The Mantle - 2 Kings 2: 9-17

The Mantle - 2 Kings 2: 9-17

- 9 When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?”
- “Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit,” Elisha replied.
- 10 “You have asked a difficult thing,” Elijah said, “yet **if you see me when I am taken from you, it will be yours**—otherwise, it will not.” . . .

The Mantle - 2 Kings 2: 9-17

- 10 “You have asked a difficult thing,” Elijah said, “yet **if you see me when I am taken from you, it will be yours**—otherwise, it will not.” . . .
- Deuteronomy 29:4

But to this day the Lord has not given you a mind that understands or **eyes that see or ears that hear**.

- Mark 4:9

Then Jesus said, “Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.”

- Romans 11:8

“God gave them a spirit of stupor, **eyes that could not see and ears that could not hear**, to this very day.”

The Mantle - 2 Kings 2: 9-17

- 13 Elisha then picked up Elijah’s cloak that had fallen from him and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. 14 He took the cloak that had fallen from Elijah and struck the water with it. **“Where now is the Lord, the God of Elijah?”** he asked. When he struck the water, it divided to the right and to the left, and he crossed over.

The Mantle - 2 Kings 2: 9-17

- **15** The company of the prophets from Jericho, who were watching, said, …**16** “Look,” they said, “we your servants have fifty able men. Let them go and look for your master. Perhaps the Spirit of the Lord has picked him up and set him down on some mountain or in some valley.”
- “No,” Elisha replied, “do not send them.”
- **17** But they persisted until he was too embarrassed to refuse. So he said, “Send them.” And they sent fifty men, who searched for three days but did not find him. **18** When they returned to Elisha, who was staying in Jericho, he said to them, “Didn’t I tell you not to go?”

The Mantle – Luke 10

- **23** Then turning to the disciples, Jesus[i] said to them privately, ‘Blessed are the eyes that see what you see! **24** For I tell you that many prophets and kings desired to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it.’

The Mantle – Psalm 66

- 10 For you, O God, have tested us;

  you have tried us as silver is tried.

  11 You brought us into the net;

  you laid burdens on our backs;

  12 you let people ride over our heads;

  we went through fire and through water;

yet you have brought us out to a spacious place.

What is the Mantle Elisha took on for himself?

Deeply spiritual eyes to see . . .

To see what others didn't see . . .

Live in the confident spaciousness of the "God of Elijah" with him

What is the Mantle we are to take on?

A Monk in the World

Beverly Lanzetta

PHILOSOPHY

Beverly Lanzetta

- Whether or not you belong to a religion, or are uninterested in religion, there is a divine path interior to your being, an organic constellation of wisdom imprinted into your soul.
- If you have the courage to advance into the mystery of your own solitude, you will discover it for yourself.
- Composed of its eternal nature, you cannot be lost, abandoned, or forgotten.
- In the secret teachings of love you will be guided on a spiritual journey that forges a path of holiness in your being and in the world.

THE MONK WITHIN

Beverly Lanzetta

- The new monastic may not be identified with a specific religion or belong to a community. Rather, such a person is staking his or her life on ‘yes’: the affirmation of love and nonviolence.
- Being a monk is not attachment to an identity—even to being a monk—but following the call within to honor the sanctity of creation and the miracle of spirit, holding the divine presence in one’s heart.
- It is a commitment to be for the other and not for the self, which yearns to give away all that is petty, constricted, or selfish in one’s heart.

VIA FEMININA

The Monk Within: Embracing a sacred way of life

- *via negativa* (the negative way)
- *via positiva* (the positive way),
- *Via feminina* offers a new vantage point from which to perceive reality, a perspective that is implied and intrinsic

Via Feminina

The Monk Within: Embracing a sacred way of life

- In Christian theology,
  - *via* signifies the spiritual journey toward union with God;
  - *feminina* conveys a quality of consciousness that includes but is not confined to biological females.
- The feminine is an archetype in both women and men
- *via feminina* is a **spiritual practice and way of life. It is holistic approach to spiritual life.**

Via Feminina

The Monk Within: Embracing a sacred way of life

Via feminina weaves together

- the secular and the sacred,
- loves the earthly realm with all of its life-affirming attributes.
- is the source and content of a theology of embodied transcendence,
- has the capacity and responsibility to integrate spiritual wisdom into daily life, to strive to be divine-like.
- To be wedded to humanity-creation-cosmos and to God in one, integrated vow.
- to see with contemplative eyes, the true state of the world.

Via Feminina

The Monk Within: Embracing a sacred way of life

Via feminina is a **way of being** that approaches reality through the lens of

benevolence,

compassion,

and love.

is nondualistic,

is nonhierarchical,

is a holistic path of embodiment and transcendence,

of humanity and divinity,

of earth and spirit, without division.

It is the place where we sink into our depth of being.

Via Feminina

The Monk Within: Embracing a sacred way of life

Via feminina

- is a deeper, more hidden path.
- It is a more silent and nondual path.
- It is a more intimate and nonviolent path.
- It is a path of radical love, radical mercy, and surrender.
- It is a path of the openhearted and guileless.
- It is a path that leads to the expansion of our full humanness.

Via Feminina

The Monk Within: Embracing a sacred way of life

*Perhaps via feminina's single most distinguishing feature is its **intimate wholeness**, a vision of reality that encompasses and combines feminine and masculine, including everything within its merciful, benevolent, and joyous fold.*

*It is a specific path of reconciliation that begins from a different premise of **trust and indissoluble intimacy**.*

What is the Mantle we are to take on?

A thousand times over

I need to tell the world
a thousand times over
about the gift of silence
the intimacy of the inner quiet
how it has been my healer
bringing me home to myself
from some place else
awakening my seeing
helping me to relate my doing with being
opening me up to be gifted by others
moving me each day to express my gratitude
drawing me ever closer to the Heart of All
into the Sanctuary of Now.

Noel Davis “Together at the Edge: Trust Me”

Canticle of Solitude

When all is still and night descends
upon the soul
the heart yearns for love's serene
abandonment
In the solitary night, when no mortal
eye beholds,
I lay down my fear and await your
holy embrace.

My defences are abandoned
Pride, despair, and shame seared
by your flame
Splendid, unfettered self: not this or that!
I am home with no name.

Drawn into God's abode of radiant, silken light
My soul is adorned with blessed simplicity.
Nothing else matter, nothing else holds,
All is yours, none other abides.

I am betrothed into Silence
Taking my vow into the reverie of night
For I am a devotee of solitude
The monk who lives for you alone. Amen

Lead us, Holy One
to your Temple
Help us to transform
our hearts.

May your Radiance
illuminate the path
of the monk who lives for
You alone.
Amen.

BOOKS BY BEVERLEY LANZETTA

https://beverlylanzetta.net Blue Sapphire Books.

References and quotations taken from -

- *Radical Wisdom*
- *The Monk Within: Embracing a Sacred Way of Life*
- *Emerging Heart: Global spirituality and the sacred*
- *A New Silence: Spiritual practices and formation for the the monk within*