

Daily Meditation 06-12-23

Kindness and Generosity, Children Found in a Jungle & more

Good morning.

We're continuing our meditations this morning to wrestle with the overall theme of holiness. And in particular, the theme of generosity, having meditated for several weeks on joy, and on courage.

And this word generosity is such a rich word in English, as we pointed out. It includes the words Genesis, and generativity. So it's very much a cosmological word. Genesis, after all, we know is "beginnings," the beginnings of the universe.

But it also embeds within it the word genus, which means kind, the kind of thing, you know, species of parts, of the genus of a bigger collection of things, collection of species.

Then, the word kind brings up kin. And, of course, it brings up the adjective of kind, and the noun kindness. Kindness, and kind, kin, all wrapped together. Because kin, family, relationships, are meant to bring out the kindness in one another. Of course, they also bring out chaos and disagreements, but even there, there's a sense of healing, forgiveness, and so forth, as we learn to get along with one another.

So I bring up the wonderful, I think, very moving story of these children, the oldest being only 13, the youngest being 1, who survived the plane crash that their parents died in. These are indigenous children, from the indigenous tribes of Colombia. And for 40 days in the jungle, alone, four of them, they were able to survive.

Of course, that alone, shows the power of kinship, of banding together and working to survive. And that was a wild jungle, a serious one with snakes and wild animals and all the rest. But their tradition, their lineage, their tribe, had taught them how to survive in that environment. And that 13 year old girl is caring for their one year old, and her other siblings.

To me, it's a very moving story, about survival, about kinship. And of course, those of us who are far removed from it, nevertheless feel this profound empathy. That's why it's a powerful story if you want to hear more about how they did it.

And the good news, is the day after they were rescued and taken to hospital, they were very undernourished, and the rest. Nevertheless, the word was that they were playing, they were asking for books. They were ill at ease in a hospital bed, which is a good sign for child, and all the rest. So it's a it's a moving story, very moving.

And another element to generosity is the sacrifice. This word, I think, has been used and misused in patriarchal times, which Consciousness is trying to move out of today, with difficulty.

But really, it means "sacre facere," "to make holy." And this was the ancient idea of sacrifice. So you offer a gift, such as an animal you had raised as a sacrifice, to demonstrate your generosity, your willingness to give something away, in the name of gratitude.

So all this adds up, I think, to an important meditation, as we extend the understanding, this rich rich verb, this rich, rich virtue and practice that we can all engage in, the practice of generosity

Thank you, we'll see you tomorrow