

NOTES TO MYSELF:

THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD

Part Five

RETROSPECTIVE OF A THEOLOGIAN

Front Cover: ^{window} ~~"Rama Greets the Ogres"~~

Back Cover: ^{clear} ~~"Three Lions"~~

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INTRODUCTION

From earliest years, I have been aware that there is one thing which, if known, all else is known. I have tried to find that one thing. What follows is a contemporaneous record of the search, covering the years 1968 to 1983. This record is complete in the sense that it covers the years I have been writing independently, that is, otherwise than for academic course assignments.

I have called it Retrospective of a Theologian because it looks to me like a retrospective exhibit of an artist's work, covering a period of his life, showing the development of his style and personality, his inspiration and his aspiration.

It may be asked why I feel it is important that this material be drawn together and presented. Why do I feel that this theologian's work should be viewed in retrospective? The question is legitimate and deserves an answer.

The answer is that the life and work of this theologian is archetypal for mankind. It is not just an individual who is seen here working out his own salvation. It is the whole community of man. The name of the author is the name of mankind, who is, really speaking, God-kind. At every point of the journey I have been understanding this truth.

One may rightly ask why I have been studying and writing all these years, why I have sacrificed so much and worked so hard. Well, the answer is plain and simple: it has pleased me to do so. I have been enjoying all this work, all along. Believe me, no other motivation could have gotten me to do it. The fundamental impulse of every man is to be happy, to do what he enjoys doing, and I am one with every man in this particular.

If I have not gained riches, fame, honors, power, favors, influence, that is because I did not try to acquire these things. And if I did not

try, it is because I was happy trying to gain wisdom. Had I wanted to acquire those other things, believe me, I could have, and with less effort and none of the severe ^(practice that is required) ascetical to gain a smidgin of true knowledge. I am happy taking the course I have taken. And that suffices to explain why I took it.

It will be easier to say what I have not done than what I have done. I have not had an academic career. I have not had an ecclesiastical career. I have not founded a reform movement, either of an ecclesiastical or an academic nature. I have not founded any political party, nor participated in one, nor tried to reform one. I have neither joined nor founded any sectarian outfit, nor any professional society, nor any humanitarian organization. I have not built or rebuilt any temples, nor any palaces, nor any schools or hospitals.)

(I have not propogandized any cause, nor solicited any contributions nor lined up support for any project, great or small. I have not been publicized or propogandized. I have never sought a platform, never promoted a program.

What have I done? Well, I have been searching for that one thing which, if known, all else is known. My life has had the savor of that Umbrian who, long years ago, left the Cathedral and the Bishop's Presence and walked out naked into the winter snow -- singing. I have earned my daily bread at various types of menial labor. I am privileged to enjoy a consort and children. We work hard, earn just enough to live on and try to remember God. We work at keeping our hearts and house clean. We work a lot, study a lot, play a lot, sing a lot.

We do not have a TV. ————— We have no musical instruments. We do not take a newspaper or a news magazine.)

(I have not seen a professional or an academic journal for over a decade. We do not have a mini-computer and the telephone, ^(until recently) was just the old standard type. Now it is an answering machine.)
(We do not have a record player or hi-fi.)

We visit or are visited by other people almost never. We have no "friends"

in the accepted sense of people who drop in informally. We never entertain. We never go to parties. Only last year were we able to purchase a car. We have no debts, live in a rented house, use ^{motorcycles} ^ for work and shopping and eat a strict lacto-vegetarian diet. We do not go to restaurants, shows or movies. If a critical mass of people lived the way we do, this economy we have would go under between sun-up and sun-down.

May the reading of this volume be enjoyable. May all men everywhere be happy. And may Truth, Righteousness, Peace and Love be established upon the earth.

David R. Graham
Adwaita Hermitage
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