

Daily Meditation 5-11-26

Our Seventh Anniversary!

Good morning.

I am filming this on Mothers' Day, Sunday, and you will be receiving it on Monday. And again, I extend my wishes and gratitude to all who are mothers.

And in my daily meditation on Saturday, I addressed Mothers' Day, and the teachings from Julian Norwich that for her, the essence of motherhood is compassion: that a mother's service and love is surest and nearest to us all. And of course, it brought in Jesus, who invokes compassion as our divine nature in his admonition, his invitation, in Luke 6: "Be compassionate, as our Creator in Heaven is compassionate." And of course, the word compassion, as we know in both Hebrew and Arabic, comes a word for womb. So compassion and womb, mammals and women, all share that deep reality.

But also I emphasize how motherhood is an analogous term, that we're all capable of being mothers in many ways. And I invoked Meister Eckhart, who asks, "What does God do all day long? God lies in a maternity bed giving birth." So it's part of divinity to be giving birth continually. And like Jesus said, invoking the motherhood of God, our powers of compassion everywhere. And I invoked Carl Jung, that maternity and creativity go together. As he says, "Creativity comes from the realm of the mothers." So men as well as women, are called upon to be creative in this world of ours. And of course, today's latest cosmology is called Cosmogenesis: that the reality of the universe is, it is constantly birthing. It has been birthing from the get-go, 13.8 billion years ago. And so the new science is also embracing the archetype of motherhood. The universe itself is a Great Mother.

And of course, as I alluded to in my daily meditation on Saturday, Gaia herself, Mother, Earth Mother, Mother Earth, a concept of language invoked by so many peoples around the Earth, so many indigenous traditions that honor Mother Earth and Father Sky. Now about 10% talk about Father Earth and Mother Sky, which is a lesson in itself, not to be literal. But in all this, we're honoring our capacity to give birth.

Now also in today's daily meditation, this Monday, we're talking about the history of the daily meditations: how consciously and deliberately I launched them seven years ago, well, eight years ago, on Mothers' Day. And for a reason, for all these reasons I've just spoken of, and especially that of Mother Earth, who is in so much peril today, because humans are busy being narcissistic. As Pope Francis put it, our "species narcissism,"

thinking only of our agendas and not of the rest of Creation; not of how other beings are here with us, who have a right to be and to flourish, and that our greed and our narcissism has to be checked, in order that Earth itself survive.

So in reflecting upon today's video, I find myself going back to my book that I wrote 36 years ago, 38 years ago, *The Coming of the Cosmic Christ*, because it begins with a very powerful dream that I had back then, and it said to me: "Your Mother is dying, Your Mother is dying."

And so I begin the book by exegeting that dream, because my mother was not dying. My literal mother was not dying at that time; she was her usual, very strong and assertive and creative self. So the dream demanded a deeper look. So I came up with nine examples of how Our Mother is dying. And I think they've woven their way into these daily meditations, and they will in the future. At the same time, it was 38 years ago, really 39, that I had the dream. And it is significant, I think, that dreams are often so ahead of our time. Artists are often ahead of our time.

The first section on "your mother is dying," which I also call "a crucifixion story for our times," is that Mother Earth is dying. And that has not lessened, unfortunately, in the last 38 years. It's gotten more dire and more real and more present.

The second interpretation of the dream that I offer, is that "the mystical brain is dying." And I'll be frank: I think it's one reason why so many seminaries are closing, and that religion has to reinvent itself, by bringing the mystical tradition. In the scriptures, that's the wisdom tradition more central to the person, message, and understanding of Jesus, but also of the Jewish mystics and prophets, ancestors and those living today. How do we bring the mystical brain back? Well, Art As Meditation is one very important way that I've adapted to our philosophies of education, and with tremendous results, both with adults and with inner city teenagers.

Number three, "creativity is dying." And I've already alluded to Jung's connecting creativity and motherhood. So is that the case?

Number four, "wisdom is dying." Wisdom is feminine: Mother Wisdom, Lady Wisdom in the Bible, Sophia in Greek, Chokmah in Hebrew, and Sapientia in Latin, for that matter. But she's wisdom. Wisdom is feminine around the world. In academia, so much of education is patriarchal: It's about the pursuit of knowledge, which is important, but not the pursuit of wisdom anymore. When the universities were invented in the late 12th century, wisdom oversaw both the liberal arts and the sciences.

Number five, “the youth are dying.” Obviously, there's relationship between children and motherhood. And of course, the youth are being very badly served today in many respects. For one thing, obviously, inheriting a dying Earth, but also inheriting educational systems that are not bringing forth the depth of their own wisdom. And so many other ways, adultism reigns.

The native people, their religions and cultures are dying. That has become more clear in the last 38 years, but also the wisdom that they have to give us, in this time of Earth peril, of what I call matricide, the killing of the mother.

Number seven, “Mother Church is dying.” Well, I don’t think that's improved any, in the last 39 years. I think it’s become more obvious. In my city of Oakland, where I’ve lived for 34 years, and I made note of this last week, the Catholic Church is shutting down 13 churches in the Diocese of Oakland. And that’s happening among evangelical churches and other churches, all over.

Mother Love, “Compassion is dying.” Compassion is dying. It’s far too rare. And that’s not just about a feeling. It is about Justice. Meister Eckhart makes that explicit in his commentary on Luke 6:36. “Compassion means justice,” he says. And that is the Jewish and Biblical teaching.

But the last section of that, in analyzing that dream, says “Our mother is dying, but not dead.” The dream did not say that any of these, the Earth, the mystical brain, creativity, wisdom, the youth, Native people, Mother Church or Mother Love is dead. It said it is dying. So it was an awakening, a ringing of a bell. And I think that’s what we've been trying to do in our daily meditations these seven years, now going into our eighth, is to ring the bell, and bring back a balance of the masculine, the feminine, the sacred masculine and the divine feminine, so that we can live our fullness as human beings. Our full capacity for generosity, for joy, for celebration, for forgiveness, for letting go, and for taming our reptilian brains, our greedy brains, our narcissistic brains. All this is what Creation Spirituality is all about.

Thank you. We’ll see you next week.