

* The area of Anatolia/AsiaMinor/Turkey into which the Celts pushed, and became Greek-speaking, is still called "Galatia," meaning "Celtland." [See Chadwick pp.17,31,39, 51f.]

1. As a so-called "white" I am now increasingly seen, in nation and in world--whereas not so long ago I was "a man" (and, incidentally, not "a person," which was something less than "a man" before white women began to cause trouble for "men," good trouble in the main). To be "a white person" is less/more than to be "a white man," and to be "white" is less/more than to be a human being. All this multiple "consciousness-raising" of course involves losses as well as gains, more the latter than the former. This is continuous with the process of group/individual and we/they sophistication throughout history, the stuff of struggle and drama. Something is lost with this sophistication, this growing up to specific ("species")[homo sapiens] identification, more is gained. Let's not pretend that nothing is lost, and let's be humble to see with Elijah that "I am not better than my fathers." Pride makes blind fools who, in "causes," imagine themselves saints and become demons.

2. This thinksheet reflects (1) preparation for teaching a course on "Race, Sex, Nation, Class in the Old Testament" (fall/76) and (2) a just prior 15-day trip all over Eire, exploring for ancestors and self-understanding. Not many ancestors. Of the eight greatgrandparents, only one was near pure Celt--though all the others, coming as they did from seven other areas of the British Isles and Europe, were Celtic if the Teutons ["Germans"] are included, as they are by the best authority on THE CELTS [Penguin/70/74], Nora Chadwick [p.53]....When you get right down to close looking, I'm not to be seen lumpishly, categorically, as "a white man," but rather as eight kinds of white men fragmented into tribes from a mid-European "white" explosion beginning about the time of the Hebrew prophets (8th-6th c. BC, more toward the latter end of this period), viz. the Celtic explosion.

3. Of course there were previous explosions of "whites." Going backward from the Celtic explosion, we arrive at the Israelite (10th-9th c. BC)--and, in that area of the world, (1) prior to that, the Sumerian and Egyptian; and (2) subsequently, the Assyrian and Babylonian. Slightly westward, the Mycenaean. Later, the Greek; later still, the Roman, then "the European" [Fr., Iber., Ger.], then "the British," then "the American," now nothing: no current white explosion on the earth, and none in sight--especially since the non-white 3/4ths of our species is now consciousness-risen against white expansion. It looks as though, in the whole history of the species, if anybody's around to write it, the whites will be the only segment ever to have come close to subduing the other segments. This is a proper point of white pride, and shame. Whoever, white or other, does not read this pride/shame ambivalence into the "race" calculus will distort reality. [I'm disgusted with whites who pretend it's only shame, and compassionate toward whites who actually believe it. The only-shame myth is a growing cause of crimes against the truth and therefore against humanity.] For whites in this situation, the spiritual issue is what to do with both their pride and their shame.

4. Literacy [=writing] is a vital factor, from a number of angles, in trying to understand "the whites." Of all the white explosions in history, the only "prehistoric" [= non-writing] one has been the Celtic. [I set aside the Dravidic, because its explosion was confined to the Indian subcontinent and also because it was semi-literate rather than illiterate.] Ironically, the expression "the whites," when used narrowly, means the descendants of the least-known white explosion! I.e., "the whites" means people derivative from peoples of the Celtic area, viz. central-northern-western Europe, excluding those whites derivative from the Mediterranean basin. Of course the deeper and wider one goes with such studies, the humbler one should become, for the slipperier becomes the nomenclature vis-a-vis the pan-mongrelization of the species: a gene is like a drop of ink somewhere in an ocean, spreading to all earth's waters... the white ocean....the human ocean. "Race" itself is real, provisional, political--all three; and a fourth: normally, demonic, distortive of truth and justice.

5. Loree and I were astonished, in the Irish National Museum and Dublin's Trinity College and elsewhere, at the non-literary evidence of the great, imaginative [e.g., Book of Kells], individualistic Celtic civilization, Eire being its only comparatively pure remainder. We can now understand better Paul's letter to the Celts, whom the Greeks called Keltai, the Romans Galli, both Galatai/e--the epistle of FREEDOM!*