

**Richard Rohr's Daily Meditations**  
2020 Theme: Action & Contemplation  
Unedited Transcript

**Richard Rohr:** Our theme this year is really our original theme, the name of the center that we chose thirty-two and a half years ago, the Center for Action and Contemplation. They're called the supreme Christian art form; really, supreme Buddhist art form. I think any mature religion would say the same. The point is, how can we do them both together? "Together" is the important word.

So, we've often said that the word "and," hidden in the middle, is more important than action, more important than contemplation. How do we act in a heartfelt, in-depth, sincere, loving, truthful way—that's a lot, I know—and how do we contemplate while not standing or sitting in isolation, that we're aware that we're part of the whole, that we're holding the whole, that we're one of the whole, that we believe in the whole? We're not setting ourselves above the whole as if I'm the prayer and they are the prayed *for*, you see? I recognize my own complicity in the "burden of sin," as Paul puts it. I recognize my own enjoyment with the rest of creation in the weight of glory.

Now when we can do that, I think we live, when the inner is connected to the outer, when neither one of them is operating independently, but they both *feed* on one another—hear that in a good way—that your action *feeds* on your soul life, and your soul life is moving toward concrete caring for the world.

And I thank you sincerely for trusting me and trusting us. And I do want to emphasize "us," because although these meditations are all based on things I once said or once wrote, I have a wonderful team here in New Mexico that are putting them together in the right way so they somewhat make sense. So, *we* thank you for trusting *us*.