

EARTH AND SPIRIT: The New Cosmic Creation Story: Miriam MacGillis, Brian Swimme, Thomas Berry:

Tell them the story: the Mountain Story, your story, the river story. We best communicate meaning by narrative. Narrative is our basic mode of understanding. It gives us a sense of life as we experience it. The difficulties that we are in today comes from the inadequacies and limitations of our Story.

What we really need and what we have is A NEW STORY. The NEW STORY has to be understood this way. And that is the difficulty. All traditional stories as far as I can tell are in a spacial-mode of consciousness. And in a spacial mode of consciousness time moves in an ever renewing seasonal cycle. It always moves that way and it always will, in ever renewing seasonal cycle. That is why Aristotle would say-and then there was the larager scale of time- that he didn't know whether he was closer to the Trojan war going backwards on the cycle or going forward. And in that sense all things were the same. Ecclesiastes in the Bible

"What will be has been...and so forth.

We live in a different world. And it can be described as a TIME DEVELOPMENTAL WORLD, where we have an emerging universe that goes through a sequence of irreversible transformation episode that bring us to where we are. It is a stupendous story. It is a beautiful story. I am not sure whether it has been told fully or adequately. But the idea of the EMERGING UNIVERSE starting forth in the beginnings with the galaxies in the first generations of stars, and the beginning of the gravitational attraction where everything attracts everything else, and everything is bonded together. And we have what I call the great curvature of space. You have the outward force and you have the bonding force. And the bonding force of gravitation and this emergent differentiating universe are held in a certain balance. And it is like the curvature of space, and the curvature of this curvature is determined by the rate of expansion of the universe. If the universe were a trifle slower or a trifle faster, the universe would have collapsed or exploded. It had to be just right. And everything that has happened since is dependent on that curve. I call it the GREAT COMPASSIONATE CURVE. Because all love, all human affection begins with that curve. Where everything is bonded to and attracted to everything else inseparately. Nothing can ever be separated from anything else. You can feel separate, you can feel isolated, but you can never be isolated.

Now in this process, in this emergent universe where you have the collapse of the first generation of stars that make the elements and the formation of the solar system and the earth and so forth. THIS STORY we have never been able to appreciate as OUR SACRED STORY, AND that I think is the ESSENTIAL DIFFICULTY. OF really appreciating the SACRED DIMENSION OF THE UNIVERSE. This is sometimes looked at by scientists as the scientific story, or as the secular story. It is not the sacred story of GENESIS. Its not any of the TRADITIONAL STORIES. That is why almost all traditional religions have in a sense collapsed back into Fundamentalism. or tends to do that because they have not been able to reinvisage themselves within this NEW STORY.

Sacred Story. And until we do that, in my opinion, we will never have a really true concern for the universe, never truly understand ourselves, never appreciate ourselves. Now the relationship between these stories, each has its own validity. They don't negate each other. It is something like the theory of light, where some problems as regards light would be answered as though light were a particle, other problems as though light were a wave. You can't collapse them into a single thing. An ever renewing cycle. Is an ongoing process.

**BUT OUR GREATEST SINGLE NEED NOW IS TO UNDERSTAND OURSELVES AS INTEGRAL WITH THIS STORY.** Everything that has happened in the story is within every single being in the story. So the Sacred Story of the Universe, the story of the Earth, the story of every human being is a single story. That is why we are either go into the future as a single sacred community, in the light of this story, or we will have difficulties.