

The Conspiracy of Arrogance and Ignorance

Dominion Politics, a "Conspiracy of Arrogance"

Submitted by [Sylvester L Steffen](#) (not verified) on Feb. 19, 2010.

<http://ncronline.org/news/women/mother-millea-speaks-about-visitation>

The "visitation" should not be looked at in isolation from broader cultural issues; it feeds into joined religious/ political fears. The culture of traditional religious dominion conspires with political dominion, e.g., Republican politics and the Religious Right. The Catholic clergy in America has been in Bush-Cheney's pocket largely over single issue politics, i.e., making decisions for women in re "pro-life" issues.

The "culture wars" of today are waged by the same mindsets as the wars of the crusades, the medieval cities/ states wars. Always, God is implicated to justify violence. Peace never has been and never will be the outcome of gratuitous, pre-emptive violence. The compassionate soul recognizes that in the order of nature "life consumes life." The inherent violence of self-consumptive nature, if manipulated in violent and insensitive ways, can wreak the ultimate consumption of all by the greed appetite of dominance.

In God's Name, the terrorism of violence is justified, whether in terms of wars or the suppressions of groups. The policy of intentional violence is bankrupt because "pre-emptive" gratuitous violence ("visitations") inspires other gratuitous violence, the "culture of death," and the conspiracies of arrogance and ignorance.

In his book "JFK and the UNSPEAKABLE, WHY HE DIED AND WHY IT MATTERS," James W. Douglass, © 2008, Orbis Books, Maryknoll, NY 10545-0308, reveals the "plausible cause theory" behind the deaths of President Kennedy, Robert Kennedy, Martin Luther King, Mohandas K Gandhi, and even Thomas Merton, namely, the US-CIA policy of deterrence and pre-emptive violence to secure US nuclear superiority/ control. Dominion theology also uses subtle means to accomplish its political objectives.

The political campaign now in full swing for the upcoming election is a referendum for a "culture of reconciliation", or for the continuing bankrupt policy of the death-culture of "pre-emptive violence" and expenditure of human and national capital. The ideology of violent political culture, in industrial-military interests, and the policy for "waging peace" are the bottom-line issues in the upcoming election. Nothing less than human dignity, the fate of humankind and life on Planet Earth are at issue. The religious reconciliation of female/ male equality is a cultural issue of GREAT RELEVANCE particularly in this moment of history.

The cause of global peace and justice by engagement in talks to defuse violence is seen as a threat to the industrial-military complex; (to Rome;) it is this complex President Eisenhower warned about. At issue are self-interests of the industrial-military corporations, as was crassly exhibited in the Bush-Cheney "pre-emptive" war in Iraq, a war driven under pretenses of "national security." The word "security" conjures up a magic fabric to cover naked violence, the culture of the "unspeakable" policy that justifies pre-emptive violence.

Douglass weaves the logic that the same unspeakable conspiracy of violence that killed Jesus is used today in global dominion. The rationale of dominion uses power and violence in its interests because it can, with impunity, it thinks. Wars of deterrence, of pre-emption, or by whatever name, guarantee more violence because their policy is the intentional use of violence to secure political dominion. The culture of violence is on its face a "culture of death." Religious/ political dominion and corporate greed are the paired jaws that chew up people, nations and nature.

The "intensional" self-consumptive requirements of life calls for a compensating balance of "intentional altruism" that opts the communal interests of compassion for the personal self-sacrifice of individual life—what is the compassionate Doctrine of the Eucharist, as witnessed in the intentional self-giving of Jesus, Gandhi, JFK, RFK, MLK and Merton. Eucharist is non-violent altruism in person-to-person, people-to-people relationships. The politics of greed and power will continue to campaign against transparency and non-violence. Nothing less than life-on-Earth is at issue; this is "WHY THEY DIED AND WHY IT MATTERS." Eucharistic non-violence is the "right" representation of religion in the political and religious context.

Faith Alone, a "Conspiracy of Ignorance"

By the time I was 24 years old I directed myself to the beguilingly easy-seeming but frighteningly accountable effort to bridge the chasm between faith and reason, religion and science. More than fifty years later the chasm remains, and my oath still imposes on me. The patriarchal arrogance of the past is in this time a "conspiracy of ignorance."

By the end of my tenth year studying with the Society of the Divine Word (SVD, Second Year Philosophy, 1956) I had come to an enlarged worldview in which I perceived a seriously damaging cultural disconnect between faith and reason, religion and science. I was beginning to see that my life would not be that of an institutional priest. I presented this to Father Prefect John Musinsky and revealed that I was considering departure from the SVD before the Fall Semester. He questioned me if I was firm or if I would hold off for a year. I agreed to stay another year.

Fr. Musinsky proposed that I have regular discussions with him and Fr Wally Joyce (Brother Postulant/Novice Prefect) during the coming year. I agreed. I deeply appreciate the special attention they gave me. I was now a First Year Theology student. Professor Prefect Musinsky early informed the Class that a serious Paper should be undertaken by each student theologian and finished by February. My Paper picked up on my heavy concern of the faith/ reason, religion/ science disconnect. I titled my Paper, "Religion: A Rational Consideration." This is published in my book **QUANTUM RELIGION**, the Good News of Rising Consciousness, Appendix I, pp 255-270. www.secondenlightenment.org

At the end of First Year Theology I was still clear and committed in my determination to move on. Years later I received a supporting letter from Fr. Musinsky; he wrote: "I would like to encourage you in your apostolate. The Church today does not know how to address modern man in such a way that she gets through to him. Modern man is certainly caught up in science and the approach from within his world is indeed promising." 12/5/99

From 1958-1960, I had a joined Botany/ Agricultural Engineering Research Grant to study "The Effects of Drying Method on the Germination of Corn." My thesis is in the Iowa State University Library, Ames, IA. I graduated with my MS degree in Botany from ISU, May 1960. From 1958-1995 I was associated in agribusiness (Harvestall Industries, Inc) with my brother Vincent who was Chickasaw County Representative to the Iowa House and Speaker of the Iowa House. We developed and sold our patented system for drying and storing corn grain on farms (google: *chillcuring*).

Until now I'm totally involved in my passion to raise public consciousness of the religion/ science disconnect. I have distilled my sense of religious/ scientific connection under the caption **ENLIGHTENED EVOLUTION**—a self-study science/ religion curriculum is posted at www.evolution101.org A more extensive Curriculum Vitae and postings can be found at www.acolyte.gather.com other postings at www.justifiedliving.gather.com/nature