

Daily Meditation 09-25-23

And Now, The Green Man

Good Morning.

We continue our meditations on the healthy and sacred masculine, as distinct from so many examples of masculinity in our times, that are anything but healthy and sacred.

The Green Man is one of these marvelous archetypes, and so appropriate for this time of climate change and recovering our sense of our integral relationship, interconnectivity, interbeing, with Nature, with plants.

The Green Man is an ancient pagan symbol of our relationship to the plant kingdom. And in the Green Man archetype, he really combines both Cosmos and Earth: Father sky, Mother Earth.

Because obviously plants and trees dig their roots, extend their roots deeply into Mother Earth, there would be no plants and no trees without Mother Earth. But they reached for Father Sky, especially the trees. So, plants are born from a relationship with both Earth and Sky. Of course Sky includes the sun and the clouds and the water, the rains.

In the Green Man archetype, we do not take plants for granted. They are praised, and acknowledged for our dependence on them for the gifts that they bring us.

This marvelous book called "The Spirit of Trees," written by a German, and it's been translated into English. The writer is Fred Hagenader, and he points out that trees are the most successful life forms on earth. And the most dominant, since they first appeared over 300 million years ago. Trees have been around for 300 million years. Homo sapiens have been around 200- to 300,000 years.

Outside of the oceans themselves, they mixed woodland of self-sown trees, untouched and uncultivated by humans. And tropical rainforests form the richest ecosystems in existence, providing habitat for the widest variety of species, on land. The only thing that rivals it is the ocean, with its variety of species.

What makes up a tree? The body of a tree is mostly filled with sunlight. Light courses through its structure, navigating vital processes and maintaining the balance and health of the whole organism. The tree produces a continuous light show, from its very cells.

Furthermore, trees are like cosmic antennae, and radiation from supernovas have been shown to influence tree growth. For example, scientists studying an 807-year-old juniper tree in Tajikistan, found that the tree's annual rings showed a definite slowing down of tree growth on each known date of three supernovas. So we can say, every star that dies in our galaxy is perceived by trees.

So trees connect us to Father Sky in a very real way, and to the stars, literally. When we examine them, we can actually read history, read the past from reading those tree rings.

And then of course, fire became possible for humans because of wood, because of trees. And trees of course, serve our housing needs, always have. And many of the stone tools from the Stone Age were used to work the wood.

And then sacred groves are a universal phenomenon around the world. He says, "almost everywhere in the world, the beginnings of social and religious activity took place under trees."

And of course, we can go on and talk about paper, and the many other gifts that Trees give us. So all this is being acknowledged in the archetype of the Green Man, that we humans are green, that we are so dependent and interdependent on the plant world, obviously to feed, to eat.

Think of fruit, oranges and apples, all of it -- peaches, cherries. Where would we be without fruit trees? Life would be a lot dour, a lot less delicious.

Thank you. We'll see you next week. You'll be green men and women in the next five days.