

Daily Meditation 08/15/2022

Silence as a Practice of Nothingness

Good morning.

We are meditating today on the role of silence in dealing with the ineffability of Divinity. Silence as a practice of nothingness.

So, nothingness can be practiced. And in many ways, the primary way to practice that is through silence.

Eckhart says, "The Prophet said, 'You are truly a hidden god,' (as Isaiah 45:15) "who dwells in the ground of soul where the ground of God and the ground of the soul are one ground."

Eckhart says elsewhere that the ground of the soul is dark. And here he says, "The final goal of being is darkness, the unknowability of the hidden divinity, which is that light that shines, but the darkness cannot comprehend it." John 1:5.

So what is the final end of this mystery?

"It is a mystery of the darkness of the eternal Godhead, and it is unknown, and was never known. It never will be known. God dwells therein unknown to the godself. And the light of the Eternal Father has forever shown in there, and the darkness does not comprehend the light."

So these are profound and beautiful attempts to name the mystery of the Godhead and our relationship to it.

Says, "The Ineffable One has no name. No one can really say what God is," he says. And there, he's building on the teachings of Aquinas.

In another place he says, "A master of the First Cause that it is beyond words."

"Master says of the First Cause that it is beyond words. The deficiency lies in language. And the soul pronounces God. This utterance occupies the real truth about the divine essence. No one can truly say what God is.

“Some guys will say one thing is like another. Now since all creatures contain next to nothing of God, they cannot say much about it. We can recognize a skill of a painter who has made a perfect picture. And yet we cannot fully know it from that. All creatures cannot fully express God, for they are not receptive to what God really is.”

"God dwells in a light which is inaccessible," as Paul says. "And when we speak of God, we have to stammer. We have to stammer and stutter."

So all this, I think, is a caution, is a teaching of humility. And it warns us that going around stamping "In God We Trust" on every coin and every dollar bill and every MX missile and many presidential speeches.... This is dangerous business, because whatever Divinity is, it is much bigger than jingoism and nationalism and the tribes that humans love to promote. Our own, of course, as distinct from others.

Thank you, we'll see you tomorrow.