

12/1/20

## Worship Sharing

Being Fully Present to God, Deborah Shaw, SEYM Michener Lecture 2005

Ms. Shaw discusses ways that we block ourselves from being fully present focusing mostly on Judging and Fear and how we can heal to be more fully present. She cites writing by John Macmurray:

“So, in contrasting fear and faith, Jesus it seems is contrasting two persisting and general attitudes of mind. Either of these two attitudes may characterize a man’s way of life. If he lives in fear, he will constantly act as if the world is a dangerous place; he will live on the defensive. If on the contrary he lives by faith, his behavior will be the opposite of this. He will be confident and uninhibited acting as though he trusted life, as though he trusted other people, and was aware in the world, not of endless danger, but rather endless opportunity. His personality will exhibit not constraint, but spontaneity. Jesus himself expressed this in an unusual but compelling metaphor. “Out of this person,’ he said ‘shall flow rivers of living water.”

And from the Bible:

“There is no fear in love. But perfect love casts out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.” John 4:18

She concludes that: “trying to live fully into the promise expressed so eloquently in the poem “Now is the Time” by the 14<sup>th</sup> century Sufi poet Hafiz

Now is the time to know  
That all you do is sacred

Now, why not consider  
A lasting truce with yourself and God

Now is the time to understand  
That all your ideas of right and wrong  
Were just a child’s training wheels  
To be laid aside  
When you can finally live  
With veracity  
And love.

Hafiz is a divine envoy  
Whom the Beloved  
Has written a Holy message upon

My dear please tell me  
Why do you still  
Throw sticks at your heart  
And God?

What is it in that sweet voice inside  
That invites you to fear.

Now is the time for the world to know  
That every thought and action is sacred

This is the time  
For you to deeply compute the impossibility  
That there is anything  
But Grace

Now is the season to know  
That everything you do is sacred.

Queries

Do we find fear from time to time blocking our growth or ability to share love?

Tell of a time when someone else's love and belief in you made a difference in your life.

Speak to a time when you have felt immersed in the sacred, where all things were sacred in the moment.