

# Daily Meditation 02/01/2023

## A Brief History of Love, Dedicated to Teilhard

Good morning.

Today we continue our meditations with Teilhard de Chardin on a common theme we've been dealing with for weeks: the theme of non-dualism. And he himself confesses that at first he believed that matter was a thing by itself, but gradually came to see that it metamorphoses into psyche, and spirit is not the opposite of matter; in fact, spirit and matter blend and make one thing.

This for him was something of a breakthrough and a revelation or even a conversion, you might say.

And then at the end of today's meditation, he struggles with how to name this power when it becomes, as he says, physio-moral energy, personalized in all our activities in the universe itself: what's the name for this experience?

And he concludes that this power, power that assumes rising in the cosmic order is love. "The conclusion is always the same," he says: "Love is the most powerful, and still the most unknown energy in the world."

And he elaborates on this in some of his other writings. For example, he says, and this is on page 232 of my *Christian Mystics* book:

*The powers that we have released could not possibly be absorbed by the narrow system of individual or national units, which the architects of the human Earth have hitherto used. The age of nations has passed.*

He wrote this over... well, he died in 1955, so we're talking over seventy years ago.

*The age of nations has passed. Now, unless we wish to perish, we must shake off our old prejudices, and build the Earth.*

...The old prejudices of nations, the ideologies, the kind of thing that's driving Russia to invade Ukraine at this time, for example. That we really have to get an Earth consciousness, a way of seeing the world as one being.

And of course, since he died in 1955, we have that icon that was given to us by astronauts and cosmonauts, of the single Earth, taken from space. And that surely has affected our awareness in the direction that Teilhard was urging us: to think in terms of the Earth as a whole, not in terms of our particular parts as nations, as religions. Not our differences, but what calls us together.

And he calls us to our creativity: he says,

*Up until now, to adore was meant to prefer God to things, for referring them to God and by sacrificing them to God. Now, adoration means the giving of our body and soul to creative activity...*

...the giving of our body and soul to creative activity. Pardon me.

*...joining the activity to God to bring the world to fulfillment by effort and intellectual exploration.*

So he's really shifting gears here. He's saying that we, instead of adoring God in the sky or something, we should take all our energies, including our intellectual and our creative energies, to bring the world to fulfillment and to intellectual exploration...

To pursue our curiosity about this world, we live in, this universe that is so much bigger than our precious Earth, but is sustaining it and has brought it into being: all this is love in action.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.