

**Daily Meditation 07/24/22**

## **The New Creation Story, continued**

Good morning.

In today's meditation I continue with my poem, a modest effort to tell the new creation story from science. And in my book, *Creation Spirituality: Liberating Gifts for the Peoples of the Earth*, it begins with this poem.

In chapter three, I talked about "Gifts of Wisdom: Rules for Living in the Universe." And I begin that chapter with a wonderful quote from the aboriginals of Australia, who may be the oldest tribe on the planet. They say, "Our Dreamtime teaches us the rules for living in the environment."

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And their Dreamtime is their creation story. It is how all of creation was dreamed into existence. And that is our task--to recover that dream, recover the sound of music that brought each being into existence.

So that way of understanding morality and ethics, what keeps a community together, mainly, it is Dreamtime. It is our creation stories. This paves the way, I think, to understand the importance of why arriving at a common creation story for all of humanity at this critical time in planetary and human history has tremendous potential.

What are some of the teachings that flow from our understanding of the universe in today's world? Well, one of the lessons that I touch on is that of extravagance.

Annie Dillard writes that "If the landscape reveals one certainty, it is that the extravagant gesture is the very stuff of creation."

She writes, "Nature is, above all, profit. Don't believe them when they tell you how economical and thrifty nature is as leaves return to the soil. Wouldn't it be cheaper to leave them on the tree in the first place? This deciduous business alone is a radical scheme, the brainchild of a deranged manic depressive and limitless capital. Extravagance! Nature will try anything once. This is a spendthrift economy, though nothing is lost, all is spent."

This reminds me of the Native American practice of the giveaway. Nature and humans are here to give away.

Interconnectivity is now a basic law of the universe, as science sees it. But the mystics of old have talked about it also, all the time. It's new to science, but it's not new to the mystical traditions.

Furthermore, as Thomas Merton points out, he says the whole idea of interconnectivity is the basis of compassion, which is a keen awareness or the interdependence of all living things that are all part of one another, and all involved with one another.

So, if science comes on with interconnectivity, it's coming on with the idea of compassion, which is at the center, it seems, of all the spiritual traditions of the world. So this could be a tremendous gift from the new cosmology.

Of course, variety and creativity is everywhere to be seen in the universe. And of course, beauty.

Ernesto Cardinal, a poet from Nicaragua, says that "We can argue about the reason for the universe, and we can argue about the meaning of the universe, but we cannot argue about the beauty of the universe."

Annie Dillard proposes that "Unless all ages and races have been deluded by the same mass hypnotist..." (And who would that be?) "...there seems to be such a thing as beauty, a grace wholly gratuitous."

The Navajo people pray this way:

"I walk with beauty before me.  
I walk with beauty behind me.  
I walk with beauty above me.  
I walk with beauty below me.  
I walk with beauty all around me.  
Your world is so beautiful, oh God."

These are a few of the gifts of wisdom that derive from our new creation story.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.