

Daily Meditation 0821/2022

Julian of Norwich and the Universe in the Palm of Her Hand

Good morning.

We are privileged to be meditating this morning with Julian of Norwich and her powerful vision, repeated here and on the cover of my book on Julian, where she sees this small ball in her hand and comes to realize that it is a symbol of the universe itself.

And ultimately, she asks, "Well, what's holding it together? It seems so fragile." And the answer is, "It endures, and ever will endure, because God loves it." And she responds, "And so everything has being because of God's love."

Now, this is a cosmic vision. It's seeing the universe as a crystal of divine love. It is shining, it is radiant. It is, in other words, a Cosmic Christ. And everything is kept together by this common love.

Now, that is a powerful, powerful experience that she had and that she's sharing with us--especially at this time when we are desperate to recover a new cosmology, a new awareness of the wonder and awe of the universe.

And it is happening, and the Webb telescope is part of that happening. It could start a conversation, a buzz about our being here, as does the entire new creation story from science.

- 13.8 billion years it took for us to arrive.
- Four and a half billion years for the Earth to arrive.
- 9 billion years for our solar system to arrive, and so forth.

So what do we do with this information? The facts are not enough. Awe is never satisfied by the rational mind alone. Awe rips us away from the rational mind alone. And it speaks to our hearts and our deepest yearnings and passions. "It endures and ever will endure because God loves it. And so, everything has being because of God's love."

Now was Julian of Norwich out on the limb with this statement seven centuries ago? No! Teilhard de Chardin, in our time--a 20th century scientist, mystic, poet, Jesuit--puts it this way:

"Let us advance one step further. What names should we give to this physio-moral energy of personalism in which all activities displayed by the stuff of the universe are finally reduced? Only one name is possible if we are to credit it with the generality and power that it should assume in rising to the cosmic order. That name is love. The conclusion is always the same: Love is the most powerful and still the most unknown energy of the world."

That funny 20th century scientist, very committed to the development of our understanding of evolution. Of course, Thomas Aquinas in the 13th century, said that "joy is God's and this demands companionship"

So, the purpose of the universe is joy. But of course, joy and love go together. Joy is the fruit of love. Joy results from love. So to talk about love is to talk about joy. And to talk about joy is to talk about love.

So, all of this naming emerges from the mystical tradition. And it's very significant and important that it emerged from our hearts today, from all humans facing as we are this new version of the universe coming to us from the Webb telescope, and all the science and all the understanding that has brought that technology forward.

This is an invitation to swim again in the ocean of love and of joy that is ours, that brought us here; that brought all of us here, all the beings on this planet and all the beings in the universe, all the other planets.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.