

The Rhetoric of Idolatry and Self-Electionism

Self-consciousness and self-reflection are powerful virtues enabling self-advancement, but they also enable self-deception and advance bad judgment in calculated advantage of self over others.

Words matter. The rhetoric of idolatry and self-electionism threatens to do humankind in; it blights sensitivity and social insight, and it wrecks nature. The implication of idolatry and self-electionism in human behavior is in deep-past evolution and is yet alive and well. Idolatry and self-electionism are about arrogance and control, the religion and culture of patriarchal dominion.

The proclivity of self-deception is an inherited tendency well ingrained in evolutionary history. Self-electionism is a bully instinct infecting individual and group consciousness. It resorts to wars and regularly uses violence to accomplish arrogant and misinformed purposes.

Self-justification based on ignorance and arrogance is wasting humankind and Earth-life. Because humankind assumes self-superiority over other life it justifies the exploitation of other life, even to extinctions of species. Religions and cultures conveniently ignore their exploitation and wasting of web-life; they advance a myopic and unhealthy “pro-life” ethic that concentrates its singular focus on human life, not as part of holistic Earth ecology, but as a ruling value sufficient in itself. What does “pro-life” really mean? Surely it can’t mean proliferation of humankind to the point of suffocating life-essential ecologies.

The Garden of Eden Story has God imposing two universal mandates on humankind. The first is authorization to “increase and multiply;” and the second is a requirement to abstain from eating fruit from the “Tree in the middle of the Garden.” Knowledge of good and evil is what the discernment of consciousness-conscience is about. The fruit of the “middletree” is vitality itself—that which is shared by all life, and which conscience discerns as necessary and right. Conscience tells that human ecology totally depends on the vitality of global ecological. Wasting global vitality, the “original” means of all life, is original sin, as true in the past as in the present.

The likelihood of permanently trashing ecological life is a prospect that seems all too possible under the license of unrestrained exploitation. Self-interest passion to control Earth resources gets increasingly intense as population pressures increase and natural resources fail. In the circumstance of increased population and decreased resources self-interest intensifies violence and causes greater violence in response; which hastens the greater waste of nature.

The arrogance of self-electionism is idolatry for it presumes authorization that belongs to God alone. The electionism of males over females, justified in institutional religions, is the presumption supporting societal disordering, including rape of women, land and nature. Walter Brueggemann rightly assesses the human predicament when he observes that the exploitation of women and nature roots in the same religious/ cultural mindset, and that restraint from wasting one or the other cannot happen except both are restrained. <http://ncronline.org/news/justice/biblical-narrative-economic-policy>

It's for women to step forward and challenge male inauthenticity/ exploitation. Males still get sex wrong, get religion wrong, and they aren't likely to get either right unless and until women stand up to their ignorance/ arrogance, in a "pro-life" way.

Women of the world! your mothering is the hope of the present, of the future. Male self-arrogation is incapable of mothering, of backing away from its accustomed violence and exploitation and moving toward equal treatment of women/ nature. Nature's restoration isn't an intentional habit of male thinking; to the contrary, male ego-culture habitually violates nature, motherhood and the communal persona. The revelation of deity, of Trinity, is an insight of communal solidarity, of family and global societies, a sense of harmony that escapes the rationality of patriarchal theology/ politics. God is honored in the lived respect for God's revealed plan, nature's pattern—intentional symbiosis.