

Daily Meditation 06/17/2023

Juneteenth Holiday 2023: Generosity and Justice on the Rise

Good morning.

In today's meditation we celebrate Juneteenth Day in light of the meditations we've been doing on generosity and all the implications of generosity, including the theme of kinship and compassion and justice.

So, I want to share with you a few teachings from some liberation theologians and others about this call to justice and to the agents in liberating the oppressed.

Paulo Freire, speaking from Latin America, says, "The oppressed must realize that they are fighting not really for freedom from hunger, but for freedom to create, and to construct, to wonder and to venture."

Meister Eckhart says, "There is no such thing as *my* bread. All bread is ours. And it is given to me, to others through me, and to me through others." (Notice how communitarian this awareness is.) "For not only bread, but all things necessary for sustenance in this life, are given on loan to us, with others, because of others, and for others, and to others through us."

There is a real sense of community and circling in his understanding there.

Rosemary Ruether writes, "Only when redemption in Christ is understood as historical, as an affirmation of God's original intention for creation, rather than rejection or creation, will it become possible to see the great New Testament theme of equality and Christ as a mandate. Not merely a flight from the world, but a transformation of the world in the direction of justice."

So we are to be instruments of transformation.

And Gustavo Gutierrez, who is considered the founder of liberation theology. He wrote the first book on liberation theology. Peru. Is also a student of Pere Chenu, and a friend of Pere Chenu. Chenu, the same one who named the Creation Spirituality for me when I studied with him.

Gustavo Gutierrez writes: "Knowledge is not conformity of the mind to the giver, but an immersion in the process of transformation and construction of a new world."

So, notice the emphasis there on creativity, via transformation, via transformativa that emerges from moral imagination, from a process of transformation, a new imagination of how humans can live together peacefully, equally.

And finally, from Mary in Luke's Gospel, "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord and my spirit exults in God my Savior because God has looked upon his lowly handmaid. He has pulled down the princes from their thrones and exulted the lowly. The hungry, he has filled with good things, the rich sent away empty."

So this is a statement on how the energy itself is on the side of the oppressed, those without a voice.

Finally, Dom Hélder Câmara, a very prophetic bishop in Brazil:

"First, it is imperative in the name of the gospel to make the underdeveloped masses aware of their human dignity, their rights to a better life, one which is worthy of the human person. Secondly, it is necessary to stir the consciousness of the rich at home and abroad."

A blessed Juneteenth Day to you.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.