



The beauty of Your creation is  
painted in my interior as  
a colorful Voice.

~Rabindranath Tagore

ongoing cosmogenesis of our world...

One hundred years ago the painter and poet William Blake lamented the ever-increasing violence of industrial society with these words: "Art Degraded, Imagination Denied, War Govern'd the Nations." The dominance of war and war mentalities...all this is the price we have paid in the West for denying imagination, repressing or forgetting it, and thereby degrading art... To create is always to learn, to begin over, to begin at zero...With art as meditation we truly listen to the cosmos within us and around us and give birth to the

~ Matthew Fox in *ORIGINAL BLESSING*

Religious truths have not been expressed throughout time as mathematical formulas, but in art, music, dance, drama, poetry, stories, and active rituals.

~ Starhawk

From the very beginning of time, human beings have celebrated divine visitations by speaking, writing, singing, drawing, and dancing them. We cannot tell of God's presence in our souls. We create, we build, we choreograph; we play music, paint paintings, or write poetry to communicate this divine presence. For the essential place, the point within us penetrated by the Spirit, is our creative soul. The Creator Spirit seeks out our creativity. Fire begets fire.

~ Meinrad Craighead "Drawing Your Own Story" in *SACRED STORIES* ed. by C. Simpkinson

Embedded within our souls and DNA are the creative possibilities of our enlightenment and future. Our communities, art, music, scientific technologies, and businesses can become life-affirming, harmonious, beautiful, and healing institutions if we are willing to awaken to inspired states of creativity. These soul gifts are the means through which we manifest our individual sparks of divine light. By practicing these gifts with wisdom, love, and compassion, we can contribute to a spiritual renaissance: one in which our creativity reflects the true light of divinity and can remake our world.

~ Judith Cornell in *THE SOUL OF CREATIVITY* ed. by T. P. Myers

...a work of art opens a void, a moment of silence, a question without an answer, provokes a breach without reconciliation where the world is forced to question itself.

~ Michel Foucault



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Keep your mind clear and quiet like the waters of a deep lake, as transparent as the crow's eye. The bottom of the lake is deep, below the water is still. There is no need to stir it now and make it turbulent. Then on that untroubled soul, shadows of the events of this world will cast themselves—but be at peace with yourself. Accept everything calmly, accept the truth in good grace. There is an exquisite creeper of beauty in you, its roots will go deep down and on the surface it will bloom flowers—just wait...

~ from *IT DOES NOT DIE* by Maitreyi Devi

My greatest challenge is to live the daily life. To create a life that is aware, when all of us fall into unconsciousness all the time. To bring some modicum of consistency, of heart and caring, to every moment...And the other challenge is to render this. To be available to bring beauty through, or bring awareness through...To open the eyes, to open the heart, to feel compassion on a regular basis. To strip myself down to wherever I have to go.

~ Deena Metzger in *VISIONARY VOICES*

To live a creative life, we must lose our fear of being wrong. ~ Joseph Chilton Pearce

Into this Dark, beyond all light, we pray to come and, unseeing and unknowing, to see and to know the One that is beyond seeing and beyond knowing...That is to do as sculptors do, drawing the statue latent there...and displaying the beauty hidden there.

~ Denis the Areopagite

Creativity reflects our uniqueness and infuses energy and spirit into life. Creativity plays with the possible and when we are being creative we feel fully alive and vibrant, celebrants at the liturgy of life.

~ from *RISE UP WITH A LISTENING HEART*, The Monks of New Skete

All things speak to me.  
Now this color, now that shape.  
Now the clear call of the loon.  
The forest sees me coming  
And each tree says, "Look at me.  
See, I reveal the Beautiful." . . .

~ from *FROM THE CENTER* by Robert J. Hope



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