

In Bible study we are taught to ask not just 'What's here [in this passage]?' but also 'What's not here: what's omitted, and why?' Subsidiary questions are 'What's here that (1) is, in our present understanding, unreal, or that (2) is, for our present use, irrelevant?' And 'What's assumed that is [above] (1) or (2)?' This general method I call "Achtanalyse" [attention-analysis, parallel to "Dassanalyse"]. To take a nonbiblical document, let's do Nixon's 25 Jan 72 Vietnam speech.

<i>exists</i>	<i>doesn't exist,</i>
1	2
<i>got attention</i>	<i>but assumed</i>
<i>exists</i>	<i>doesn't</i>
3	4
<i>didn't get attention</i>	<i>exist, but assumed</i>

1. THE SPEECH GAVE ATTENTION TO WHAT EXISTS:
American participation in military action in Vietnam
American POWs

got attention

2. THE SPEECH ASSUMED THESE NONEXISTENTS (and to that extent was unreal, whether or not designedly so):

didn't get attention

A USA-proffered withdrawal-date (though advance administration-intended leaks tilted toward such, in the interest of wide audience)

Justice: explicit averring that Nixon's proposals were "fair to everybody concerned"-- in spite of their meaning Vietnamese foregoing of the dream of a Vietnam modern nation
Ultimacy: Nixon's having done all he can--"the extra mile"--to remove our military from Vietnam (whereas he's doing all he can, within the limits of political viability, to keep us in military action)

That any of the following conditions of his would appeal to Hanoi and/or the NLF:
ceasefire (=virtual capitulation to a divided Vietnam)
Saigon election (under Thieu's constitution and with his electoral apparatus intact!)
release of our POWs prior to our military removal from SE Asia
North Vietnam withdrawal into North Vietnam (when Hanoi and the NLF do not recognize the existence of political "North" and political "South")
one-sided surrender of arms (NLF only) as Saigon election-condition--with Saigonese military and police armed!
Hanoi surrender of military positions in Laos and Cambodia as well as in the DMZ and in "South" Vietnam
concession that among the ways of settling the war, a Saigon election is the right way, or at least the best way
Military deadlock--whereas the current military flow is to the advantage of Hanoi and the NLF

3. THE SPEECH WAS INATTENTIVE TO WHAT EXISTS:

Civil war in Vietnam
The other side's current military advantage
Our military encirclement of Vietnam [CIA army in Laos, Air Force dominating the skies from Thailand, Navy controlling the Gulf of Tonkin, etc.]
The extreme probability that Thieu could secure his reelection no matter what global structure were set up to assure "fairness"--and therefore the extreme improbability that anyone in authority in Hanoi or the NLF would be foolish enough to imagine the election could be "fair"
Thieu's insistence [in his speech simultaneous with Nixon's, the content of which the US administration says it knew] that the Communists could participate in the elections only if they lay down their arms and renounce violence (with the assumption that this nonviolence-potential would be onesided)
That the Saigon regime is our puppet as well as our creature

4. THE SPEECH WAS INATTENTIVE TO ASSUMPTIONS OF NONEXISTENTS:

That the USA has, with North Vietnam and the NLF, an equal right to military presence in Vietnam [not to mention Indochina in general]
That N. and S. Vietnam are separate and equal nations--untrue historically, politically, and legally, as well as socially, ethnically, economically
That the USA has the right to determine the war's end-means, viz. Saigon elections

"Gift of Attention...."-----Elliott

That the war has been rightly waged by us--worthy objectives achieved, and blood and billions not wasted [vs. Tom Wicker NYT 27 Jan 72: "a war that should not have been fought, and should be fought not a day longer"]
That we can arrive at an honorable termination of our dishonorable military presence

My comments on the above:

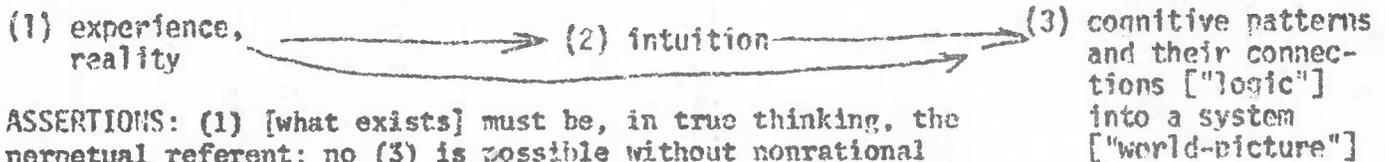
1.

2.

3.

4.

Now comment on all of the above, using Einstein's analysis of "thinking":



ASSERTIONS: (1) [what exists] must be, in true thinking, the perpetual referent; no (3) is possible without nonrational (2); (3) cannot control (1) [and much of history's agony stems from efforts at such control]....The two short arrows show the flow in "thinking" (i.e., picture-making, theorizing)....The long arrow indicates reality-testing of theory and ideology (e.g., of the official US version of the Vietnam situation): the judgment of God is feedback from (1) to (3); "thinking" is the feedforward from (1) through (2)--an indispensable step!--to (3).

A final question: *What is the function of Einstein's (2) in Bible study?*