

Daily Meditation 09/18/2021

Atoning for Patriarchy assisted by Julian of Norwich and Nicholas of Cusa

Good morning.

In today's essay, I talk about moving beyond patriarchy, with the help of Julian of Norwich and the wonderful mystic scientist of the late 15th century, Nicholas of Cusa.

David Bohm, a physicist of our time, now deceased, said that he owes more to Nicholas of Cusa than he does to Albert Einstein. This is a shocking statement, but it underscores the brilliance of Nicholas of Cusa and the brilliance of David Bohm, too, that he discovered Nicholas of Cusa.

Here are some more teachings from Cusa. He says:

"Wisdom is shouting in the streets. It is simply not enough for those seeking wisdom merely to read about it. Wisdom must be discovered. Once discovered, it must be learned by heart. You will not find wisdom in your books, for it is not of your books but of the books of our God."

He says, "Divinity shines forth in creatures as a truth of a reflected image. There is only one mirror without flaw--the divine, in whom what is revealed is received as it is. This mirror is not essentially different from any existing thing. Rather, in every existing thing it is that which is; it is a universal form of being."

The universal form of being, the idea that all creatures are a mirror of divinity, is an ancient idea, and Nicholas brought it into the 15th century. Meister Eckhart had talked about it and Hildegard of Bingen talked about it, a century and two centuries previously.

But again, it's a way of seeing the world, isn't it, to see it as a mirror? Everything's not just a thing in itself, but a mirror of something greater and more brilliant, the divine light.

Nicholas talks about how every face, with a small "f," is a mirror of one Face, with a big "F," that is a divine Face. In that way, too, every creature is a mirror of divinity. So these are some ways in which Nicholas of Cusa puts the idea of wisdom to work...and invites us to do the same.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.