

Global Priors Council
Chicago

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PRACTICAL EDGES

I have found it a great portent that Bultmann died during our Assembly, and the last of those whom we have stood upon in deep gratitude in order to get our thrust around the world is gone. We are on our own, and that is what finally got communicated to me by your standing tall as generals. God has put us on our own, and we are ready to be on our own.

I want to rehearse twelve things in four series of 3 each that have to do with our internal life, although in these next four years and particularly this next year, it would be inappropriate for us to think very much about our interior existence. I anticipate four years from now you are literally going to reconstruct our Order, and we will have something to reconstruct it over by that time. Now we can but glimpse it in the distance.

I want to underscore the fact that in going areal this year we are taking the largest step forward of any time up to now. This is going to put a horrendous burden on the areas, and in particular on the area priors. I know in many ways you have counted on me to stop the buck; now the buck has got to be stopped out in those areas. We have depended upon one another to do our planning together. Now the areas are going to have to assume great responsibility. The glory of this Council is that you have gotten clear that you need common principles, common guidelines that any one of us know have to be fulfilled. Any general has to violate his mandate, but when he violates his mandate, no matter if he won the war by doing it, he does not question the fact that the group shoots him. If you do not understand that, then you are not ready to go areal in the sense that we are going now. When we meet a year from now, we are going to know something about his.

Second, this year we are going to initiate the Global Wedge. This is not a new dynamic; it is part of overcoming any tendency to think of Centrums as having any relationship at all to geography. These are going to have to do with pushing the social demonstrations, with intraglobal funding, and a crucial part of that experiment is going to be the people who are being located this year in every area in North America to do both Town Meeting and funding for that House. That is going to be an extremely difficult experiment, because they must not in any way belong to the Area while they are absolutely obedient to the Area. That is a crucial step forward in our global action.

The next has to do with the Panchayat. I had wanted, as soon as the assignments got relatively stabilized, to come before this Council and suggest that this be the year to set aside the five Panchayat members (there are only five and everybody else is a pinchhitter), and I was hoping they would be absolutely global, that they would be a symbol to the world, and not out of condescension to anyone. I would say on behalf of you all it would be a high honor for me to serve under someone like the Kangs or the Parekhs, and I would be delighted, as I have for many years now, to serve under a lady such as Lyn. However, when you got through with the assignments, it occurred to me that God was saying this is not the year. However, I believe that you ought to think about doing this symbolically coming into the next summer by breaking loose a body within the Panchayat dynamic. I am trying not to put any narrowing qualifications on this, as a symbol of where we have to move now in order to move next year, but I look upon this as very crucial. However, although you can do anything you want without me, you would never have had my approval of making such a move until the area priors stood up on their own feet and demonstrated to me that they were capable of thinking and acting globally.

Now the second series of three things is to cultivate the interior spirit of what we mean by being a general, by winning. This is the year in which we have no choice. I would like to talk at some length about what it means to win, but I'll just remind you of one thing: do RSI for yourself every morning. When I get up in the morning, I do not find it easy before I open my door to grasp all over again that I am the greatest. You think you train a bunch of little preschoolers to say that and we laugh, but the profundity of that is unbelievable. I have to grasp all over again that I am significant, and that God loves me.

Winning. Part of that is to recollect that one day, tomorrow, the next day, you are going to be on a slab, laid out cold. You die. That means no man ever, up to this moment, won. Only God wins. Some years ago when I was forced by the vicissitudes of life to get said to myself what I mean by eternal life, it became very clear to me that eternal life was the graciousness of Being sharing His being with my being. Finally, to win means that God, out of his infinite mercy and love, shares his winning with me, with my win. But He does not do that--not because he does not want to, but because he dare not--for someone who does not intend to win. He wants to see history done, and to do history is to win, but it is his win and not ours. That is the mood I think we have to exist in for this year.

The second one is a reminder to you. I prophesy that you are going to discover that this year immediately ahead is going to be the year in which you experience the severity of resentment. If you have any sensitivity toward the future right now, you have already has a pretaste of the resentment. You are going to resent your wife, you are going to resent this Order, you are going to resent your prior, you are going to resent everything that in any way in your imagination was related to your being in your present situation. I would like to relate that to several other things, but I won't except to remind you that the intensification of love intensifies resentment. The intensification of universal care intensifies, and does not alleviate, resentment. If you think for a moment that a year or two ago we got beyond the dark night of the soul, you never understood it in the first place. I prophesy that you are going to experience this dimension, this dynamic more under the rubric of the dark night than the long march, and in particular the dark night in the category of resentment. I say this because I believe that if you know beforehand where a tiger trap is, it is easier to avoid it.

The next has to do with apostasy, which is not separate from that. I believe that when you return from the center, you are always haloed with the dark cloud of apostasy. That dark cloud of apostasy is God's grace and the moment you forget it, it consumes you and becomes a consuming thundercloud that brings you to your knees in some form of filly-ism, of the good life, of a good job, or some form of being somebody. If this happens to you, you will not even be able to remember. The wiles of Satan at the moment of their disclosure never, never, never come across as the wiles of Satan.

Now, the next three things have to do with what I call "on target." I am deeply grateful that our women manifested themselves so this summer, which is but the symbolism of what they must have been doing all year wheresoever they were. What I saw this summer in the push of our women was that a steamroller went over you and it was on target, on target not because it was females but because it was missionally oriented. It was on target because it was performance oriented. It was on target because it was oriented toward internal collegiality. It was on target because it was a manifestation, profound manifestation, of generalship which was our concern. What it means to defend the honor of God was precisely that.

The next "on target" has to do with our troops and forces in the extended Order. This comes in two ways. First we are on the threshold of bringing into our Order people that we do not know what to do with, but whom we know are our brothers and sisters because they care. Second, we have no choice but to

replicate Social Demonstration and Town Meeting massively. Having inadequate staff already before we start, we are going to have to find ways to do Social Demonstration two by two by two with masses of people coming by to spend a week. The extended Order is coming into being. One little warning: don't ever worry if people criticize you because you are not efficient or because you make stupid blunders in these Social Demonstrations, for the important thing is not the expertise of liberals who have failed the last fifty years. The significance of you in Town Meeting and Social Demonstration is that you are a religious.

Now the third "on target" is highly complex for me and therefore I will not try to do much with it. We are being forced, as everybody in this room knows, into a whole new orbit of globality. We have become global people like none of us could dream. But we are about to do into an orbit that will make that look childish. The key to it is transparenization. For a long time we have talked about our fist going through uniqueness. Our fist is on the way to doing precisely that. You remember in 1971 where we were dealing with the social and said we fell through into the spiritual. That was a rehearsal of what is about to happen to us. If you have not confessed your Christian bigotry, your Korean bigotry, your American bigotry, your Indian bigotry, your female bigotry, your male bigotry, you had better get started, because the bottom is going to fall out. This is on target.

Now the last three have to do with "be prepareds." Almost everybody in this room has hoped and dreamed of the time when we could make some tiny contribution to the educational chaos of this world. I do not know how we are going to do it, but we have got to be sure that everybody in our Order gets through the Social Methods School as quickly as possible. We will only be prepared for what is ahead if we have been through that school.

The second thing has to do with the Global Academy. I have known for a long time that we have to retool our Global Academy. Sometimes we have said that we have got to begin to take the training of the Order seriously. I think that time is at hand. I call upon the Global Academy this fall to prepared itself for metamorphosis this spring. We want this to be done with dead seriousness even if you do not get any more done toward it than one paragraph written saying what the new function of such an educational device would be. I suspect next summer is when the job will really be done, but you have got to prepare the way. Now I do not know how you are going to handle this, but I am making one of the most serious suggestions in my life. We do not have the time nor the energy nor the troops nor the effort to do a recruitment push, but if I were going to El Bayad, I would put down Hussein somebody and then I would find a Hussein and get him there!

We have no magic in training generals, as you well know, because to become a general is a disciplined decision. I hope every House around the world will find a way to study together Sun Tzu's The Art of War. That will be helpful, but fundamentally, this is a job that only you and God do, and it needs to be done.

Now, my last word, my conclusion has to do with the four year plan. These last four years, we turned to the world. It was also four years ago that we became clear that four year plans projected in the future are only useful to people who are trying to get momentum. The Russian nation is still trying to get momentum. When you begin to get momentum, time turns inside out like a sock. Before you tried to create the spread with a four-year plan. Now you try to contain the entropy. As this Council comes to a close, I believe that you have done an incredible job of closing the entropy, of bringing focus. You have done it in many ways. Now the irony of it is tomorrow morning there will be an explosion. And then four years later you are going to try to capture that explosion.

What are we about? We have turned to the world: these next four years we will walk in it, and then later we will run in it. In these next four years, we are going to be experiencing and then doing what earlier I spoke of as sticking your fist through human reality. We are going to go through the world. I do not know what it is going to be in four years. We talked once about a tactic or strategy to use when the enemy is lined up: you bring your army around and march parallel to it, and then send a little foray over to jab, to try to find a soft underbelly, and if that foray does not find it, you send another and another and another and when it breaks through, you turn your army around and go through that opening and then attack from the rear. I think for the next four years, maybe the four years after that and maybe even the four years after that, (although I would not prophesy the latter), we are going to be jabbing. Is it going to happen when you have one of those things with the Buddhists in Sri Lanka? Is it already happening in Maliwada? Is it going to come from the work with the Shamanists in Korea? Or is it going to come with letting LENS loose again on the international business community? You are going to be striking and striking and striking until one day your fist goes through and then we will all have circled so we can come marching in tall, and we will go through. Here are your next four years; but that is nothing but what you have all been talking about--the three campaigns.