

Daily Meditation 02/06/2022

Rich on the Gifts of Feminism to a Patriarchal World

Good morning.

We continue our meditations with Adrienne Rich on the gifts in this particular essay that she sees the feminine giving the culture--both men and women in the culture. She says she's curious and expectant about the future of masculine consciousness.

So I think she's inviting us all to participate in a renewal of the healthy masculine--something we've been talking about now for some time in our daily meditations.

And she develops this further on pages 74 and 75 of my Meister Eckhart book. She talks about the world that is "savagely fathered and unmothered."

So, we see this phrase of the "unmothered world" in yesterday's meditation. But she introduces and talks of a "savagely fathered and unmothered world." So that is strong language. "Savagely fathered" is obviously the negative masculine, toxic masculine.

She says, "As long as women, and women only, are the nurturers of children, our sons will grow up looking only to women for compassion, resenting strength in women as control, clinging to women when we try to move into a new mode of relationship. As long as society itself is patriarchal, which means anti-maternal," anti-maternal, "there can never be enough mothering for sons who have to grow up under the rule of fathers in a public male world separate from the private female world of their affections."

There's great wisdom in this. Great wisdom in this.

I think, in many ways, we're living through this savagely fathered and unmothered world that is giving rise to so much authoritarianism and fascism, which is an appeal to a dangerous and savage patriarchal consciousness and practice.

Then she asks the question: "What do we want for our sons?" What do we want for our sons?

And she answers it this way: "To discover new ways of being men, even as we women are discovering new ways of being women."

So, she's inviting men to start reinventing themselves, to be asking these deeper questions that we've been trying to ask now about the healthy masculine.

And this is why I call on wonderful men, like Thich Nhat Hanh, like Meister Eckhart, like Thomas Aquinas, who incorporated a much bigger version of masculinity than we're receiving in our patriarchal educational systems, and patriarchal media, and economics.

She says, "In this kind of manhood, they would not perceive women as a sole source of nourishment and solace. These fathers barely exist as yet."

Now, of course, she wrote these words in the 1970s, I think. So I think there has been some advancement in the direction that she's calling for.

She also calls for courage in men. She says, "If I could have one wish for my own sons," (and she had two sons), "it is that they should have the courage of women. I mean by this something very concrete and precise. The courage I've seen in women, who in their private and public lives--both in the interior world of their dreaming, thinking and caring, and the outer world of patriarchy--these women are taking greater and greater risks, both psychic and physical, in the evolution of a new vision."

So this is courage she's talking about--courage for a new vision of what it means to be male and masculine, and part of a culture that is bigger than the patriarchal agenda.

I praise her for this. I think she's right; that courage is one of the first signs of Spirit. And we all need it at this time of peril to Mother Earth. Mother Earth. Remember, Mother Earth, Gaia, the feminine. The patriarchy banishes the motherly, continues to. Our time on this earth is very limited as a species.

But I think what Adrienne Rich is calling for is the courage to reinvent what it means to be masculine. And to me that includes, of course, getting along with the Divine Feminine and incorporating many of those important qualities.

This is our future.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.