

Daily Meditation 06/10/2023

More Meanings and Understandings of Generosity

Good morning.

We continue our exploration into the very, very rich etymology behind the word "generous."

For me, it's one of the richest and most surprising words in our vocabulary. It draws on so many important roots.

For example, the word is related to genius, genuine, genesis, generate, generative. All those concepts, all those experiences and events are embedded in the word "generous."

But it doesn't stop there! It's also related to the terms "kin" and "kind" and "kindly."

So there's so much here that is cosmic, and therefore, so timely at this time in history where ecology is such a primary issue and cosmology is being born anew.

There are amazing discoveries of science today. And not just discoveries, but the feeding through the Webb telescope and the rest. Feeding to us of the images, of the wonders not just of the macrocosmic world, but of course the microcosmic world is also being explored more diligently and more effectively than ever before in history.

And of course, we humans are in the middle. We can relate to the macrocosmic--we create these instruments like Webb telescope to explore more--and we can relate to the microcosmic world. And we are fascinated and filled with wonder by it all.

So, this word "kin." In Webster's dictionary it means a group of persons of common ancestry, one's relatives. Well, "kin" is in turn related to kind, the kind of species for example, which is also the meaning of genus. Genus is a certain kind of collection of beings, certain way to demarcate different kinds of beings. And the idea that all being is kin; all flesh is kin, this is true because if we take the film of the universe backwards to its origins, it all began with the small dots, smaller than a zygote, that burst into a fireball.

So, our origins are the same, whether we be humans or whether we be planets or whether we be galaxies. We're all kin.

But that is exactly the insight that the Native Americans have had for forever. The idea of the sky as Father or Grandfather, the Earth as Mother or Grandmother. Or even to flip it: Mother Earth, Father sky; Father Earth, Mother sky, which 10% of human cultures think about and name it, such as Egyptians.

But either way, we talk about relationship, you see. Mother, father, grandfather, grandmother.

And the powerful prayer in the Lakota tradition, "All our relations." This important prayer is prayed anytime you enter a sweat lodge or leave one. And so many other ceremonial occasions, as well. All our relations.

Today's science is finally recognizing that thorough interdependence, that thorough relationship, that kinship that we share with all beings. This is the basis of a renewal of our civilization and awakening of our culture and our species to become true to the beauty and the power that we've been bequeathed.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.