

Daily Meditations 06-20-22

Folly and Horror vs the 7th Chakra and Angels

Good morning.

In today's meditation, we're dealing with the subject of angels. Because in dealing with the seventh chakra, I've talked about the triple A's, allies and ancestors. And we've been considering those, of course: our ancestors include our great mystics who have passed.

But the third, angels, are spirits. And I'm sharing with you some thoughts from *The Physics of Angels*, the book that I wrote with British biologist Rupert Sheldrake, and he has some amazing things to say about Thomas Aquinas and his teaching on angels, because in this book, we discuss three people who had substantive teachings about angels in the West: Dionysius the Areopagite, a 6th-century Syrian monk; Hildegard of Bingen, a 12th-century Benedictine abbess; and Thomas Aquinas, a 13th-century Dominican theologian.

And Rupert was really struck that Thomas Aquinas' questions about angels, in his opinion, parallel, Einstein's thinking about light. And after all, of course, angels are light bearers, aren't they?

Here's what Rupert says:

When Aquinas discusses how angels move from place to place, his reasoning has extraordinary parallels to both quantum and relativity theories. Angels are quantized: you get a whole angel or none at all. They move as units of action. The only way you can detect their presence is through action. They are quanta of action. And although when they act in one place, and then in another, from our point of view time elapses while they are moving, from the point of view of the angel this moment is instantaneous, and no time elapses.

Now, here's the humdinger.

This is just like Einstein's description of the movement of a photon of light.

Originally, we were going to call this book Angels and Photons. But the marketing people at Harper, who first published book, the marketing people said "People don't know what photons are, you can't call it Angels and Photons."

Rupert goes on:

Although we as external observers can measure the speed of light, from the point of view of the light itself, no time elapses as it is traveling. It doesn't get older. We still have light around from 14 billion years ago--

...it doesn't get older.

We still have light around from 14 billion years ago, from soon after the Big Bang in the form of the cosmic microwave background radiation. After all that time, it's still around, and still going strong.

And isn't this the light that the Webb telescope is going to be beaming back any day now into our living rooms, this original light in the universe? Rupert goes on:

So in modern physics, there are remarkable parallels to the traditional doctrine about angels. And I think the parallels arise because the same problems are being considered: how does something without mass, without body, but capable of action, move? Angels, according to Aquinas, have no mass; they have no body. And the same goes for photons. They are massless and you can detect them only by their action.

Does that mean that photons are immortal? Yes, says Rupert:

As long as they are moving at the speed of light from place to place. But when they act, they're extinguished through their action. So in that sense, they come to an end: they pass on their energy as they act. This, I presume, makes them different from angels.

And he goes on:

Although there are parallels between modern physics and medieval ideas about angels, the aspect of modern science that raised the most interesting questions is the theory of evolution.

And there he brings up the relationship between Alfred Russel Wallace and Darwin, because together they developed the theory of evolution, and together they presented for the very first time at the scientific conference in London. Back to back they presented their findings. And there they were very close, but they split after many years over one question. And that question was, well, as Rupert puts it, "Darwin went on to develop a gloomy materialism" based on blind chance. And he saw this as the way that evolution worked.

But Wallace felt that there was intelligence in our evolution, behind evolution. And his conclusion was that natural selection was guided by creative intelligences. And the traditional word for those are angels: creative intelligences guiding evolution."

And he wrote a book, his last book, *The World of Life: A Manifestation of Creative Power, Directive Mind, and Ultimate Purpose*. We all have heard of Darwin, and I think we've inherited his rather gloomy picture of evolution. But Wallace has another view on all of this, and it brings in the angels.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.