

Daily Meditation 09/23/2022

From Empire Consciousness to Earth Consciousness

Good morning.

Today we have the privilege of meditating on the work of David Korten -- moving from Empire to Earth community. And I think this is a wonderful summary, a real contextual image of what's going on in the world today.

So much of the suffering, the climate change with the rising of the seas, the ever more ferocious hurricanes, and the droughts and the floods. So much of it is a reminder that human relationship to the Earth is so mutual, so interdependent. And to the extent that we humans ignore the rest of creation, we get ourselves in very deep trouble.

Which is why the movement in a tradition called Creation, Spirituality, that puts the sacredness of creation first--first, before the human--the way the universe has put it. Because we humans, only at the end of a 13.8-billion-year process that brought us here, and all the wonders that have preceded us, that made us possible. But we've lost a sense of the sacred, therefore a sense of reverence and of gratitude for all these beings that have paved the way for a being like ourselves.

And so I'm going to draw a few lessons from my book, *Sins of the Spirit, Blessings of the Flesh: Transforming Evil in Soul and Society*, where I talk about the universe flesh and how marvelous it is.

John Muir says, "I used to envy the father of our race, dwelling as he did in contact with the new-made fields and plants of Eden; but I do so no more, because I have discovered that I also live in 'Creation's dawn.' The morning stars still sing together, and the world, not yet half made, becomes more beautiful every day."

So that's the wonderful lyric about the wonder of our universe and about, really, humanity has been here such a short time--that what we used to call Adam, which is to say the beginning of our species, is not so long ago in terms of the time of the universe. And as he says, "Creation's dawn," that Adam experienced, if you will, our earliest ancestors... that's the time we're living in, too.

An ancient Aboriginal phrase is "yorro yorro," which means "continual creation." There's an Aboriginal elder says, "Everything on Earth is brand new and standing up. Yorro is renewal of nature in all its forms."

Such a reminder of the newness of every day, the newness of every being, of every one of us.

Mary Midgley, in her book, *Beast and Man*, says this: "We need a vast world, and it must be a world that does not need us; a world constantly capable of surprising us, a world we did not program, since only such a world is the proper object of wonder."

So, wonder is the springboard of realizing who we are and what a gift it is that we are here. This is why Rabbi Heschel can say that awe is the beginning of wisdom.

A move from Empire to Earth Community would be a move from patriarchy to wisdom, and from Empire to wisdom, and therefore, community and celebration.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.