

## Daily Meditation 03/20/2023

### Thomas Aquinas & Deepak Chopra on the "Glory of Existence"

Good morning.

Today we're meditating with two thinkers from two cultures and two periods of history: 13th century Dominican theologian Thomas Aquinas and the 20/21st century doctor from India, Deepak Chopra. Both of them are focusing on this whole topic of being. God as being. Meister Eckhart says God is "isness." And Thomas Aquinas says that "God is continually pouring on existence into things."

But what's striking is what they have in common--Deepak Chopra in the 20th century, 21st century, and from India and being a Hindu. And Thomas Aquinas from 13th century Christian Europe. They're both trying to get us to think more in terms of the miracle of existence, if you will.

So Deepak Chopra says, "The vast physical mechanism we call the universe behaves more like a mind than a machine." And then he asked the question. (Of course, by saying that, he's discounting the modern era when the machine was the primary analogy for the universe. The universe is not like a machine; it's constantly expanding. And of course, it's not man-made like machines are, which is pretty important.) But Chopra asks the question, "How did mind ever find a way to manifest as the physical world?"

How did mind ever find a way to manifest as something physical? Now we can use the word consciousness as well as mind. And then he concludes that "the very fact that anything exists is supernatural. It's literally beyond the rules of the natural world."

So, this is another way of talking about the marvel, the wonder, the miracle that existence is. And whether you're talking about individual existences, individual beings like one another, or ourselves, or whether you're talking about the whole vast Being that we call a universe, it's a wonder.

Of course, Rabbi Heschel says the same thing. He says that awe is the encounter. It's the action of the human mind confronting the universe. It's so big and it's so special and it's so... there. It's been there for 13.8 billion years. And it's busy expanding and birthing and recycling. Life, death and resurrection happen to galaxies and the supernovas and the planets and the stars and all the beings in the universe.

But the universe keeps going. It's no wonders that Aquinas says, "The most excellent thing in the universe is not the human. The most excellent thing in the universe is the universe itself. And all beings are here to serve the universe."

But in today's meditation, Aquinas, who has a lot to say about the wonder of being, and God as being because existence belongs in such a special way to Divinity, that Source without a source--what he calls "the Source without a source"--and in turn, bestows being on all beings within the universe, and on the universe itself. Microcosm and macrocosm participate in the miracle of being.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.