

Daily Meditation 12/17/2022

With Pregnancy Comes the Wild: Clarissa Estes and Thomas Berry

Good morning.

In today's meditation we bring together two powerful thinkers: Clarissa Pinkola Estes, author of *Women Who Run with the Wolves*, which I consider one of the great spiritual documents of the 20th century, without any doubt; and Thomas Berry, a great prophet and eco-prophet, who not only warned us of what was coming regarding climate change and the rest, but along with the cosmologist Brian Swimme, brought the power of a new creation story from science that we have been gifted with in our time and that can unite all people on this planet. Just as creation stories have always united tribes and religions over the centuries.

And the theme we're dealing with is the theme of creativity and the wildness that accompanies it.

Notice what Clarissa Pinkola Estes speaks about when she talks about a woman's knowing, a woman's creative fire. A creative fire that is so part of the archetype of the wild woman. She also tells us that "fairy tales and myths and stories provide understandings that sharpen our insight, our sight, so that we can pick out and pick up the path left by the wildish nature."

So think of the myths and fairy tales that you're familiar with, like Grimm's fairy tales, for example. They're sometimes very severe and very hard. And of course, she deals with such fairy tales in her writing, in her book, *Women Who Run with Wolves*. She's gathered wonderful stories of women over the centuries and from various tales.

She says, "The instruction found in story reassures us that the path has not run out, but still leads women deeper, and more deeply still, into their own knowing."

So it is about depth, this season of Advent. It is about going into our darkness where creativity arises. And into our wildness, where creativity arises.

We hear from Clarissa in today's meditation about how the wild woman is patroness to all art and all invention. And as in all art, this power resides in the guts, she says, not in the head. And notice, though, that most of our education treats the head. It's afraid of the guts. It's afraid of the lower chakras. The third chakra is the gut chakra. That's also where we feel our moral outrage, where compassion begins.

And so Clarissa says that "She is the one..." (the wild woman is the one) "who thunders after injustice."

So, she concludes her teachings on this score with the following admonition: "If you have ever been called defiant, incorrigible, forward, cunning, insurgent, unruly, rebellious, you are on the right track. Wild Woman is close by. If you have never been called these things, there is yet time. Practice your wild woman."

And that's how spirit is. Spirit is wild. It takes us beyond boundaries at times. And that is what she's calling us to consider and to practice, especially at this time.

As I point out in my essay, when you reread the Magnificat, Mary's canticle in the first chapter of Luke, you're definitely face to face with the wild woman. And this is that prophetic energy that we are all called to at this time and all the time. It's part of being human, to tap into that wildness or spontaneity and creativity, just as Thomas Berry points out all the other species do, as well, in order to survive and to thrive and to display their beauty.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.