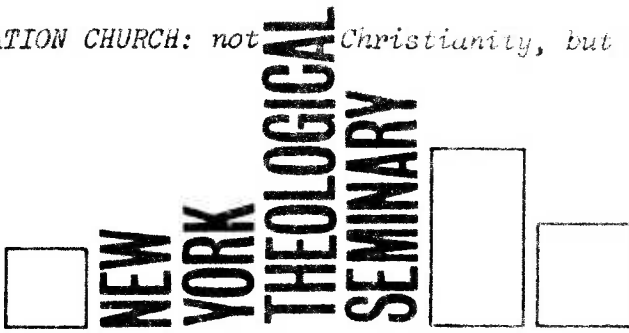


UNIFICATION CHURCH: not Christianity, but a new religion.....Elliott #1097

(See also #480, #701, #1095--
all available at yesterday's
meeting. See also, herewith,
#37, #489, #656.)



Willis Elliott
1 Mar 78

FIVE WEST TWENTY-NINTH STREET NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10001 (212) 532-4012

Warren Lewis, Prof. of Church History
Unification Seminary, Barrytown NY

c: Lara-Braud
Donnelly
Webber

Dear Warren--

Thank you for leading our NYTS forum yesterday, and thanks to Doris Donnelly for giving me the fun of introducing you! And thanks for permitting me to tape for the seminary library the 1 1/2 - hour session toward the end of which you and I began some exchanges on my #1095, which I then distributed. This letter sums and continues the interchange between me and a brother whom, as you know, I consider a scholar first class and a teacher first class. THESESES are followed by COMMENTARY, whose numbered sections do not repeat the theses.

THESES

1. In geodynamic terms, there exists today a Manichean split within Sinism between an imperial body, viz. MAOISM, and an equally imperial soul, viz. MOONISM. The fight is not just intrafamilial but involves the globe--as the Moonist soul announces its right and duty to inhabit the American body so as to be prepared to use the politico-military clout of the USA against Maoism.
2. Americans, sinically ignorant, are unprepared to defend themselves against this flooding of the Yangtze westward; and Christian theological education should use Moonism to get clergy caught up on their homework for this reason but also for the deepening and broadening of human understanding that can come with entering, with one's whole self, into Sinic consciousness.
3. From the earliest Christian times, Christian theologians have had as one of their duties the steering of a Christian course between judaizing and gnosti-cizing tendencies. Moonism is the purest conceivable form of Sinic gnosticism, and NCC Faith and Order (Jorge Lara-Braud et al) properly called it out of Christian bounds.
4. As a Christian who [as you did in the meeting] calls Islam "a 6th-c. Christian heresy," you are obliged to call Moonism a 20th-c. Christian heresy. Do you?
5. In history-of-religions perspective, a religion is "born" when from it emerges a "Bible," i.e. a sacred scripture functioning as control literature for [my definition of religion] "a particular way of seeing and living in the world." On this reading, Moonism is not Christian, but a new religion; and your fancy footwork in church-history expertise, when used by you to evade this conclusion, is unworthy of a scholar, a Christian, and a gentleman.

Truth, grace, peace,

COMMENTARY

1. A paradigm serves to move and bound a people as long as (1) it provides clarity, comprehensivity [leaving nothing of reality out], and concision, and (2) succeeds in digestive competence [i.e., ability to "eat" all opposition]. Paradigms may gain/lose/regain energy; in Moonism, the Sinic paradigm [hence forth, "yin/yang"]

has for the first time produced a global blossom, promising a fruit which will, depending on one's point of view, feed or poison the earth. Moonism, as an East/West marriage in which the Eastern spouse is Sinic, is an event in global intellectual history, entirely apart from religious considerations; and its residue may, accordingly, be more philosophical than religious and political....As to the *spiritual* imperialism of Moonism, see section #3 [below]; but as to its potential *political* imperialism, in particular its designs vis-a-vis our own country, I must revise the communist "It's your souls we want" to the moonist, anti-communist "It's your bodies we want," as the Koreans are to provide the soul (and the Japanese the money!). You are right that the Western spiritual heritage is complex and even confused on messianic fulfilment; but that's an improvement over coming up with a scheme to use someone else's children to do your bloody battling for you. The thing America needs least is a violent replacement for our dead Manifest Destiny. Biblical religion is inherently economic-political: Moonism is specifically, even programmatically, and even militarily, so--and is therefore an ideological enemy of our country.

2. I like the structure of your thinksheet, with its "kingly" central column; and think we could help each other in working together thereon. Western political models are so dynamic they tend to chaos, and Eastern tend to stagnation [rajas and mandarins]--so using each as reagent for the other could produce a politic both firm and flexible, for both church and religious association (voluntary institutions). Biblical theology could help here as illumining the analytic-decisional processes, over against deductive systems that are principled but not personned, legal but not contextual....How, specifically, have I tried to get the Sinic element into theological education? Thinksheets #37, #489, and #656--in addition to those you got yesterday--are illustrative; and pp.181-260 ["Living Harmoniously Through Conformity with the Cosmic Law"] of Streng's WAYS OF BEING RELIGIOUS (P-H/73) are great for the purpose!

3. Gnosticisms from the East are a rising tide in the West. In a federal court case recently, Robert Bellah and I and a few others managed to get the Maharishi out of the NJ public school system and thus all USA public schools: *Indic* gnosticism, on-the-table-and-crypto-, has been with us for some time. And now *Sinic* gnosticism is on the rise: a student in my class last night is taking at New School a course in Taoizing Blake! And of course we always have with us a home-brand gnosticism polluting the church: Jungianism. My objection is not to any of these gnosticisms, but rather to Christian and Jewish theologians who fail to name these as gnosticisms threatening Judaism on the opposite side and Christianity in the middle. Your adducing Athanasius, in beginning to answer my #1095 from the bottom up, was in the interest of deflecting my canon rejection of SM's DIVINE PRINCIPLE; but the cultural dynamic in operation there was precisely the steering of Christianity between its own judaizing and gnosticizing tendencies: a low canon guarded against gnosticizing, and a high christology against judaizing. You called the NCC document "incredibly reactionary" and "a hodge-podge of theological concerns," and made remarks discreditable to its drafters; but the document is "right on" in nailing SM's bible as claiming [pp.1,11 of NCC] the "new, ultimate, final truth" to complete and supplant all previous revelations, including Christianity. A special "gnosis" is claimed as key [cf. title of XnScience bible] to understanding reality and as therefore lordly principle, supervening over "Jesus is Lord" [the core of Christian creeds]: Jesus, God, Holy Spirit, dissolved in the digestive juices of yin/yang--as "the lady from Niger" "inside the tiger" at limerick's end. "ONE Lord" (Eph.4.5), not a Lord of the First Advent and another of the Second Advent; and not two equal principles, Sinic and Christian; but all "captive" to the one Lord Jesus Christ (2Cor.10.5), without separating (as Sun Moon, Tillich, etc.) "Jesus" and "the Christ."

4. You admitted that Moon may be "a great heretic" and that "I, W.L., do not believe that Sun Moon is the Lord of the Second Advent." I record this here, in fairness to you. But you do lend your name and prestige to a seminary and movement you have serious questions about; and that must leave me, and some others, with serious questions about you.

5. Canon is more than politics; it's determining the limits of a community's scripture.