

Daily Meditation 01/15/22

Our Post-Modern Sky

Good morning.

We're continuing to meditate on the latest findings in science, about this home of ours, the universe, that has birthed our planet, unique that it is, our solar system and our Sun, and everything that makes life possible for us.

And of course, this has been a journey of 13.8 billion years, as we're especially calling on the work of Joel Primack and Nancy Abrams, in their important book, *The View From the Center of the Universe*.

And in today's meditation, it ends quoting them, saying that

a special window of time, that can only happen during a relatively brief epoch in the entire history of the universe, is the time that we're living in. It's late enough that intelligent beings have evolved, who can create instruments to observe distant galaxies, and therefore the time of the past--

And of course, the Webb telescope is an example of that.

And that, as they say,

without this period of overlap, it might have been impossible for intelligent beings ever to get the chance to figure out the nature of the universe.

So this really puts our time in history, the history of the universe, and of our species, in a very special place: to be responsible for this opportunity, not only to know where the universe comes from, but also to celebrate it, to praise.

And that's what real religion is. As Thomas Aquinas says, real religion is "Thank you." "Supreme gratitude," he says, "a supreme gratitude for existence."

So that's the real purpose of our species, to give thanks, not to make war, but to give thanks with all the creativity that we're capable of.

And here are some more observations by Primack and Abrams.

They say that our universe is astoundingly creative. Here are their words: "There was, and almost everywhere else there still is--" speaking about the beginning of the universe –

...nothing but creativity, infinite potential, dense and hot at the beginning. Creativity was wildly experimenting with every possibility that quantum uncertainty permits. There were billions of events per second, expanding from

every spark point for all eternity, unlimited by the speed of light, or lack of space. It made its paces as it unfolded, as it created itself.

And they point out, "equally marvelous is the fact that our universe is very imperfect. Spacetime in our universe is full of wrinkles--"

...full of wrinkles. And how wonderful is that? Here's what they say.

If spacetime had been perfectly smooth, there would be no galaxies, no stars, no planets, no life, just a thick soup of particles. Life could only have evolved in an imperfect universe.

And isn't that special? An affirmation of imperfection, the universe itself is imperfect. Well, we are too -- have you noticed? And of course, they celebrate the fact that there is darkness everywhere: what we call dark matter is not really dark--it's invisible, totally transparent. A vast cloud of invisible matter fills and surrounds each galaxy and each cluster of galaxies, like huge halos, they propose.

And they concluded that we are no longer lost as a species. We are discovered and placed in the new order of the universe.

And I would propose that we also invoke all these stories from the past, these indigenous stories, the biblical stories, every tribe that has stories of creation. We should include them within the scientific story as well, because the scientific story is giving us a lot of facts that are very amazing. But it is the spiritual traditions that invite us to do something with facts, such as to praise, and to give thanks, to be grateful.

And to convert these facts into practice, the practice of celebrating life instead of ending it, and of bringing compassion alive as an integral part of celebration, because celebration is about the gathering of the joy... the gathering of the joy...of all the peoples. And with the new cosmology, running through our consciousness today, and then bringing in the older cosmologies, we could be doing a lot more celebrating and a lot less killing.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.