

Daily Meditation 05-27-22

Envy as a Companion to Hatred

Good morning.

Today we're talking about the role of envy in hatred. I think it's significant that the Bible says that the first murder by humans, Cain murdering Abel, was due to envy. and also that Satan's primary malice was that of envy.

And in my structure of the seven chakras, I speak about envy being the culminating misdirected chakra, that our Kundalini energy goes all up our spine and so forth, gets into the energy of all the other six chakras, but that envy is the off-center chakra, for the profound capital sin of the seventh chakra, the crown, where, when we're healthy, it sends out light to other light beings, ancestors, angels and other humans, building up cooperation and community.

But when it's unhealthy, it wants to shoot down other light beings. And from that, we get war, and lots of lies, lots of lies, and much more.

The writer Angus Wilson says that "envy wears an uglier face than lust's bloodshot eyes or gluttony's paunch or pride's camel nose or avarice's thin lips."

So there's a certain statement there about the triumph of envy, being that it just ruins everything. And it is related to competition. It's a damaged relationship, recognizing others as a problem and obstacle, a source of competition; rivalry, strife, hatred, result.

And envy is a refusal to praise. The poet Rilke says, "praising is what matters"...praising is what matters.

And he also says, "We do justice only where we praise"... we do justice only when you praise.

And that so confirms Meister Eckhart's profound and practical teaching when he asked, "Who is a good person? A good person is one who praises good people."

Envious people do not praise others; they do not praise good people. Praise is a kind of opposite of envy. And, as we point out in the opening of our meditation today, envy is sorrow over another's good, insofar as it impedes one's own excellence.

Aquinas says, "Envy is felt when someone is sorry that his neighbor possesses good things, which he does not have."

Certainly envy is strongly up front and center with Putin's relationship with Ukraine: just meditate on all that destruction and all that death, all that starvation of millions...and it's going to happen, because the wheat fields of Ukraine are now war fields. So do not underestimate the power of envy.

And I think that patriarchy especially feeds envy: where there are patriarchal institutions, envy, reigns. Because, again, competition displaces caring, cooperation, community building. And of course, envy feeds resentment and increases resentment.

So, we do want to guide not just our personal souls about envy, but the structures of a culture that failed to take envy into account, but that actually feeds envy. And of course that includes the onslaught, the broader fall of consumerism and 24/7 advertising and commercializing of our existence; that too feeds envy.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.