

Lay and Religious States of Life: Their Distinction and Complementarity

The Goodness of Achieving and the Goodness of Letting Go

(or: What does it mean to pray “Thy Kingdom Come”?)

Activities of Life

BUSINESS (Cosmos, marketplace)

All research, development, production, distribution, exchange, management by which we

wrest support from the Cosmos
gain control of the Cosmos

All the activities by which we
put the world ahead and
make it fit to live in.

MARRIAGE (Home, hearth)

Love and striving of husband and wife
Give and take between parents and
children

The building of the family of humanity

GOVERNMENT (Society, forum)

Every exercise of social, political, artistic, athletic, medical, psychological, educational, and legal technique in human affairs that aims at the fullest measure of human freedom in organized community (domestic, civil, or industrial).

Essential Goodness & Dignity

of ownership and
taking care of things

PROPERTY

of carrying life and
love forward

SPOUSE

of organizing a fuller
life in freedom for all
people

PERSONALAUTONOMY

A. Essential Limitations: How they will be “absent” (transcended) in the Kingdom

Business ends in its opposite,
in a world in which:

- 1—we will move easily
- 2—none will need anything because all will possess everything
- 3—life in the kingdom will be marked by freedom from care

Marriage ends in its opposite,
in a world in which:

- 1 —“they no longer marry or give in marriage”
- 2—the human family will have come to its perfection
- 3—life and love together will be held in perfect measure without pairing

Government ends in its opposite,
in a world in which:

- 1—we will be captivated by the image of God
- 2—we will be “in bondage”: unable to sin, “forced” to choose complete happiness for ourselves and for all other saved creatures.

B. Essential Ambiguities: How they cannot place us in the Kingdom

There is no sustaining of the life of the present and there is no putting it ahead without paying a price:

All changes of energy (both physiochemical and biochemical) into more available forms are simultaneously accompanied by the transformation of energy into less available forms. There’s a trend toward depletion and termination.

1—in the very act of perpetuating life & love, marriage is unable to rescue life and love from time and death:

- A—parents give life only to lose it themselves
- B—love, though gained, never quite succeeds in bridging the inevitable otherness of one’s partner.

2—Total unity in which each becomes him/herself as he/she succeeds in giving him/herself remains the goal, but after the manner of a distant shore, viewed but not reached. Post coitum tristitia: “after lovemaking sadness.”

Freedom does not produce the Kingdom; the organization of free people in a community of loving respect for person in the very act of liberating people from the inhuman condition of the oppressed forge by its very technique a new web of planning, involvement, coordination, information.