

8. The techno-fix: computers will save us.....9. The Pentagon as temple: "some trust in horses....."  
 10. "Creativity." .....11. "Autonomy." .....12. Mort.Adler's SIX GREAT IDEAS.....13: "Process." .....  
 14 "Progress" (Darwin et al).

The metaphor in "Put your trust in the LORD" roots in the act of placing. In building one's house, e.g., one should study thoroughly, from the solar and esthetic standpoints, both *where* on the site to put it and *how* to orient it. Loree and I are pained to see that most builders give little thought to these eco-considerations, just as most people give little thought to where they put the sacred and the consequences of various placements. Here's a brief list:

1. Karen Quinlan is "alive" in the metabolistic sense, and that's enough for medics who locate the sacred in the life-flow, i.e., are vitalists. Others feel the millions of dollars could be more humanly spent than to keep this bio-orgasm ("vegetable"?) going after these now seven years--that one or all of the current support systems (e.g., the "heroic measure" of pumping out her congestion) should cease.

2. Are brain-damaged, inoperable, Siamese twins "viable," or is infanticide (passive form: removal of the heroic measures the court enjoined) indicated? And what about feticide (abortion): if amniocentesis shows Down's Syndrome, yes? If it's a boy and you want a girl, yes?

3. Three weeks ago (autumn/82) the AMA voted for "no code" (written contracts that forbid medics to restart a stopped heart). If one thinks this a suicide-murder contract, where is one placing the sacred?....And state legislatures are now into debating whether to stop certain hearts:capital punishment. Where, on both sides of this debate, is the sacred being put?....Capital punishment is only more obviously, not more, political than biomedical ethics.

4. Yesterday (10Oct82) Arafat predicted soon PLO/Israeli war in the Bekaa Valley:Koranally, he cannot conceive of surrendering any of "the Islamic homeland" (cf. Khomeini) to infidels (especially Jews!). The sanction of the sacrality of the land is used as forcefully (but more cleverly, with "modern" distancing) by Begin vis-a-vis the territory of David's Israel. Near Eastern land-claim/counterclaim has occasionally been quieted (by empire), but (within the limits of "history") I see no possibility of peace, and so consider Reagan's talking about peace not only vacuous but pernicious (whether or not one judges it politically "necessary")....Other biblical locations of the sacred: promise(hope), covenant(torah, book), peoplehood, Jesus.

5. One may locate the sacred in a person, a people, the individual, or humanity. All idols, says Jas.Gustafson (THEOLOGICAL ETHICS, I): "Ptolemaic" anthropocentrism, which should yield to theocentrism (a radical theism, a stoic parallel to H.Rich.Niebuhr's radical monotheism)....a fundamental attack on all locating of the sacred center in our species, including "our little systems" (e.g., politicized forms of Left--e.g., Liberation Theology--and Right--e.g., Moral Majority; and the chauvinisms of either sex, of any race or class or nation).

6. Taboo, the negative sacred--e.g., in sound: never say "shit," and censor-burn books that do.

7. Sacred in ideas---e.g., "actual equality" (LBJ, a fatal idol-phrase, says Theo.H.White, AM. IN SEARCH OF ITSELF (H&R/82))....And "wholeness," "wellness," "fulfilment" (narcisisms of the individual, inner/outer journeys, flesh/soul)....Resacralization of "nature."