

Daily Meditation 11/26/22

Caring for the Earth and Creating Preferential Options for the Young

Good morning.

Today we continue our meditations on the preferential option for the young. And specifically, we're focusing on caring for the Earth.

Our caring for Mother Earth is a preferential option for the young, because the young are inheriting this Earth. And sadly, obviously, it is a depleted Earth.

The ecosystems are collapsing. Climate change is happening with vengeance. Whether it is the wildfires in many parts of the world or the droughts, dry places are getting drier. Or whether it is the hurricanes and the flooding, the wet places are getting wetter. That's what climate change is all about.

And of course, the seas are rising. And they are rising faster than scientists had anticipated.

More and more glaciers are melting from the Himalayas. It serves so much of the water needs of Southeast Asia. To Africa, where the glaciers serve the water needs of so many Africans. And Greenland and Antarctica, all melting. The seas will be rising. Already, whole tribes have had to leave islands in the Pacific because the saltwater has seeped into the freshwater. Humans cannot live without fresh water. All this the young are inheriting.

And realizing and raising anew this question of a preferential option for the young. An awful lot of my journey has been to address that issue and its many manifestations. Certainly, a Creation Spirituality puts creation forward as the fundamental experience of the sacred, whether we're talking healthy water, clean water, clean air, renewable fire or energy that is sustainable and good for future generations.

Or whether we're talking Mother Earth--earth, air, water, fire. Mother Earth, so she can be fruitful, for continuing to bring forth healthy foods, healthy plants, healthy animals, with whom we interact daily--in our eating, in our cleaning, cleansing, in our drinking, in our imagining, in our symbols and metaphors of wondrous beauty: the aesthetic of waterfalls, rivers and oceans, lakes, where so many of us find our peace, our repose. We cannot take any of that for granted.

This is why our times have to be a renewal of the mystic. The mystic does not take for granted. The mystic recognizes the sacred and the mystical--in earth, in water, in air, in fire.

But also my work with the Order of the Sacred Earth, which is an order directed by young adults in their 30s. A gathering and assembly where institutional and organized religion is often seen as hypocritical and extremely slow to change course. But nevertheless, we need communities. We call them orders. That's what they were, traditionally, in both the East and the West. Communities that are more focused on the contemporary issues, such as inculcating a sense of the Sacred for our Earth, which at this time in history is undergoing extreme repression--so extreme that I call it matricide, the killing of Mother Earth, the killing of the mother. It tunes in to the issues of the rise of women's wisdom, the rights of women to find balance, to bring the feminine balance back to education, to politics, to religion, to economics, to our souls, and therefore to our institutions. All of which are failing us.

And, of course, the cosmic mass is also an outreach to the young, who have in their fingertips new art forms, postmodern art forms of DJ and VJ and rap and dancing. Dancing our prayers, getting our eyes out of books, opening our hearts up to one another in a communitarian kind of prayer that includes all the chakras, the whole body.

To celebrate the glories of our existence may well be involved in caring for the Earth and caring for the young. They go together wonderfully--celebrating the earth and celebrating the youth.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.