

Daily Meditation 07-22-22

How Webb Can Light the Spark of Our Souls, continued

Good morning.

We continue our meditations on the spiritual lessons to be learned from the Webb telescope. It's a marvelous creation of humanity, how scientists from 29 different countries, tens of thousands of scientists, over several decades, dreamed this and put it together and launched it, put it out there.

Why? So that it can feed us and nurture us about our beginnings, about our beginnings, which are so important for knowing where we're going. And for building community among us, we all come from the same beginnings, 13.8 billion years ago, and we are now receiving things from the Webb telescope, light from 13 billion years ago, 13 billion years to today, all that light, all that information about what's going on in the big world, the world that births the earth, and the solar system, and the sun and the moon, and therefore, makes our lives not only possible, but beautiful.

And what I try to do in today's meditation is I heed, per Rumi's teaching, that the spark of our souls is hard to light. It's hard to get the sparks going in the human soul. And I'm proposing that maybe the new science and the new creation story from science and new cosmology (after all, Genesis 1 is a cosmology, telling us about the history of the universe as it was understood 6000 years ago).

But this new cosmology can light a fire in us, because our species does have to move, we have to evolve rapidly. Today, as I record this, England has experienced 104 degrees Fahrenheit, the hottest, ever recorded in history. And they're not ready for it. They don't even have much air conditioning because it's always been a pretty moderate island.

And that's just one of the examples of how climate change is resounding around the world. We cannot fiddle like Nero fiddled when Rome burned. We cannot fiddle while our Earth burns, no matter what some politicians who have their heads in the sand, and have sold their souls to fossil fuel companies want to tell us.

So what I've done in this essay is I've taken the four paths of creation spirituality, and asked the question, "Does Webb assist our inner work of the via positiva, which begins with the lighting of that fire?" And once the fire is lit in the human, then the other three paths organically unfold with excitement, and with sparks.

And so I propose some experiences of the via positiva vis-à-vis the Webb telescope, and experiences of the via negativa as well. And then the outer work kicks in, we bring our inner work, the via positiva and negativa, into our outer work. And our creativity is that bridge to the outer work, it is both inner and outer.

As Meister Eckhart says, "the truth does not come from outside in, but from inside out and passes through an inner form."

That's the via creativa. And then, of course, the outer work of the via transformativa, which of course comes from a deep place within.

Compassion, justice, truth telling -- all that requires discipline. It requires commitment, requires courage and strength. Therefore, it is about sparks isn't it? It is about the light we bring into the world as a act of thanks or thanksgiving, for the beauty that we share as beings in this amazing and expanding universe.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.