

Daily Meditation 09/12/2022

E.F. Schumacher on Work and Spirituality

Good morning.

Today we continue our meditations on Work and Spirituality. And I call again on the brilliant teachings of E.F. Schumacher, British economist and author of the book, *Small Is Beautiful*, and the book, *Good Work*.

And he's not afraid to talk about wisdom and the need for wisdom when he says:

"Yes, humans are clever. But what do we use our cleverness for? We are now far too clever to survive without wisdom."

We are far too clever.

What are our goals? What are our values? Are we just clever to make more money on money and make the rich richer, poor poorer? What kind of cleverness is involved in the politics of our time?

Cleverness, Schumacher is saying, will not save us. Quite the opposite. Being clever is not being fully human, but being wise is.

So the need for wisdom has never been greater as we face our extinction as a species; and as we bring about, through our neglect and not caring, the extinction of so many other species.

Now we're all feeling global warming all over the world. Floods in some places, and with drought in other places, things are not going to get better. They are going to get worse. So where do we turn to wisdom?

Well, Schumacher says, and this is so interesting, because it comes from an economist: "Each of us needs to work to put our own inner house in order."

Our own inner house.

And the guidance for this work couldn't be found in science or technology, the value of which utterly depends on the ends that they serve. The ends that they serve. If the end is just to make money for shareholders, that's a certain value, but it's not a wise value.

He says it can still be found. "This wisdom can still be found in the traditional wisdom of humankind."

That is why studying the mystics at this time is so important. Because the mystics carry the traditional wisdom of humankind, East and West, and North and South. Indigenous peoples, too, carry it for thousands of years longer than the Bible is old, or even than Buddhism or Hinduism.

So this is a time for all humanity to bring our wisdom to the table. And hopefully we're all doing this. Hopefully, we're all paying attention to our inner work, which in turn, gives birth to our outer work. And by paying attention to it, that we, as part of our values, put wisdom ahead of power, wisdom ahead of pure knowledge, which is raw power, and wisdom ahead of whatever gods of the marketplace we choose to serve.

Thank you, E.F. Schumacher, for reminding us of what really matters.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.