

Daily Meditation 09/17/2021

Julian: Divine Wisdom, Christ and Divine Motherhood at Work

Good morning.

Today we continue our meditations on divine wisdom with Julian of Norwich and divine motherhood at work. She talks about God as mother: she says God is delighted to be our father and God is delighted to be our mother.

And she also talks about Christ as mother, and she spells out what she means by mother and motherhood. Some of this we treat in the essay today, but she also says "a mother's service is nearest, readiest, and surest"... nearest, readiest, and surest.

And a deep part of calling God Mother for Julian is her emphasis on compassion: she says, "Compassion is a kind and gentle property that belongs to the motherhood and tender grace. Compassion protects, increases our sensitivity, gives life, and heals."

This is one more reason why she can talk about Christ as mother, because Christ taught compassion. As he said in Luke's gospel, "Be you compassionate, as your creator in heaven is compassionate."

...Which also is another way of talking about God as womanly, the divine feminine in God, because "compassion" in Hebrew and in Arabic comes for the word for "womb." So in the womb everything is interdependent, and that's the essence of compassion: mother and fetus are interdependent, and interdependence is the foundation of what compassion means.

One thing that's exciting today from science is the rediscovery -- because spiritual traditions have been teaching this forever -- of the importance of interdependence. We're no longer living in a ruggedly individual universe. That was the modern version of science, that atoms are like billiard balls that don't interconnect, bounce off each other.

That's not today's understanding of the universe at all: our universe is so interdependent in every way. And that's one of the big shifts we have to make as a civilization today. But it has everything to do with moving away from patriarchy and away from the reptilian brain to honor the mammal brain, which is the brain of mothers, mammals and mothers. And it is the way of interdependence.

And Jesus is calling for all of us, men and women, mothers, fathers, and people who aren't literally parents at all, to get on board with interdependence, to get on board with compassion.

Compassion is a working out of our interdependence. As Meister Eckhart said, "What happens to another, whether it be a joy or a sorrow, happens to me." That's motherhood, that's compassion, that's the divine feminine at work.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.