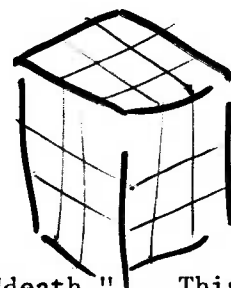


Alfies

"What's
It All
About?"

Peggy Lee's "What's It All About?" was a self-sick, poor-me whine, as is a good half of pop music. Sick and sickening. But the question is inescapably human from the moment we are "thrown" [Heidegger] into "the humming, buzzing confusion" [Wm. James] called the world till the day we "leave" (whatever that means). We are forever facing doors CLOSED (= "limits") and OPEN (= "opportunities"), and we reveal our attitudes/intentions by sticking labels on these doors...like, on OPEN doors, "freedom," "liberation," "revolution," "immortality"; and on CLOSED doors, "tyranny," "oppression," "deprivation," "death."...This thinksheet touches on some aspects of only one of these words, viz. "freedom," in relation to my teaching cube.



.....The cube you see here is exactly (1) the Rubik Cube and (2) the Elliott Cube with various developments of the 9 squares on each side, the sides being (in one dimension) "God" [divine-demonic] and "Nature-History-Society-Hope," and (in the other dimension, the individual as) "Spirit," "Body," "Psyche," "Mind."...Here's how I, at the moment, fill in the nine blanks on each side vis-a-vis "freedom":

"GOD" side: center square, "Core Reality/Personality," "Source of Energy and the free use thereof," "Limits-Setter/Overcomer." "The conception of God constitutes the general basis of a people's character" (Hegel.PH.50): "Religion is the sphere in which a nation gives itself the definition of that which it regards as ^{the} true." The other squares: Angelic, Demonic, Power, Love, Revelation, Promise/Threat, Betrayal/ Forgiveness-Reconciliation, Truth.

"Nature-History-Society-Hope" side: center square, "Nature." The other squares: Biosphere, Pollution, Deprivation (deforestation, use of irreplaceable fossil = [coal, gas] and minerals), Laws of the Sea/Sky, Endangered Species, Food Production/Distribution, Third World, Ideologies/States(=Nations)...Political test: How does a state's politics stand up to Hegel's criterion of powers-separation (46f), "the setting free of the successive elements of the Idea: so that the several powers in the State manifest themselves as separate--attain their appropriate and special perfection--and yet in this independent condition, work together...form an organic whole. The State is thus the embodiment of rational freedom...The State is the Idea of Spirit in the external manifestation of human Will and its Freedom": true community unites objective Idea-Spirit with individual subjectivity in collective actuality of such nature as frees the individual for her/his potential of both enjoyment and social contribution. My geometric mind sees the anatomy of freedom (48f) as the individual centered between the two objectivites, namely Idea (of Spirit/Freedom/Reason) and the State (i.e., the comprehensive community as over against [Jas. Luther Adams] "voluntary associations"; OR the individual at the subjective angle of a triangle whose objective angles are the Idea and the State (with Religion, Art, Philosophy, Morals, Law, and Science on a line bisecting the subjective and the objective)...What ecopolitics best furthers Freedom so defined? Free-open (poorly called "capitalism") versus compelled-closed--on which the best thing this old and now radically revised socialist has ever read is Arthur Shenfield's "Capitalism Under the Tests of Ethics," Dec/81 IMPRIMIS, free from Hillsdale College, Hillsdale MICH 49242. Churchillian comfort: Every other ecopolitics is worse for people, individuals. Except, of course, Jesus' God-given ("Kingdom of God") theocracy...Pray for test-tube Poland!...Niebuhrian "realism" on "the approximation of justice," avoiding the IFD disease of comparing a given-present reality with an unattainable/unreachable idea of "equality"/"justice."

"BODY" side: center square, "Physicality." Eight: Food, Shelter, Clothing, Air, Water, Land, Hygiene, Genitality("sex"). Under "Hygiene," include sickness/death.

"PSYCHE" side: center square, "Fantasy." Eight: Dreams, Reveries, Intuition, Imagination, Interior Opposite Sex (Jung, Sun Moon), Psychosexual "Love," Imaging, Aircastles.

"MIND" side: center square, "Reason." Eight: Ratiocination, Analysis, Left Brain, etc.

"SPIRIT" side: center square, "Decision." Eight: Will, Intention, Predisposition, etc.