

Daily Meditations 08/19/2022

Cosmos & Psyche a la Meister Eckhart

Good morning.

In today's meditation, we are sharing company again with Meister Eckhart. But in the context of cosmology, in the context of the Webb telescope, that is a gift to us all, as it brings forward into the intimacy of our computers and the Internet, and our living rooms the amazing happenings of the origin of the universe 13.8 billion years ago; the birth of the first galaxy, the birth of the first stars, from which, obviously, we all derive.

So this is our creation story together, today. Thomas Berry calls it "the new sacred story of creation." It's not about throwing out all the other stories from cultures and religions around the world; it's about supplementing them with a common story, which is taught by scientists in North America, Brazil, Australia, China, India, Europe...wherever scientists gather.

And that is of course itself a great gift, because sharing a common creation story is what has kept tribes together, human tribes together, for 200,000 years of our existence. The fact that we have a single story now that can be understood and ingested, all around the world, is a tremendous sign of hope that humans might get smarter and wiser.

So much of our wisdom comes, you see, from our creation stories: our morality, our behavior, our ethics, our value systems, derive from creation stories everywhere. The fact that we have a single one, a universal one, if you will, in the world today is of extreme importance.

And the fact that the mystics of old shared their own insight about our human existence, that in many ways we find it echoed in today's creation story from science, is extremely important.

So it's important not just to listen to today's science, but to the mystics too, because they bring in the issues of meaning, and the issues of behavior and morality that can get lost when we consider a creation story only from the point of view of the facts.

And so the issues that Meister Eckhart raises today, and doing so in a poetical way:

The spirit storms the firmament, scales the heavens until it reaches the spirit that drives the heavens --

Just that one sentence is enough to shake us up and strengthen us: that hundreds and hundreds of years ago, humans were being empowered -- "...the firmament," "scales the heavens," "reaches a spirit that drives the heavens" -- empowered by our quest for cosmology, for a story of how we got here.

And he goes on, about how the same Spirit brings about the world flourishing and bursting into life.

But the spirit is never satisfied, it presses on ever further into the vortex, into the whirlpool, into the primary source in which the spirit has its origins.

So all of this poetic language of naming Spirit at work in the history of the universe, in the unfolding of the relationship between us and Mother Earth, and Mother Earth and the greater universe -- these themes, these rhythms are still happening today.

And we just have more information about them, if you will, about the dimensions of space, 2 trillion galaxies, each with hundreds of billions of stars, and the time, 13.8 billion years.

So the story just gets more and more exciting.

And here we are in the center of it, insofar as we can understand it, and celebrate it, praise and give thanks for being here.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.