

## Daily Meditation 5-25-26

### The Latest News from the Exciting Spiritual Journey of Andrew Harvey

Good morning.

In today's meditation, I share with you some thoughts and information about Andrew Harvey's important work in spirituality today. And I allude to his books, so I'm going to share with you a few books from my library here at home.

I alluded to this one, a very important one, *The Return of the Mother*. It's really basic and substantive for those who want to learn more about the Divine Feminine. Just one area I highly recommend, is his treatment of the Black Madonna, for example. Just last night I was with a couple, and one of them was an African American woman, and she asked about the Black Madonna. Andrew Harvey has treated that wonderfully in here, along with many, many other treatments of the Divine Feminine from around the world, and certainly within Christianity.

This fine book on *The Teachings of Rumi*. Andrew Harvey's very much a deep ecumenist, and his love of Rumi is very powerful, sort of reproduces many of his wonderful poems here. And of course, he also has a very important book on Kabir, the wonderful 15th century Indian mystic, was like most deep mystics himself, deeply ecumenical.

This book by Andrew Harvey, *The Hope, A Guide to Sacred Activism*, is a very substantive, to the point, and practical book. Obviously, we can all use action that leads to hope today, and hope that leads to action. I love very much David Orr's eco-philosopher, David Orr's definition of hope as deep action, that hope is your capacity to act deeply. Andrew's vision is very strong here. This really lays down the guidelines to sacred activism, his term for the Via Transformativa, for prophetic work we're all called to, the work of justice and compassion.

This is a very fine book by Andrew, called *Son of Man: The Mystical Path to Christ*. And here he talks about the Cosmic Christ, and many other dimensions to the Christ story and the relationship of Jesus to women, and so many other dimensions of his ministry and his healing. So the first part is on the historical Christ, Jesus and the Family, Jesus and the Women, Jesus and the Rich, Jesus and Power, Jesus and Religion, Jesus and his

Disciples, Jesus as Political Revolutionary. And then part two is the Mystical Christ: the Thresholds and Mysteries. And part three is Christ and the Sacred Feminine. Part four, the Direct Path to Christ, Practices and Meditations, including saying mantras, the Jesus prayer, the centering prayer, saying the Our Father, practices of the Sacred Heart, birthing divine child and the mother, and meditations on the mystical Christ. So, a marvelous book that brings together the historical Jesus and the mystical Christ, including many practices.

His latest book is on *Mary Magdalene and Jesus*, and it's very powerful. They call it a breakthrough book in terms of his candid exploration of their relationship, and how it's a precursor to all of us more fully entering into the meaning of human love, including the sexual dimensions to love, and the tantric dimensions to love. And in that way he brings forward, I think, a new interpretation, not only of Mary and Jesus, but of the Song of Songs. And he's moving us beyond, I think, the dualisms that we inherited from Neoplatonism and other traditions. So I think it's a very audacious book, very daring and courageous book, but important for the new millennium of the 21st century.

And this book, *The Sun at Midnight*, is part of his autobiography, *A Memoir of a Dark Night*. And he's been through a number of his own dark nights. I alluded in the essay to his apartment burning down, and so forth. But he was attacked quite viciously when he belonged to a Hindu ashram, and he came out as gay. And he was very deliberately treated badly. And he goes into some depth about his experience of letting go in the darkness and the dark night, which is not an abstraction at all for him, or for any of us, really, especially at this time.

He endorsed very enthusiastically, my new book, which comes out this fall, on John of the Cross, and what I call the "triple dark night of our time:" the dark night of soul, the dark night of democracy, and the dark night of Mother Earth. And Harvey interprets John of the Cross using the Four Paths of Creation Spirituality, and I think we get a much more fulsome picture of his poetry, which is really where his soul resides, and of his theology, by contextualizing it in the creation-centered tradition, which he is very, very much a part of.

Now this book. I had an advance copy, so this is not the cover. It's called *The Direct Path: Creating a Journey to the Divine through the World's Mystical Traditions*. So this is a very practical book about practices from many traditions that can assist us in our mystical journey. So Andrew is truly one of the pioneers, or second generation, if you will, of the interfaith or ecumenical movement, which makes a lot of sense, since, as I point out, he was born in India, and India is the mother of so many religions.

This is a very fine book, his book on *The Essential Mystics: A Soul's Journey into Truth*. So he shares here many mystics through the ages from many traditions. So a chapter on Taoism, “The Way of the Tao;” a chapter on Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, ancient Greece, Islam, and Christianity. The last chapter, “Christianity, The Way of Love in Action.” So, again, it's a fine example of deep ecumenism, and how the mystics bring us together.

And this is a book called *The Essential Gay Mystics*. And here he speaks to the tradition of gay love in Greece, and in the Far East, and in Persian Sufi tradition, in what he calls “Fiery Love: the Renaissance,” and Michelangelo, Shakespeare, Sister Juan of Vera Cruz. And the 19th century has Thoreau, Melville, Dickinson, Whitman, George Manley Hopkins, Arthur Rumble, Oscar Wilde and others. And another chapter on the 20th century. So a very fine collection again of mysticism in the gay world.

So these are just some of his books. All of them are tremendous compilations to deepening our spirituality today, and are moving broadly into a 21st century understanding of our religious traditions, which need to bring their collective wisdom at this time of crisis in humanity's world, the world we're living in, and in our religions that need shaking up and getting to their core, which is their mystical dimension and their prophetic or sacred activist dimension, compassion and healing.

Thank you. We'll see you next week. And thank you to Andrew Harvey.