

Daily Meditation 07/30/2022

Nothingness, continued

Good morning.

We continue our meditation on nothingness today.

And I kind of want to walk you through some of the examples of nothingness that I'm sharing with you. Again, I think meditating on nothingness is very valuable. It's part of everything, this "isness" and nothing are a dance and a dialectic, or being and nothingness.

And I point out that this wonderful NOVA program I saw the other day--about the universe and especially our home, if you will, the Milky Way--was very, very rich, and the images were amazing as well. And as I point out, I think it's really significant that at least one species in the universe has been able to go back to the origins of the universe--our first stars and our first galaxies, which is what Webb telescope is doing--which assists us in getting to know creation's story.

As Thomas Aquinas says, "A mistake about creation is also a mistake about God." And if you turn that around, that would mean an insight about creation reveals something to us of the Divine.

So it is a very exciting time to be alive. As well as a very dangerous and precarious time to be alive. So we have to be tuned into both that which is bringing the *doxa*, the glory of "isness" and creation alive to us. (And certainly, scientists are contributing to that today, as do artists, and many, many others in their own ways.) But also to be aware of this primal experience of emptiness.

So the black holes that I allude to, they play a major role in the making of galaxies. Therefore, we owe them something. And although they seem to be nothing, places of nothing, great things happen from them.

And we're also taught that gravity plays a very, very big role in black holes and in all of creativity. Gravity is invisible to the eye, but its results are very visible. And of course, there's measurements that we can do. But that's another lesson that what looks like nothing may be something extremely important. Like gravity doesn't look to be around, but of course you go up in an astronaut's spaceship and you're literally floating around. It's a different way of living up there. So we don't see gravity, we see its results.

And Spirit is like that, too. The wind is like that. You don't see the wind, but you can feel it. And you can feel its results, its impact, its effect. The Spirit is that way, too. Spirit can be very invisible, and yet very present, and very powerful, and very important in the way we live or do not live our lives.

And Eckhart brings up the story of Paul, when Paul was struck blind and fell off his horse. As he says he saw nothing, because he was blind. Everything was changing. And "this nothingness was God. Indeed, he saw God and that is what he calls a nothingness. I cannot see what is One. He saw nothing, that is to say, God. God is nothingness and yet God is something."

Again, the paradoxical language of mysticism you find everywhere in Eckhart.

And never forget his ever-important teaching when he said, "I had a dream. Even though a man, I dreamt I was pregnant, pregnant with nothingness. And out of this nothingness, God was born."

So, great things come from our nothingness. And of course, the womb is empty. And then when sperm comes along, something amazing happens. And *being* begins to happen.

So there are many mysteries associated with nothingness. And we want to stretch our minds to touch the All--the All the mystic Paul calls "the all inside the All"--on the one hand, but also to touch and name that nothingness experience and see how they dance together. The all and nothing inside our own beings and inside the unfolding of this great universe.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.