

JOSEPH'S DREAM—Global Awakening in Real Time

Life is a puzzle. Through history, the times have their own circumstances and challenges—unique to places. Some challenges are self-induced others occur naturally, weather, geography, ecology, etc. For all time and all circumstances, humanity is challenged to anticipate the future even as it deals with the present.

Some puzzles are more complicated than others. Perhaps the ultimate puzzle complex is interpersonal relationships in the order of nature. Dream and destiny collaborate in giving clues as to how the ultimate puzzle works. Complicating the human perspective is the fact that humankind is both the puzzle and its solution. Clues to life's puzzle are found in genetic (DNA) history, in stories verbally transmitted and in written scriptures. I like to think of RNA as the open scripture of experiences remembered in the sequences of nucleic acids.

The interpenetration of global cultures opens them to each other's bioregional wisdom. While intercultural overreach compels accommodation and change, it requires reflective consciousness to consider the higher purposes of community, of universal wellbeing. Experience and cumulative knowledge conspire to teach people how to work with nature and have nature work for humankind. Humankind and nature ensnare each other in their habits of codependency—they are "sacrament" to each other.

In present reality, the Joseph Dream Story is a powerful lesson of virtual edification in the grander scale of real time. Nature has an abundance of varied resources at human disposal; but nature imposes preconditions on human interaction. If humans would have nature provide for their needs, they must secure nature's needs. Humankind needs to develop a sense of "prevision" if nature is to secure "provision." The sense of correlation, between humankind and nature, prevision and provision, is an ancient awareness of the correlation of dream and destiny, of moral imagination and civil behavior.

The Pharaoh of Egypt had a vivid and troubling dream. He witnessed a parade of seven fat cows coming to the river to drink; and after them stumbled seven decrepit and emaciated cows. The Pharaoh was disturbed as to what the dream meant; he was told about Joseph who had gained fame for his insight into dreams. The Pharaoh called for Joseph. Joseph explained that the seven fat cows meant seven years of abundant grain production, and the seven skinny cows represented seven years of grain-crop failure.

To appreciate the deeper meaning of the dream it must be understood that in biblical consciousness the failure of the grain-crop meant the failure of "all flesh", for as Isaiah said "all flesh is grass." The Pharaoh sensed the urgency of the moment and appointed Joseph the responsibility of storing grain in the times of plenty against the years of want. Today, the global threats to humanity are bigger than threats to the grain-crop—the threat goes to what is happening to the ecological bases of global flora and fauna. Real collapses of ecological networks are happening as is the economic capital of corporate consumerism. Human failure to muster prevision is eroding nature's sustainable ability for provision.

The correlation of divine presence in nature, of consciousness and Eucharist ("bread"), is the reality of evolving phenomena. Volitional insight compels consciousness to mindfulness to take the next step, of embracing natural symbiosis, Christian humanism and intentional Eucharist, which converge in common purposes of committed, self-giving

love. The commitment of self-giving love is precisely the living example and teaching of Jesus, The Christ, and, the mission of Cosmic Christ re-presented in second-comings of new-born consciousness. Eucharist is consciousness not only of the universal mission of the Cosmic Christ but also of Christ-presence responsible for provisioning in the here and now. “Virtuous” provision is enabled by “virtual” prevision.

If there is one virtue more than any other that determines the effective/ affective working of relationships, it is trust. If there is no reciprocal trust between parties in relationship, the relationship cannot work. Between parties must be trustworthiness and trustfulness. In dominion-based religion, based on priority of the male sex over the female, on male-cultured self-election and alienation, there can be no trust—only the culture of distrust.

The cultures of Christian nations have historically been cultures of distrust, antithetical to the teaching and example of Jesus, The Christ. And to whom might we turn today for an example for affective/ effective relationship? To the trusting and trustworthy personality of the child. “Unless you become as a child there’s no place for you in my kingdom.”

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