

Daily Meditation 06-19-23

The Generosity of Nature and the Model it Sets for Humanity

Good morning.

We're discussing this morning, we're meditating on the role of the warrior inside all of us. We have to respond generously in challenging times. And we cite the Sufi mystic, Hafiz, as rendered by Daniel Ladinsky.

But there are many traditions that speak to the warrior. For example, Isaiah says,

I, for my part, issue orders to my sacred warriors. I summon my knights to serve my anger, my proud champions.

And the Zohar, the medieval mystical work from Judaism says,

Now since the person's real work in this world, is the work of the Blessed Holy One, one must be as strong as a lion on every side.

So that the other side would not overpower him or her, or be able to seduce him or her. So calling forth the strength of the lion, in all of us.

Rabbi Heschel says that "the prophet's mind is on injustice, the presence of oppression and corruption," he says. "The urgency of justice was an urgency of aiding and saving the victims of oppression."

And this is the work of a prophet, the prophet in all of us. Because Heschel also says there is a prophet, a warrior in all of us. And Heschel says,

To do justice is what God demands of every person. It is the supreme commandment, one that cannot be fulfilled vicariously.

So all this is an invitation to develop that inner strength, the lion in all of us.

Pema Chodron, writing from the Buddhist tradition says,

For practitioners or spiritual warriors, people have a certain hunger to know what is true. Feelings like disappointment, embarrassment, irritation, resentment, anger, jealousy and fear, instead of being bad feelings, are actually very clear moments that teach us what it is that we are holding back. They teach us to perk up and lean in, when you feel you would rather collapse and back away.

So all of this is included in today's meditation, and the Hafiz poems as rendered by Ladinsky today. But they are a part of this theme of generosity that we've been dealing with now for a number of daily meditations, that the warrior in all of us is generous, the prophet is generous and willing to give away.

Thank you. I'll see you tomorrow.