

Daily Meditation 12/27/2022

Doxa, Moxa and Christmas, continued

Good morning.

In today's meditation we continue our reflection on Christmas and what I call the *Doxa*, the Moxa that makes up our lives, especially our spiritual lives. The *Doxa* representing the glory, the archetype of the Cosmic Christ that is in all of us, in all beings, the Light in all beings. John 1 talks about that. But also the Moxa which represents the historical Jesus, the prophet warrior, who works on behalf of justice to make the world a healthy place to stand up to matricide, the killing of mother earth, that is going on.

So many creatures going extinct on our watch. And humans, ourselves, facing extinction. What spirituality brings to the table is a realization that all creatures, all creation is sacred. Bigger than us. Bigger than our agendas.

In my book on *Sins of the Spirit, Blessings of the Flesh*, I spend several chapters up front around the word flesh, because I bring out in today's meditation, of course, that the word incarnation means -- the word "carnal," you see, is in the word "incarnation." And incarnation means taking on flesh, becoming flesh. I spend a chapter on the universe flesh because planets, galaxies, stars and so forth -- these are flesh. These are light, and body does matter.

Then a chapter on the earth flesh and all the wonders of the earth and her creatures, there are so many.

Then a chapter on human flesh. And that's what I would like to meditate on with you a little bit now. So on page 77 and following of my book *Sins of the Spirit, Blessings of the Flesh*, I begin with a statement from Wendell Berry, the farmer, poet, and prophet for our time, He says that "Eating is more than a merely sensory or an appetitive stimulation, but the last act of an agricultural drama."

So eating is last act of an agricultural drama, obviously the farming and the planting and the sowing and the preparing and of course the watering is all part of this drama that results in food on our table. But I'd point out that is more than the last act of an agricultural drama. It is the last act in a cosmological drama because the Earth itself, the soil, the sun, the rains, clouds -- these make food possible, don't they?

William Carlos Williams, another American poet, says

*There is nothing to eat,
seek it where you will,
but the body of the Lord.
The blessed plants
in the sea, yield it
to the imagination
intact.*

So obviously, William Carlos Williams is picking up on the ritual in the Christian tradition, remembering Jesus at the Last Supper: "This is my body" -- saying that of bread -- "and this is my blood" -- saying that of wine. So bread and wine become, in the context of that ritual, something very real, the body and life force of Christ.

Now light is behind all flesh in this planet. One scientist says

A flood of Light dominates our universe today. And matter is numerically insignificant in the stuff of the universe. For every particle of matter, there are 1 billion particles of light.

...For every particle of matter there are 1 billion particles of light.

Nobel Prize winner Ilya Prigogine, the chemist, says:

Matter is just a minor pollutant, in a universe made of light. The food we eat is light. The process of photosynthesis is learning to eat light.

So all this underscores the sacredness of flesh, the flesh of the earth, and the flesh of the human, which of course takes nourishment from the plants, animals, the flesh of the earth. There's so much to be grateful for.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.