

Daily Meditation 12/18/2022

Advent, Solstice and the Apophatic Divinity

Good morning.

We're continuing our meditations on Advent, on the darkness of winter, on the feminine and on the apophatic divinity, which is all part of this picture, and was hinted at when we discussed the Godhead--that side of God that is a mystery, as distinct from God that is about history.

And today we offer some statements from Meister Eckhart about the apophatic divinity. And one of them is this rather striking one, which is not readily abandoned; it sticks with you.

"I pray God to rid me of God."

So, I think it's a very good exercise to ask ourselves what gods do we pray to be rid of? You might even want to take out a pencil and ask yourself that question. What gods are you praying to be rid of?

And in this way, we recognize that this apophatic divinity, among other things, is a way to purify our understanding of the Divine, and what we have done with the name God over the centuries, whatever we have done in the name of God. The whole history of colonialism and the compulsion to convert other cultures to our God and gods is very real when you look back at history.

Look at these horrible stories that have come out recently about the Christian schools for children, indigenous children. There's so much destruction of soul, and even life itself took place--in the name of God, a god. Apparently a god who is not very fond of children, or of diverse cultures, or of diverse races.

So I would certainly like to be rid of that god, the god of colonialism, wouldn't you?

A god of adultism, that does not respect the young and children. There are many ways that is part of the ecological crisis today, too--the environment. To the extent that we're not putting the entirety of Mother Earth on the front burner--for reverence and respect and health and beauty to be passed on to other generations. To that extent, of course, we are abusing future generations of the young, not only physically but spiritually. When beauty is gone, souls will dry up.

So this is another god that I would like to see be rid of.

A god that is homophobic, that thinks that all sexuality is of one kind, which obviously has not considered what science has been saying, scientific psychology since the 1970s--that's over 50 years ago--that any given human population is going to be... eight to 10% are going to be gays or lesbians. To me, the God of creation, therefore, is a God who is more than at home with diversity, not only of humans when it comes to sexuality, but we've counted 464 other species that have gay and lesbian populations in them.

So let's pray to be rid of a homophobic deity.

And then, of course, a sexist deity that wants women to be second class citizens, that wants men to dominate instead of to participate and to share. Let's get rid of that god, too.

The god of the reptilian brain. The God I know, the God of creation that scientists have been discovering, recognizes that, yes, there's a reptilian brain that's old, 420 million years old. There's also mammal brain that is 210 million years old. Then there's a neocortex brain which is only a few hundred thousand years old. All those brains seem to have unfolded from the divine watch that's Creator. So why wouldn't we honor all three? Why would we settle for the oldest alone? Talk about living in the past! Yep, the reptilian brain dominates, it seems, wherever patriarchy rules.

Let's get rid of that god too, the god of patriarchy. The god of only one brain, the reptilian brain--power over others.

So there are many prayers to make in getting rid of gods.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.