

Daily Meditation 02/26/22

Humanity's Masculinity Problem

Good Morning.

In today's meditation we are reflecting on the sadness of the current war in Ukraine: a war that to all appearances was totally avoidable. But it's a familiar story, all too familiar, of a powerful country moving to take over a smaller country. Jesus was living this kind of reality when the Roman Empire overtook his Jewish tribe.

As I point out, war brings out the worst and the best in humankind...war brings out the worst and the best in humankind. And we do acknowledge those people of courage that we speak of in today's essay, who in their own way are standing up to the imperial ambitions of the President of the Russian Confederation.

We're dealing here with all kinds of archetypes, and one of them is that of human creativity: that war demands a lot of creativity. And it represents, obviously, the shadow side of creativity when it is foisted on another person, or peoples.

So it shows the shadow side of creativity, and the old stories, such as that of Prometheus, tell us that human creativity can be a dangerous thing. So remember, Prometheus stole fire from the gods, and was chained to a rock, and condemned, and birds would come every day and eat his liver out. But there was a promise made too, that if a person could sacrifice to liberate Prometheus, and Hercules is said to have made such a sacrifice.

Now, a parallel story to Prometheus I think, is the Garden of Eden story in the Bible, that Adam and Eve in this story, sought to eat from the tree of good and evil and were warned not to eat from that particular tree, but went ahead anyway.

That's the thing with creativity, that it's always a choice: to do or not to do.

But there too, Paul in speaking about Jesus, really, in a subtle way is comparing him to Hercules. Because in his letter to the Philippians, Paul says that Christ became empty of God to join the human race, and to rescue us from our troubles, among them being the misuse of our creativity. So the stories, both the Prometheus story and the Christ story, really do share a lot in common.

Now psychologists talk about the Prometheus complex, that "wants to dominate creation by means of projection." So that means a projection. I think there's a lot of projection behind today's war in the Ukraine: that Putin has made very clear that he wants a return to the time of the Tsars, I guess, when Russia had certain boundaries, and that's what he wants to see happen again, even though an awful lot of history has passed since then, including the history that Ukraine is a sovereign state.

So, in what ways are we involved in this Promethean projection to dominate creation? Obviously, the eco crisis is part of that. And one of the great problems with this war today is that it's taking our mind off what we also be

putting our energies toward, creativity toward, which is of course, relieving the travails of matricide, the killing of Mother Earth. So there's so much that's hurting in our species today.

But religious traditions talk about salvation, universal redemption. The Buddhists talk about returning to our original nature, the Universal Mind, the Buddha mind. And the Christian tradition talks about bearing good fruit, fruit that will remain. And so there's this invitation to go another path with our creativity, and to go deep in that regard, to go through the emptying that suffering brings with it.

And out of that suffering, in the Christian tradition, comes the Easter resurrection. And in the Buddhist tradition comes the return to the original mind. And in the Jewish tradition comes the Exodus, the time of liberation. We all hope and pray that may be hastened, that time of liberation.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.