

Daily Meditation Transcript 08/18/2021
Jennifer Hereth, Eldership and Artists at Work

Good morning.

We're continuing our meditations with Jennifer Hereth and her important book, *An Artist Responds to Political Injustice*.

Jennifer is acting like an elder, I think, in looking back on her life, which she was encouraged to do during that pandemic lock up in isolation, and kind of asking the question, you know, how has she been giving back?

And this is what comes through in her book: how wonderfully she's been awakening souls to the issues of our time, the issues of injustice. It's really very prophetic work that she's doing, but I think it's a reminder -- and this is why I invoke the term "Eldership" in the title -- it's a reminder of what elders need to do.

We elders have to look back to all the influences that have been positive in our life and to tell the stories, the important stories, that the younger generation need to learn.

John Lewis referred to this in the final letter that he wrote before he died: he alerted young people to look for wisdom from the ancestors.

And it's not just young people who have to do this; it's elders too! We need to count where our positive influences have influenced us, and who they are, and what their messages are, at the same time that we try to speak our truth and to share that with the younger generation as well.

And I think Jennifer Hereth has done such a fine job of that in this book, and indeed in her entire life, and in her vocation as an artist, and as a prophet. She's taken her gifts as an artist, and her training as an artist, and she's laying it out there for all of us to see.

Because as I point out in my meditation questions, we all at some level are called to interfere with injustice and to invoke our creativity to do it.

So I ask: are you one of these artists responding to political injustice?

But I also point out to think broadly! There are so many ways of being an artist: painting and creating performance art is one way, but the truth is, as I say, parenting itself is an art form. So we bring to parenting our vocations, our values, pass them on to the young.

And this truth is true of grandparenting as well, especially without when one is an elder. We're bringing our values alive for the younger generation, and we tell the stories of the obstacles that people are sure to face, and of how we got by them, and our failures and our successes, so that some lessons are learned.

And also, you know, where we have dug deep for our courage and where the courage comes from. Because courage is an integral part of responding to the injustices of one state, but so too are imagination and creativity.

And this is why imagination cuts through all walks of life and that's why "art" is a much broader term than our culture has made it. Our culture has narrowed it down to professional artists or something, but NO - whenever we're being creative, whenever we're making choices, that is a work of art: that is a creative decision, a decision from our creativity.

And from that deep place that Meister Eckhart talks about, the nobility of the soul, the spark of God, the image of God that we all are in our depths.

Thank you, we'll see you tomorrow.