

Daily Meditation 12/21/2022

Winter Solstice, 2022: The Apophatic & Uncreated God

Good morning.

Today is Winter Solstice 2022. A blessed Solstice to you!

It also happens to be my birthday, born on the shortest day of the year.

And I'm thinking of the amazing structures all over the world, so many traditions, traditions and cultures: in Egypt, among the Peruvian indigenous people in South America and in the UK, Stonehenge. And at Newgrange, in Ireland, which is older than Stonehenge, or the Egyptian monuments. Each of these devised by brilliant, ancient peoples, indigenous peoples, to correspond to this day of the winter solstice.

Like Newgrange, In Ireland, one day of the year, the sun shines right down the shaft. And that one day is December 21.

So clearly our ancestors were so attuned to the work of the Universe, they weren't so busy tuning in to the TV set, they were more interested in the cosmic entertainment, and all that represented.

And what it represents is, of course, our immediate relationship to the whole. We would not be here without the sun going low in the winter solstice, and flourishing in the summer solstice, and all the seasons that go in between. That we are cosmic beings, we depend on the cosmos!

Of course, we depend on Mother Earth too, but Mother Earth depends on the cosmos, depends on the seasons, and the tilt of the Earth has to be just right. Of course, Mother Earth depends on the moon. How else would creatures have emerged from the sea to the land if it were not for the tides that the Moon brings about for us?

Obviously, we depend on the sun. Well, the moon and the sun are cosmic beings. They're not on earth - have you checked? Oh, the sun arrives on Earth as sunlight -- that's the point. Photosynthesis on Earth captures the sunlight, and plants eat. Eat it -- it's cosmic food they're eating. Animals eat the plants. That's cosmic food that animals are eating, including the human animal.

Our ancestors knew this; we lost it. We lost it during the modern era. And what a loss. It goes along with the desacralization of existence, when humans think that we're the only ones accomplishing things, that everything else exists to serve us, we lose the sense of the sacred. And when you lose a sense of the sacred, you lose everything.

Now Deepak Chopra, in today's meditation, points out: "God is uncreated. The Universe, therefore, cannot reveal God, since everything that exists, is created."

He says, "Let's assume that God is infinite. Our minds are not equipped to perceive the infinite, we perceive what we are prepared to see and to know."

And this is why we can talk about God as "super-essential darkness." That's how mystics like Denis Areopagite, Meister Eckhart, and others talk about God, as super-essential darkness.

That's why the time we're living in is such a wonderful moment for being reintroduced to the great mystery of divinity, which parallels the mystery of our universe. And maybe these dark energy we're talking about, the double-dark energy, black holes and so forth -- these are, of course, powerful reminders of how essential darkness is to the survival of planets and galaxies and all the rest.

And the birthing of them is baked into the cosmos that we honor, remember, celebrate days like today, days like the solstice and the great mystery that is behind it.

Eastern Orthodox theologian, David Bentley Hart talks about how "the silent event of being itself"... the silent event of being itself... is trying to manifest itself to us. He says:

We see the mystery, are addressed by it, given a vocation to raise our thoughts beyond the apparent world to the source of possibility, but can approach only when we surrender ourselves to it.

That is what I think all the monuments are about around the world, celebrating the solstice. They are invitations and opportunities, and structures, forms, and of course rituals that attended them, that invite us to surrender to a mystery, a reality that is greater than ourselves: the cosmos and its seasons. And in fact that birthed us and nurtures us on a daily basis.

Blessed Solstice to you.

Thank you. See you tomorrow.