

ID 152

Review
EXAM

ID 152

REVIEW:

WE DIDN'T HEAR FROM EVERYONE

WE DID HEAR FROM A NUMBER OF PEOPLE....VERY COMPELLING
STORIES....FIRST-PERSON COMMUNICATION.....

THEY WERE TALKING ABOUT THEIR LIVES.

[QUESTION HERE: HOW WOULD YOU TALK ABOUT YOURS....

IF YOU WERE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY, OR ASKED THE
QUESTION, WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?]

PREFACE TO THE COURSE:

THE TITLE -- THOMAS MERTON ORIGIN

BISHOP GRUNDTVIG THESIS, ABOUT BEING HUMAN FIRST

RODNEY KING SAID IT ELOQUENTLY: CAN'T WE GET ALONG.....

MIKHAIL GORBACHEV: ALL MEMBERS OF THE SAME HUMAN FAMILY.....

ALL BROTHERS & SISTERS IN THE SAME HUMAN
FAMILY.....

USED SPACE ANALOGY --THE ASTRONAUTS....RECOGNIZE
FROM THAT DISTANCE THAT WE'RE ALL MEMBERS OF
THE SAME HUMAN FAMILY.....

THEN, THE FIRST PRESENTOR: STEVE HERRON.....

FROM THE WHEEL CHAIR.....

A DELIBERATE AFFIRMATION OF GRUNDTVIG'S THESIS.....

"I'D RATHER BE STEVE HERRON IN A WHEELCHAIR THAN
ANY OTHER INDIVIDUAL IN ANY OTHER SITUATION...."

-- not that ~~xxxx~~STEVE~~xxxx~~HERR I WAS STEVE HERRON...AND
AM NO LONGER STEVE HERRON....

OR AM NOW A DIMINISHED STEVE HERRON....
NO, THIS IS STEVE HERRON... ~~THXKXKX~~

THIS IS WHO I AM

-- the 2nd thing STEVE DID FOR US...was to give us a better
SENSE OF WHAT IT IS LIKE TO VIEW THE WORLD FROM THE
WHEELCHAIR.....

EARLY IN THE QUARTER WE HAD THE REV. NICO SMITH....OF SOUTH AFRICA

-- some thought the most eloquent discussion of RACE RELATIONS
that we have witnessed on this campus.....

-- WHAT WAS HE SAYING.....?

Well, he told about a CHANGE OF ATTITUDE.....

ABOUT HOW HE CHANGED FROM BEING A SUPPORTER OF
AFRIKANER POLICY TOWARD BEING AN OPPONENT
OF IT.....

AND HE TOLD HOW IT HAPPENED.....

HE SAID THAT HE WAS CONFRONTED BY A THEOLOGIAN
WHO ASKED HIM HOW HE READ THE BIBLE.....

-- AND THEN WHO COMPARED THE SITUATION SMITH FACED
IN SOUTH AFRICA WITH THE SITUATION HE HAD FACED
EARLIER IN GERMANY WHEN CONFRONTED WITH THE
NAZIS.....

AND NICO SMITH WRESTLED WITH THE RECOGNITION THAT

THE IDEOLOGY THAT HAD GRIPPED HIM WAS EVEN RESPONSIBLE
FOR THE WAY HE READ THE BIBLE.....

THAT IS, THE IDEOLOGY WAS GUIDING HIS INTERPRETATION
OF THE BIBLE.....

AND THIS WAS THE BEGINNING OF THE PROCESS OF CRITICAL REFLECTION
THROUGH WHICH HE PASSED WHEN RETURNING TO HIS OWN COUNTRY.....

[MY THOUGHT: HE HAD TO GET OUT OF THE COUNTRY TO SEE WHAT
WAS TRANSPIRING WITHIN IT.....

THAT IS, HE HAD TO GET OUT OF THE COUNTRY TO BE ABLE
TO HEAR HIS OWN VOICE..... OR TO SEPARATE HIS OWN VOICE
FROM THE VOICE THAT WAS MERELY AN ECHO OF THE MAJORITY
OPINION.....

THEN, HE BROKE WITH THE STATUS QUO.....TOOK A LOT OF COURAGE.....

BUT DISAGREED WITH THE AUTHORITIES...GAVE UP HIS HIGH
POSITION AMONG THE RULERS OF THE COUNTRY.....

AND LEFT HIMSELF WITHIN THE POWERS OF GRACE (NO BETTER
WAY TO DESCRIBE THIS.....)

AND, OUT OF THE BLUE, HE RECEIVED A CALL TO BECOME
THE FIRST WHITE PASTOR OF A BLACK CONGREGATION OR
PARISH.....

AND HE HAS SPENT HIS DAYS SINCE THEN TRYING
TO FIND WAYS TO RECONCILE THE TWO GROUPS
WITH EACH OTHER.....

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NICO SMITH'S MESSAGE: THE WESTERN WORLD IS STANDING ON THE
THRESHOLD OF A NEW ERA.....WHICH WILL NOT HAPPEN, AND
CANNOT COME INTO BEING EXCEPT THROUGH THE CHALLENGE
OF THE PRESENT MOMENT.....

(PAUL TSONGAS SAYS THAT THE MAJOR CHALLENGE IS ECONOMICS
OTHERS SAY "FAMILY VALUES...."

NO QUESTION IN SMITH'S MIND: WE'RE ALL MEMBERS OF ONE
AND THE SAME HUMAN FAMILY.....
GOD DIDN'T SIMPLY CREATE ONE RACE.....
BUT CREATED SEVERAL RACES.....
ALL ARE HERE BY DIVINE INTENTION.....

THAT IS, ALL WERE MEANT TO BE HERE.....

QUESTION NOW: CAN WE LIVE TOGETHER IN PEACE.....
CAN WE AVOID RACIAL STRIFE.....

ON ANOTHER DAY WE HAD PHIL WOMBLE & BETH DENOBLE

AND WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT.

WELL, WE HAD SOME OF THE SAME THEMES THAT STEVE HERRON GAVE
US.....

PHIL ASKED US TO THINK ABOUT WHAT IS NORMAL
AND HE SAID THAT HE IS THE WAY HE IS.....

HE IS NOT A DIMINISHED PHIL WOMBLE...BUT HE IS
PHIL WOMBLE, HUMAN BEING.....
NOT PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED...BUT PHYSICALLY
CHALLENGED.....

HE COMPARED HIMSELF WITH ROY CAMPONELLA...WHO WAS
LEFT PARALYZED FROM AN AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT....
HE SUGGESTED THAT, IN NUMEROUS RESPECTS, ROY CAMPENALA
HAD A TOUGHER TIME THAN HE DID BECAUSE HE HAD VIVID
MEMORY OF WHAT IT WAS LIKE BEFORE THE ACCIDENT.....

PHIL ALSO GAVE US SOME STRONG WORDS ABOUT COURAGE....
ABOUT NEVER GIVING UP.....(THE TITLE OF HIS
AUTOBIOGRAPHY)
and TOLD US ABOUT HIS FRIENDSHIP WITH BETH....

BETH, FOR HER PART, TALKED ABOUT THE "GA, GA, GA WOMAN"
WHO SORT OF FAWNED ALL OVER HER.....
AND BETH'S REACTION WAS TO TELL THE LADY TO GET LOST....
THAT SHE HAD A LOT TO DO THAT DAY.....

POINT: DON'T BE PATRONIZING WHEN YOU MEET SOMEONE WITH CEREBRAL
PALSY.... NOT PITY IS SOUGHT...NO SYMPATHY EITHER....
BUT RESPECT FOR THE FACT THAT BETH IS HUMAN, PHIL IS HUMAN...

ON ANOTHER DAY, WE HAD NANCY CLEMMONS.....A NUN...WHO HAD
ALSO LOST HER SIGHT.....

WHO REALLY HAD TWO TOPICS..... ABOUT SELECTING A
SINGULAR VOCATION.....FINDING IDENTITY IN A
DIFFICULT
== FINDING IDENTITY IN DEVOTION TO A PARTICULAR
WAY OF BEING HUMAN.....

-- WHAT IS INVOLVED: WELL, LIFE UNDER VOWS.....
LIFE UNDER A CERTAIN COVENANT.....
-- DEDICATION TO A SET OF CHERISHED PRINCIPLES....

-- THE CONTRAST: MAKING UP ONE'S LIFE AS ONE GOES ALONG.....
HERE WE GOT A LITTLE GLIMPSE INTO THE LIFE OF A
PERSON WHO HAS CHOSEN A PARTICULAR WAY OF
BEING HUMAN.....

-- ACTUALLY ONE WHO IS DEDICATED TO THE PROPOSITION THAT
ONE FINDS ONE'S TRUE SELF...ONE'S OWN NATURE --
IN RELATIONSHIP TO A HIGHER POWER...TO GOD.....

SO ONE'S OWN IDENTITY CANNOT BE EXPLAINED EXCEPT IN
RELATIONSHIP TO THE REALITY OF A HIGHER BEING....

-- AND THOUGH WE DIDN'T STOP TO COMMENT ON THIS.... IT IS AN
INTRIGUING SITUATION.....

-- like this: It's not really what I want for myself...
but what I understand that God wants for me....
It's not really my desires that predominate....
but THE WILL OF GOD...and my dedication to the
realization of that WILL.....

THE VOICE OF THE STRANGER -- MAYBE, THE VOICE OF GOD WHO IS
CALLING ME TO DO THIS..... IN RELATIONSHIP TO WHICH I
DISCOVER MY OWN VOICE.....

THAT SAME DAY, WE WATCHED A VIDEO TAPE OF AN INTERVIEW WITH
A TRAPPIST MONK.....

WHO WAS TALKING ABOUT THE NEED TO APPROACH THE WORLD WITH WONDER

-- kept talking about "how incredible it all is..."

-- that we have become so accustomed to everything around
us that we fail to recognize the WONDER OF IT ALL....

-- HE WAS ALSO TALKING ABOUT THE CONTEMPLATIVE LIFE....

ABOUT THE "STILL SMALL VOICE THAT IS WITHIN..."...and
the obstacles we face in being able to recognize it.....

[Tell NEW YORK MONASTERY STORY? try to do something that
doesn't get you anywhere.....]

PASCHAL'S POINT: THAT WE ARE DRIVEN BY INTENTIONS THAT REALLY
RUN COUNTER TO OUR DEEPEST NATURES.... LADDERS OF SUCCESS.

MONEY...STATURE...ACHIEVEMENT.....

- WHEN WE SHOULD LEARN TO LIVE IN HARMONY WITH
THE PATTERNS OF NATURE.....
IN HARMONY WITH THE WORLD....
IN HARMONY WITH OUR TRUEST, DEEPEST NATURE....
THAT IS, TO BE FULLY HUMAN WE MUST DISCOVER THAT
WE ARE SOULS.....

THE CHALLENGE: TO KEEP THE INNER LIFE FRESH & RESILIENT....
FOR OUR INNER SPIRIT IS WHAT MAKES US
WHO WE ARE.....

WE HEARD MORE OF THIS WHEN WE LISTENED TO TWO DOCTORAL CANDIDATES
MARY CHURCHILL AND MICHELIN FIXICO TALK ABOUT NATIVE AMERICANS...

- too much was said here to summarize easily....
- but questions were raised about how WELL WE UNDERSTAND
THE FIRST AMERICANS.....
- and WHY THE PARTS ASSIGNED TO THEM BY THE SECOND AMERICANS
WERE DESTRUCTIVE OF THEIR WAY OF LIFE.....

CHURCHILL & FIXICO GAVE EXAMPLE AFTER EXAMPLE OF MISSED COMMUNICATION
-- MIS-UNDERSTANDING.....

WE WITNESSED DELIBERATE MISSED COMMUNICATION WHEN WATCHING THE
VIDEO ABOUT THE LEMON GROVE INCIDENT... THE ATTEMPT ON THE
PART OF THE OFFICIAL SCHOOL BOARD TO CREATE AN ALTERNATIVE
SCHOOL FOR LATINOS, HISPANICS, & MEXICAN AMERICANS IN
THE SAN DIEGO AREA....
THEN TRY TO CONVINCED THEMSELVES THAT THIS WOULD BE BETTER
FOR THE PEOPLE WHO WERE BEING SHUNTED INTO THE ALTERNATIVE
SCHOOL.....

- THOUGH WE DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE, THERE IS
MUCH FOOD FOR THOUGHT HERE CONCERNING PRESENT-DAY ADMISSION
POLICIES IN THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA.....
- THE FILM IS AN INSTRUMENT FOR ENCOURAGING A DISCUSSION OF
DIVERSITY WITHIN AN EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT....
- THE FILM IS TAME...AND PERHAPS TOO PREDICTABLE....
BUT THE SUBJECT IT ADDRESSES IS STILL VERY ALIVE....IN
OUR CULTURE...

IF SEPARATE SCHOOLS, THEN WHY NOT SEPARATE NEIGHBORHOODS....
OR SEPARATE REGIONS....
CAN THERE BE "SEPARATE BUT EQUAL"

WHOSE WAS "THE VOICE OF THE STRANGER" IN THIS SITUATION...?

WELL, THE OFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL BOARD DIDN'T LISTEN
TO THE CHICANOS & CHICANAS...BUT MADE PRONOUNCEMENTS
IN THEIR DIRECTION...AND THEN ASKED FOR FULL CONFORMITY.

MORE RECENTLY, WE HAD A SESSION ON THE SUBJECT OF AIDS
AND LISTENED TO A VERY COMPELLING YOUNG MAN TELL ABOUT
A NEAR-DEATH EXPERIENCE.....AND ABOUT THE SPIRITUAL
DIMENSIONS OF WHAT HE IS GOING THROUGH.....

-- HE SPOKE TO US OF THE PREPARATION HE IS UNDERGOING
IN MEETING DEATH.....AND OF THE MIRACLES THAT ARE
HAPPENING WITHIN THIS PROCESS.....

MOST MEMORABLE TO ME WERE HIS REFERENCES TO HIS
SUPPORT NETWORK....THAT IS, THE PERSONS UPON
WHOM HE IS RELYING DAY-TO-DAY...WHICH PERSONS
INCLUDE SOME WHO HAVE ALREADY LEFT THIS WORLD....

-- HILDEGARD OF BINGEN...OTHER SAINTS...HIS
FATHER..... WITH ALL OF WHOM, IN VERY
REAL SENSES, HE UNDERSTANDS HIMSELF TO BE IN COMMUNICATION.....

THEN WE DEVOTED TWO CLASS PERIODS TO THE SUBJECT OF RELATIONSHIPS....
SPECIFICALLY, RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN MEN & WOMEN.....

-- ON THE FIRST TRY, WE HEARD TESTIMONY ON RELATIONSHIPS
THAT ARE NEGOTIATED THROUGH POWER AND INVOLVE VIOLENCE....
or ASSAULT.....

-- AND WE LEFT CAMPBELL HALL THAT DAY KNOWING THAT OUR DISCUSSION
OF THIS TOPIC HAD NOT YET COME TO CLOSURE.....

THE SECOND TIME THE SUBJECT CAME IT WAS IN DANCE FORM...
EXPERTLY CHOREOGRAPHED BY HEATHER HALL...WITH MUSIC AND SPOKEN
WORD AND VIDEO, SOMETIMES ALL AT ONCE, ON THE STAGE OF
CAMPBELL HALL.....

BUT THE BACKDROP FOR ALL OF THIS, THIS QUARTER, WAS THE
RODNEY KING TRIAL...AND ITS DESTRUCTIVE AFTERMATH IN
LOS ANGELES, AND OTHER CITIES

-- ON the FIRST DAY, WE ASKED VICE CHANCELLOR MICHAEL YOUNG
TO SHARE HIS THOUGHTS & EMOTIONS WITH US, SO THAT WE COULD
FIND SOME WAY TO SORT OUT OUR OWN.....

-- AND THE EVENTS PLAYED HAVOC WITH THE DESIGN OF THE COURSE....

WE LOST JESSE JACKSON— BECAUSE HE SUDDENLY WAS CATAPULTED
INTO NATIONAL PROMINENCE, THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY...BY
VIRTUE OF SPIRITUAL AND POLITICAL LEADERSHIP.....

--WE PROBABLY LOST BOB & JACKIE JOYNER-KERSEE THIS WAY TOO.
- BECAUSE THE TIME FOR WHICH WE HAD SCHEDULED THEM
WAS IMMEDIATELY AFTER JACKIE'S BROTHER, AL JOYNER...
WAS ARRESTED TWICE, AT GUN POINT, FOR BEING A
SUSPECT IN A STOLEN-CAR SITUATION....

-- ~~AT THE TIME WHEN BLACKS IN LOS ANGELES WERE BEING SHOT~~

IN THE MIDST OF ALL THIS, I, YOUR TEACHER, HAD TWO OCCASIONS TO
MEET WITH MIKHAIL AND RAISSA GORBACHEV.....FROM WHICH
MEETINGS I BROUGHT YOU AN ABBREVIATED REPORT.....

AND MOST RECENTLY, ONLY LAST THURSDAY, WE HAD A REPORT FROM
SEVERAL PERSONS DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE MATTER OF MENTAL
ILLNESS & MENTAL HEALTH

eight

WHAT DOES IT ADD UP TO? WHAT CONCLUSIONS CAN BE DRAWN?

FIRST, THIS BEING WHOM WE CALL A HUMAN BEING IS CAPABLE OF
awesomely POSITIVE & CONSTRUCTIVE ACTS as well as
awesomely NEGATIVE & DESTRUCTIVE ACTS....

-- WE HAVE SEEN BOTH SIDES -- HUMAN BEINGS AT THEIR BEST....
HUMAN BEINGS AT THEIR WORST....

SAID IN OTHER WORDS, WE HAVE BEEN INSPIRED BY WHAT WE HAVE WITNESSED...
AND...ALSO...WE HAVE BEEN REPULSED BY SOME OF WHAT WE HAVE
WITNESSED.....

HUMAN BEINGS HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR ESTABLISHING BONDS AND
EFFECTIVE RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER HUMAN BEINGS....

AND HUMAN BEINGS HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR DESTROYING, EVEN
MASSACURING OTHER HUMAN BEINGS.....

-- WE GET A VERY AMBIGUOUS PICTURE OF THE NATURE OF HUMAN
BEINGS.....

-- on the one side, LOFTY DREAMS...HIGH-MINDED ASPIRATIONS....

== but, on the other side. LOTS OF CONTRADICTIONS.....

GREED, QUARRELS. PUTTING OTHER PEOPLE DOWN..DISCRIMINATION...

----- RACIAL CONDESCENSION -----

SECOND INSIGHT: ~~KEEP~~

HUMAN LIFE IS FRAGILE -- EXTREMELY FRAGILE....

MITCH KINCANNON KNOWS THIS.....

-- THE MOTHER OF PAUL, WHO IS SUFFERING MENTAL
DISORDERS....KNOWS THIS ACUTELY...AND PAINFULLY....

-- WE ARE NOT HERE FOREVER.....BUT, PROBABLY, ONLY FOR A
SHORT TIME.....

THIRD INSIGHT: SOME IDEALS OR OBJECTIVES SEEM TO HAVE PRIORITY
OVER OTHERS.....

NOT EVERYTHING CAN BE THE SAME

NICO SMITH: WE MUST LEARN TO LIVE WITH ONE ANOTHER PEACEFULLY...
AND TO OUR MUTUAL BENEFIT.....

WENDELL BERRY: WE MUST LEARN TO LIVE IN HARMONY WITH THE
Dwindling RESOURCES OF THE PLANET.....

BISHOP GRUNDTVIG: WE MUST LEARN TO APPROACH EACH OTHER AS
HUMAN BEINGS.... LIVING PERSONS....

AND JESSE JACKSON: WE DON'T FULFILL OUR LIVES SIMPLY BY
TAKING CARE OF OUR NEEDS & DESIRES..... WE MUST
THINK ABOUT THE NEEDS OF OTHERS.....

OLARGER INSIGHT HERE: WE ARE OUR BROTHERS" KEEPER...
OR, AS JOHN DONNE SAID, IT: "NO MAN IS AN ISLAND."

why

FOURTH INSIGHT: THE VOICE OF THE STRANGER IS ESSENTIAL TO OUR OWN WELL-BEING.....

-- why I became so fascinated with GORBACHEV....

-- BECAUSE THOMAS MERTON...WHEN EXPLAINING THE "VOICE OF THE STRANGER" CONCEPT...BEGAN WITH A DESCRIPTION OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE SUPER-POWERS... WHO WERE MAKING PRONOUNCEMENTS IN EACH OTHER'S DIRECTIONS... BUT NOT LISTENING.....

AND GORBACHEV SAID THAT THE MASSIVE ARMS-BUILDUP OCCURRED BECAUSE EACH SIDE HAD FEAR OF THE OTHER SIDE... BUT MISREAD EACH OTHER'S INTENTIONS BECAUSE THEY DIDN'T LISTEN TO EACH OTHERS' VOICES.....

IT WAS EXACTLY AS THOMAS MERTON SAID.....

KERRY

BIGGER POINT: DIVERSITY....not just a moral command..... BUT THE WAY IT IS..... NOT, wouldn't it be nice if we had diversity.... THE WORLD IS ALREADY DIVERSE..... It's the way it is now.... In fact, it is the way it has always been.....

-- and, as human beings, WE CAN TURN IT TO OUR ADVANTAGE.....