

Daily Meditation07/05/2022

“Spark of the Soul” in Jewish Mystical Teachings, continued

Good morning.

We are continuing our visit to the watering hole to meditate on the theme of the spark of the soul, which we introduced a couple of weeks ago, around the teachings of Meister Eckhart. But today we're dealing with the teachings from the medieval Jewish mystical tradition.

The Zohar teaches this:

God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light. This is the light that the blessed Holy One created at first. It is the light of the eye.

It is the light that the Blessed Holy One showed the first Adam. With it he saw from one end of the world to the other.

It is a light that the Blessed Holy One showed David. He sang its praise: 'How great is your good that you have concealed for those who fear you.'

It is the light that the Blessed Holy One showed Moses. After all, the angel of Yahweh appeared to him in a flame of fire --

...appeared to Moses in the flame of fire... to Moses in a flame of fire -

...unlike other prophets, which is why Rabbi Judah said, 'Moses was not like other prophets.' We have learned, one who comes close to fire is burned, but Moses came close to fire and was not burned, as it is written. And there is this teaching from Rabbi Isaac: 'the light created by the Blessed Holy One in the act of creation, flared from one end of the world to the other, and was hidden away. Why was it hidden away? So the wicked of the world would not enjoy it.

Rabbi Judah said, 'If it were completely hidden, the world would not exist for even a moment. Rather, it is hidden and sown like a seed that gives birth to seeds and fruit. Thereby the world is sustained. Every single day, a ray of that light shines into the world and keeps everything alive. And with that ray the Blessed Holy One feeds the world. Since the first day, it has never been fully revealed, but it plays a vital role in the world, renewing every day, the act of creation.

...Renewing every day, the act of creation. What a beautiful teaching...series of teachings...this is. And it reminds me of how, today, we are reaching out to the original light of the universe through the Webb telescope, which is soon to beam back to us in our living rooms that very original light. It is not the light of the sun, which is only five and a half billion years old; it is a light at the beginning of the universe.

So maybe these texts from the Jewish mystical tradition are very appropriate for today, as we try to awaken the sparks in all being and the light that's been here from the beginning of the world.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.