

Daily Meditation 04/10/2022

Psyche, Cosmos, and the Return of the Sacred

Good morning.

So we're talking today, again, about the importance of the marriage of the human psyche and the cosmos.

If we don't take in the "awesome" of the universe, to which we are intimately related, we often create the "awful," because evil is something very great also. So we have to choose the awesome versus the awful.

Over my left shoulder, here, is Hildegard of Bingen's wonderful vision and mandala painting. It's actually nine mandalas. It's the painting of hers of the nine choirs of angels.

We talk about the cosmos; we talk about the spirits beyond the earth that often visit the Earth, that we call the angels. And there's a quote--probably can't see because it's in silver--from Hildegard underneath her painting. Her quote is: "All of creation is a symphony of joy and jubilation."

Often humans, and what we're doing on Earth, is not so full of joy and jubilation. Witness the Ukraine today. But it's good to know that other spirits, other beings, are committed to joy and jubilation.

In today's meditation, there's a special emphasis on the teaching of Thomas Berry, about how would we recover the sacred when it is lost. And it has everything to do with reconnecting to the universe. As he says, "The universe is a primary sacred reality."

So I'm following that up with another quote from Thomas Berry. It's on page 364 of my Christian Mystic book. Previous quote was a few pages before that.

This is what he says. It builds on what he says in today's meditation.

"If St. John and St. Paul could think of the Christ form of the universe," (In other words, the Cosmic Christ. Remember that Paul is the first writer in the Christian Bible. That's how far back the Cosmic Christ awareness dwells in the Christian experience.) "if Aquinas could say that the whole universe together participates in the divine goodness more perfectly, and represents it better than any single creature whatever," (including the human, let me say) "and if Teilhard de Chardin could insist that the human gives to the entire cosmos its most sublime mode of being, then it should not be difficult to accept the universe itself as a primordial sacred community, the macro phase mode of every religious

tradition, the context in which the divine reality is revealed to itself, and that diversity which, in a special manner, is 'the perfection of the universe.'"

There's a lot to unpack in that very rich phrase and this very rich passage. It's a long sentence, all one paragraph. But he's getting carried away by the point he's making, which is a marvelous point and a wonderful one to get carried away on!

That "the universe itself is a primordial sacred community and the macro phase of every religious tradition."

So, it is the big picture behind every singular picture of religion: the universe itself. And tuning into this reality will, in fact, refresh and reinvent and reground all our efforts at religion and spirituality, and at holding the dignity of humanity, especially in times as trying as ours.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.