

## Daily Meditation 06-14-22

### Merton & Eckhart: The Spark amidst Suffering & Nothingness

Good morning.

Today we are meditating on the spark that Meister Eckhart and Thomas Merton talk about: the spark that is present even with suffering and nothingness. And Thomas Merton delivers a powerful poem he wrote from his sick bed in a hospital.

And a good friend, Sister Lentfoehr, says this was Merton's "most poignant and anguished poem" -- he is returned to nothingness where there's nothing left but that spark.

Now, Merton also writes about how the spark, which is the Cosmic Christ, is ever present. He says,

*We are other Christs... we ourselves are 'the second Adam,' because we ourselves are Christ. In us, the image of God, which is complete and entire in each individual soul, is also, in all of us 'the image of God.'... We ourselves are Christ, and we are all dwelling in one another, by virtue of the unity the divine image, reformed by grace.*

And in his journal, he wrote,

*Who am I? A son of God.... My true self is the self that is spoken by God.*

...a son of God, my true self, spoken by God...

*... 'Thou art my Son!' Our responsibility (ability and obligation to respond). Tremendous happiness and clarity (in darkness) is my response: 'Abba, Father!'*

So here too, Merton is weaving together nothingness and the spark, that is the Christ, that is the image of God in all of us. And he elaborates on this topic when he writes that

*At the center of our being is a point of nothingness which is untouched by sin and by illusion, a point of pure truth, or point or spark which belongs entirely to God, which is never at our disposal, from which God disposes of our lives, which is inaccessible to fantasies of our own mind or the brutalities of our own will. This little point of nothingness and of absolute poverty is the pure glory of God in us--*

...the pure glory of God in us...

*...It is so to speak his name written in us, as our poverty, as our indigence, as our dependence, as our sonship. It is like a pure diamond, blazing with the invisible light of heaven. It is in everybody, and if we could see it, we would see these billions of points of light coming together in the face and blaze of a sun that would make all the darkness and cruelty of life vanish completely....I have no program for this seeing. It is only given. But the gate of heaven is everywhere.*

Very affirming, and hopeful development of the understanding of that spark, that spark of the divine, that is in all of us.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.