

April 16, 2006 (Monday)

Second Thoughts About Logic.

Third Thought: Go Middle.

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やっぱり中道だ。



Woke up, hearing a preacher blaring out of the idiot box, “God bless America or curse America!” NY Post’s exclusive: \$1B 9/11 War, Ailing workers: Give us our share. “7,000 Ground Zero workers are suing the city. The city fights back. Where’s justice? Ugly. My room cleaner Nicole (Rumanian, working at this hotel 13 years) “The city doesn’t care a bit. We gotta be on our own. Luckily, this hotel is a hospital for me and for customers.” “Got a mosquito bite last night.” “Did you open the window?” This was just a small Easter talk.

Two Marys. First, good Mary. Mother of Jesus. Virgin Mother. Icon of blue. Clean woman. Second, bad Mary. Seductive prostitute. Dirty Mary Magdalene. Bad chemistry between Mary and Peter. Jealously. This is real as it gets. Had Mary been the first Pope, Catholicism and Protestantism might’ve been entirely different. This is a debatable issue involving two “blues”: sacred or sexy. Or perhaps both, in the eyes of Hindu-shinto spiritualism: the middle of the road.

Tomomi (my Muse in NY) and I went to Metropolitan Museum of Art, now exhibiting Hatshepsut: From Queen to Pharaoh. She was the history’s first female head of state who ruled Egypt for two decades (1479–1458 B.C.), more than 1,400 years earlier than Cleopatra. Observing those antiquities on audio cassette, I felt like a Jewish slave, way down at the bottom of society. Resentment. “Gotta get out of here. God, give us exodus. Wait, we’ve got no God. God is a monopoly of pharaohs. We need something or ‘somebody out there’ indefinable, invisible – Yahweh.

This nameless God’s first mission was to give Jews exodus, freedom, redemption: break with their tradition of pharaohs, guardians of gods, ultimate preservers of Maat, justice or truth, an abstract concept of representing the ideal state of universe and everyone in it. It’s somewhat similar to 八紘一宇 or 国体 in our cultural ethos. Hatshepsut, the first queen, let the world know that Maat was firmly established throughout Egypt. Gone was the glory of ancient Egypt.

Look at New York now. It’s ruled by the former slaves of Egypt. Egyptians are

cab drivers and Muslims targeted by NYPD as possible suspects of terrorism. An Egyptian cab driver, I met, misses his country and hate America for injustice and suspicious eyes. A Chinese taxi driver (Buddhist) in London said, "How can Muslims get away with terrorism? They're always complaining, when they are patronized by Queens? How can they judge? Neither can this Chinese.

History bears out there's always a conflict between rulers and the ruled. Pharaohs, Monarchs, Kings or Queens, dictators as oppressors and the oppressed. Masters and slaves. Capitalists and wage-earners. History also proves that the Jews have always had the short end of the stick – "chosen to suffer." Jews, by and large, resent monarchy, and love democracy. Huey P. Long, a Louisiana governor, calling himself kingfish left this famous line:

A perfect democracy can come close to looking like a dictatorship.

Amen. A democracy in which the people are so satisfied that they have no complaint he explains. And I added; the media begin to control the mind of the sheeple given to group-thinking. Adolf Hitler, Prime Minister Koizumi of Japan. He's George Bush's poodle on a leash. Worse than a distributor, for Bush's pyramid scheme. Where's justice? Winners. If losers get justice by revolution, losers get justice as winners. International tribunal's winner's justice. Japan lost the last war and surrendered because Americans dropped A-bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Iran is said to have suicide squads lined up to strike U.S., if the west kills their nuclear program. Everyone in America calls Iranians terrorists. I say, "Look, who's talking." Where is justice?

Why does that matter? Because justice is getting blurred. Japan, once considered a "100 million, all-middle class society," is rapidly transforming itself into a winner-take-all society. Says who? Says today's NYT's front page REVIVAL IN JAPAN BRINGS WIDENING OF ECONOMIC GAP, arguing to the effect that egalitarianism is at stake as rich-poor division threatens mobility. Japan IS in identity crisis and in chaos. That's bad news. But the good news. It takes a tough guy like me to thrive "on" crisis, not "in." When the going get tough, the tough get going. The risk-takers savor risk taking, and accept failures with grace. Having lost an interview job with Delight N.Y. doesn't thwart my attempt to come back again on top in Japan as a visible samurai (principled) interviewer in English.

Logic and common sense tell me one can't hope to come back at 66, given sagging morale. But Musashi must soldier on, unafraid. Samurai logic defies logic – the logic for the living. The way of samurai is found in death (Hagakure). I prefer 'dead alive' to 'living dead' shamelessly. This isn't illogic; it's PRE-LOGIC. The intrinsic spiritual value in such wind-water logic supports Hindu's circular logic, Buddhism's 'middle way' – and "situational ethics." Mixed with a female group? Why not?