

The Ugame's inventor, Rhea Zakich, got a shock in 1970 when her 10-year-old son, having picked the card which read "What do you think you'll be doing in 10 years?", said "Aw heck, I'll be dead"--and left the game. Challenged by his father, he said, "Doesn't every guy get killed when they're 18?" A Vietnam casualty.

1. All the world's children are now sort of casualties. Something new? No, what's new is mainly the number of children not casualties of infancy. Till modern medical intervention, most of the world's children died in infancy. In 30 years, earth's population will double again, and the planet will have become virtually uninhabitable from the combination of pollution and tension. The boy's prediction of personal doom may have been short, but not by much.

2. The primary megatonnage threat is human flesh, not nuclear weaponry. The human womb is about to undo us all, as Schopenhauer said it would. Almost a score of years ago, I proposed to the Government of India a plan for coercive sterilization at the third birth. A similar plan got 30% yes in parliament; Indira Ghandi lost her post over the hot issue. (She'd instituted a similar plan in Uttar Pradesh.) I got a letter from India's Minister of Health thanking me, and saying "Perhaps you should try New Jersey first." My conclusion: Humanity will not come to coercive conception control soon enough to avoid sinking under the weight of human flesh, the filthiest flesh on earth (as no other creature comes near us, individually or collectively, in pollution production out of skinbag and brain). E.g., in the USA a million teeners per year become pregnant, and over half decide to keep their babies.

3. What would Jesus think? He thought it was fini' for the present "world," and that we can be saved only by a Divine Inbreaking he called "Malkuth YHWH" (the Kingdom of God). Because I agree with him, I can't be too flapped by penultimate situations.

For me, the relativizing factors are (1) Jesus' focus on God and God's present and imminent action without abandoning the prophetic call to speak truth to power [the factor which makes me an evangelical radical], (2) death (one way or another, we're all soon dead), and (3) Geschichtesgefühl, historical depth-perception on current events. I must add (4) a critical intelligence forever ripping into illusions and slogans and frauds (Departments of War becoming Departments of Defense, certain weapons fumigated as "defensive," nations themselves aggressive accusing other nations of aggression, peoples claiming the "right" to land occupied by other people, pseudosociological scholastic arguments based on specious moral symmetries [e.g., "equality" for individuals, races, peoples, nations, classes, the sexes], rhetoric calculatedly out of touch both with reality and with intention)).

5. On "(4)" in "4" (above), two incidents within 13 days of each other, both on the Mideast:

a. On the floor of our Mass. church conference (MACUCC) 31May81, I led the resistance to an NCC-inspired resolution on the Mideast-- a resolution which subtly tilted against Israel, as the NCC Taskforce on the Mideast is PLO-leaning. That Taskforce authorized me, when a member, to do a background paper on the issue. I did an evenhanded, nontilting job, and the document was widely circulated (e.g., by the Presbyterian churches to all church personnel in the Mideast). Result: I stopped getting notices of meetings (this being the easiest way to bump somebody off a committee!). The NCC Taskforce holds that "the Palestinians" have a "need" for a homeland in Israel-held territory. (People need place: no particular people "need" any particular place.)

b. Israel "took out" the Iraqi-admitted anti-Israel reactor complex. Good idea, I thought; but my friends were appalled. I was appalled at the phoney rhetoric and ideological irrelevancies of the tut-tuters.