

ANALOGIC CONSCIOUSNESS—the Teacher of Religion

While it is said “comparisons are odious”, it is by way of comparisons that we learn. For example, perhaps the most convincing lesson why we need religion comes from the experience of irreligion. When we behave irreligiously toward each other we become truly odious to each other.

The “analogies of reciprocals” reveal the affirmative face of the coin of learning what religion is. Reciprocal accountability affirms the way of symbiosis, while disregard for reciprocal accountability thrusts upon us the experience of frustrated relationships and the frustration of religious accountability, what is “irreligion”.

<http://www.secondenlightenment.org/Reciprocity,%20accountable%20culture.pdf>

Everything we know and believe about God is by way of “analogic consciousness.” The greatest teacher of religion, of God, for all times, is Jesus Christ of Nazareth, the carpenter’s son. An answer to the question “what good can come from Nazareth?” is: the supreme lesson that religious learning is by way of analogy, by way of parables and comparisons.

The Parable of the Good Samaritan (a people regarded as insignificant) teaches by way of comparison, i.e., comparing the insignificant Samaritan to priests and the “significant”, and the disregard of the “significant” for the plight of the person in deathly peril from thieves in contrast to the regard of the insignificant Samaritan who rescued the sorry victim and returned him/her to health.

Today the sorry victim of thievery is nature. Where are the priests, the bishops, the preachers and the corporate significant? Who are the thieves? We, who disregard the vulnerability of nature and continue to rob her of the largesse of her vitality.

Analogic learning exposes to us in our behavior and belief who we really are. The leadership of institutional religion and of corporate exploitation, and us—all of us sinners—the “significant” ones, still exhibit disregard for nature, disregard for the “insignificant.”

<http://ncronline.org/news/justice/business-educators-meet-focus-ignatian-values>

<http://www.gather.com/viewArticle.action?articleId=28147497775554>

<http://www.authorhouse.com/BookStore/ItemDetail.aspx?bookid=24059>