

## Daily Meditation 03/11/22

### The Via Positiva Amidst the Chaos & Evil of War

Good morning.

This morning we're meditating on the via positiva and how it needs to be found in the midst of chaos and war and evil. And I quote from the artist Robert Henri, and this is in my Original Blessing book, pages 79 and 80. I quoted from him in the essay, but I want to elaborate on that reflection of his. He says,

*Art is a noting of the existence of order throughout the world, and so, order stirs imagination --*

--it stirs imagination --

*...and inspires one to reproduce this beautiful relationship existing in the universe, as best one can. Everywhere I find that the moment order in nature is understood, and freely shown --*

-- understood and freely shown --

*...the result is nobility.*

Nobility.

*The Irish peasant has nobility of language and facial expression; the North American Indian has nobility of poise, of gesture; nearly all children have nobility of impulse. This orderliness must exist, or the world cannot hold together.*

And of course, so many other beings have nobility: the trees have nobility; rocks have nobility; horses have nobility; and dogs and cats have nobility. But he goes on and he says -- he warns us:

*It is disorder in the mind of man that produces chaos, of the kind that brings about war --*

...it is disorder in the mind of man that produces chaos of the kind that brings about war.

*...Any right understanding of the proper relation of man to man and man to the universe--*

Of course, he means human to human and human to universe --

*...would make war impossible.*

What will make war impossible? Any right understanding of the proper relation of human to human and human to the universe, would make war impossible.

This very much echoes the brilliant observation of Otto Rank, that when religion lost the cosmos in the West, society became neurotic. And we had to invent psychology to deal with the neurosis. And religion so, wrongly, became an instrument of imperial aspirations. And it did not point to the cosmos; it pointed to nationalism, and, unfortunately, the wars that are necessary to keep empires going.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.