

## Daily Meditation 02/15/2023

### On the Cosmic Christ in Early Christianity

Good morning.

We're meditating today on the theme of the Cosmic Christ in the earliest Christian writers. There are many through the ages who picked up on this and applied it in their own theologies and spiritualities.

I have a whole section in my Cosmic Christ book on medieval writers such as Meister Eckhart, especially, but Dante and Nicholas of Cuza and Hildegard and Aquinas and Mechtild, and Julian too: all these people have plenty to say about the Cosmic Christ.

So it's really disconcerting to hear from 20th century writers like Teilhard de Chardin and Thomas Merton, that they can't find anyone who's interested. Thomas Merton took it up, and so I'm going to turn to him for this meditation in my book, *A Way to God: Thomas Merton's Creation Spirituality Journey*, on pages 230 and following.

He says regarding the Buddhist nature in all things:

*...in Zen enlightenment, the discovery of 'the original face before you were born' is the discovery not that one sees Buddha, but that one is Buddha.*

And in his book, *Mystics and Zen Masters*, Merton compared the Zen teaching of a direct grasp of one's "Original face," to Paul's Christ-based mysticism. He says:

*Such is the attainment of the 'Buddha mind' or 'Buddhahood.' (Compare the Christian expressions 'having the mind of Christ,' [1 Corinthians 2:16], being 'of one spirit with Christ,' or 'He who is united to the Lord is one spirit,' [1 Corinthians 6:17].)*

This is all Cosmic Christ talk. And Merton recognized that: the Christ in all beings is parallel to the Buddha nature experienced in Buddhism.

Of course, Meister Eckhart was saying, and Merton was quoting Eckhart: "in breakthrough I learned that God and I are one."

Eckhart was not limiting his theology to *being* another Christ, but to *acting* like other Christs in imitating him.

Eckhart says we are to be "doing his works" and behaving exactly like Jesus."

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*...Christ says here, 'Follow me' ...'Follow' is a command to act.... Mold yourself in all your works on Christ's pattern.*

Merton says:

*Life is this simple: we live in a world that is absolutely transparent. The Divine is shining through it all the time. This is not just a nice story or a fable -- it is true.*

And again,

*We do not see the Blinding One in black emptiness. He speaks to us gently in 10,000 things.... He shines not on them, but from within.*

So we all carry this light. And this light is this Divine Light, it is the archetype of doxa, glory, or Christ nature, or Buddha nature, or tselem, the image of God.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.