

Daily Meditations 01/05/22

Men Holding Spirituality in Secret

Good morning.

We're continuing our meditations on the quest for the sacred masculine, the healthy masculine, as distinct from the unholy masculine, that reigns so frequently in our headlines and the patriarchal culture that we live in.

We discussed in today's meditation how there's a secrecy involved, it seems to me, with men and spirituality. That's the title of my book, *The Hidden Spirituality of Men*.

Many men hide their spirituality from themselves. And some men are confused about religion versus spirituality. And because they're not so heavy into religion, they think there's nothing spiritual going on, but as I point out, in fact, those who are committed to serving others, doing their jobs well, that serve others, that is also spirituality. That's the via transformativa, that's the gifts we give to others in our culture that is very deep spirituality, really assisting others.

I know a renowned scientist at a renowned university, a biologist, who with this belief actually has a Lakota sweat lodge in their backyard. And they periodically pray in that sweat lodge, and they know the songs, the Lakota songs and so forth, and the Lakota leaders come in and meet them regularly. But no one at the university knows he has a sweatlodge in his backyard. Because as a scientist, well, he has to keep it hidden.

That's the kind of world we live in. That's the kind of world academia is: not only is there very little education about spirituality, or the right brain, intuition, mysticism, in our professional training, but you can't even mention it, apparently, off campus either. I laugh at it, but in fact, it's a very serious matter.

This is why Einstein said, "I abhor American education." Because you can't talk values, values are not being taught in education. Let me say that again, values are not being taught in education.

Einstein says values are of the intuitive brain. But education, especially upper education, is not about intuition. It is about facts and information. And as Einstein says, the rational does not give us our values, you get values from, he says, intuition, and deep feeling, which are the same thing. Those are his words.

So we have a whole educational system that excludes the spiritual. And that's one reason that we have so many lawyers who are lost, and so many scientists, not all, but plenty more than we should have, who sell their souls to corporations and others, that are destroying the earth. And so many politicians who have sold their soul for the sake of money, instead of doing their work for the sake of people and the earth and the future. So education is a big accomplice in this repression of spirituality in our midst.

Now, some other reasons why we hide spirituality from men is that Robert Bly says men learn only through ritual, and how alive are our rituals today, how attractive are our rituals? and of course during COVID, ritual has almost

had to shut down, insofar as we can't gather in groups anymore. But before COVID I don't think it was that inviting in the first place. Maybe when we pull out of COVID, we can commit ourselves again to deeper rituals.

It's been a big part of my work and this last chapter of my book on the Reinvention of Work that we have to reinvent rituals today, bringing in the new cosmology and putting it into our bodies, and our body politics: a circle of people gathering to make it come alive, and truly influence our imaginations.

And another concern is that it is from fundamentalist religion that we get the notion of God as a punitive father. And this notion that God is a punitive father turns men and women off to the notion of a loving and compassionate Creator God.

So all these things add up to understanding where we want to probe more deeply into connection between the masculine archetype and the sacred. And this we will be doing in subsequent daily meditations.

Good news for women and men alike.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.