

Daily Meditation 02-10-2022

Why the Black Madonna Today?

Good morning.

We continue to meditate on the return of the Black Madonna in our time, remembering what Carl Jung says, that archetypes return when we need them.

And I begin with a story from psychologist Marion Woodman, about how many people are having dreams today of the Black Madonna. And that is very much my experience too. I've met many people around the world who have had encounters with a Black Madonna, either asleep or awake.

And so she's very busy at this time in history for good reason. And one of those reasons, as I meditate on with you in today's essay, is that she calls us to the darkness and to depth, because depth has to do with darkness. The Enlightenment may have brought sort of a light to us, in many respects. The science that brought alive electricity, which has capacity to exclude the dark, and so forth, or thinks it does.

But in fact, as Andrew Harvey points out in today's meditation, the blackness contains a lot of mystery, and is a very important place to dwell, and in fact, so important that the light dazzles us even in the darkness, and I quote Meister Eckhart that "God is superessential darkness, a mystery behind mystery, a mystery within mystery, that no light has penetrated." All this is an honoring of the darkness.

And it also is an honoring of people of color. It is, as I say, the opposite of racism. This recent book that came out from Dr. Barbara Holmes, *Crisis Contemplation: Healing the Wounded Village*, is a brilliant reflection on the via negativa, on the encounter of divinity in the dark.

And that darkness in a white supremacist consciousness is something negative. But in fact, it has plenty to offer that is very positive. She likes to cite the Psalm 139: "Surely the darkness will cover me and the light around me become night. The darkness and light are both alike to you," meaning to God.

It's interesting because Howard Thurman, the great African American mystic and spiritual director, really, to the civil rights movement -- that was his favorite psalm, the entire Psalm 139. But I think these lines that Dr. Holmes quotes were very precious to him too. Growing up black, in a segregated town in Florida, Howard Thurman was by no means oblivious of his treatment by the white establishment. So to find in this psalm, and in the scriptures, an affirmation of darkness was a brilliant thing for him, that God dwells in deep darkness.

So, in this time of Black History Month, it's an especially rich meditation, to meditate on what all these people are saying, are applied to the Black Madonna.

When the Black Madonna returns, there is and will be a affirmation of the darkness and as I point out, therefore of depth. Because if you go into the sky like astronauts and cosmonauts do, or you go into the depths of the ocean, or

you go into the depths of the earth, or the depths of our psyches, you will find darkness and a lot of mystery and a lot of truth and a lot of affirmation. All that is applied in bringing back the Black Madonna in our time.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.