

HUMILIATION

ENGAGEMENT

TRANSPARENCY

SERVANTHOOD

I encourage you all to go back and read the spins of the priors, given at the beginning of this summer before the Research Assembly began. Common to all of them seem to be Humiliation, Engagement, Transparency, and Servanthood.

HUMILIATION

We learned that we had confronted the rock in the middle of the road, that our own lives had been crushed, that we lived in a dark cloud last year; and what we discovered was that it was our fate to live in that cloud for the rest of our lives--that that was what life is all about. O Happy Night! We discovered that we were safe in the dark cloud, though it comes to us as sheer loss. We are protected in that dark cloud, though it does not ease our pain. The suffering of our lives is our relationship to the mystery. When we try to live before anything else, we have decided to not deal with the mystery. Remember in Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, when Big Daddy and his son were becoming clear on the mundanity of their lives, Big Daddy had an attack resulting from the cancer he held in his body. His son started to rush for his drugs to ease the pain, but was stopped. Big Daddy said, "No! As long as I am in pain I know I am alive!" The only people who can do the Lord's work are the humiliated ones, not the arrogant.

ENGAGEMENT

When we have to sit, or when we sense that what we are doing is not significant, we get "antsy." We are people passionately devoted to giving our whole beings to life. We see that what life is about is the expenditure of ourselves. The trouble comes when we think we are not. Romantics like just a bit of engagement for nostalgia's sake. We are also passionate about our detachment. Wherever the task is, we go. You get passionately engaged in one place and then just pick up and immediately get passionately engaged elsewhere for the sake of creating a new world. We could not bear that except in perpetual humiliation.

TRANSPARENCY

In RS-1 transparency came to us in getting the "hell" kicked out of us when an illusion was broken. The image of a match burning through paper, or even "the mystery burning through our interior montage" is not strong enough to describe what is happening now. It is as if our lives were being burned through. It is the burning through of our daily patterns. It comes in the mundane, such as thinking about what you will wear, or how you will pack your bag, or walk down the hall. Our style has been burned through, far beyond looking better or having new blue suits. It is a very practical transparency fitting us for a radical new step. It is the re-fitting of the ship. We see that we belong to the mystery through the world. Nothing romantic about that.

SERVANTHOOD

Our humiliation, engagement, and transparency has been for creating radical servanthood--to make us authentic servants. I was rocked this summer. I had been afraid of putting Movement people in with the Order in the Uptown 5 lab because of concern over the lack of enough training or inner discipline. I could have died when a colleague slipped and stated that in front of the whole group, after they had been "running the britches" off of us all summer. One of the women reminded me, "You think businessmen are just around to make money and stay in one place. Well, we are ready any time you are!"

In being servants, I suspect we will spend the rest of our lives being the "Mr. Nobody-Blue-Foxes." And I imagine the price is going to be far dearer than in the past. The Lord has prepared us to be servants to the world. Clement Stone said, in being asked about his financial support of Nixon during the campaign, "I figured I had one chance to change the course of history so I decided to put my money on a winner." And you saw what has happened since then.

While the Lord has been working on us, he has been working on the world as well. Look at the report on the LENS courses overseas, and the letters which are still coming in from those. This does not mean the world will greet you with open arms or strew roses in our path, but it does open a slit through which we might pass.

We are living in those days in which we get ready to move. But the first of September I suspect we will be far clear about how.