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PAPERS (3014)**

BOX 19

FOLDER 43

**THINKING GOOD IS
THANKING GOD**

NOVEMBER 20, 1983

THINKING GOOD IS THANKING GOD

11/20/83

THIS COMING THURSDAY IS THANKSGIVING DAY, A DAY SET ASIDE BY PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION FOR PERSONAL AND NATIONAL CONTEMPLATION OF THE BLESSINGS OF LIFE.

IN THE PLAY 'TWIGGS', THE FEMALE LEAD IS PREPARING A THANKSGIVING DINNER FOR A LOAD OF VISITING RELATIVES, AND SIGHS, 'THIS HOLIDAY IS AN AWFUL LOT OF WORK...NO WONDER NO OTHER COUNTRY CELEBRATES IT.'

BUT DESPITE THE WORK IN PREPARING LAVISH FEASTS, THANKSGIVING IS PROBABLY THE PUREST HOLIDAY OF THE ENTIRE YEAR. FOR MOST OTHER HOLIDAYS HAVE BEEN PERVERTED BY MATERIALISTIC ENDS AND ~~NXXDX~~ NATIONAL PRIDE OR ETHNIC VANITY...AND A GOOD FOR INSTANCE IS CHRISTMAS WHICH HAS DETERIORATED FROM THE OBSERVANCE OF A BEAUTIFUL SPIRITUAL IDEA TO A FRENZIED EXCHANGE OF NON-DURABLE GOODS.

THANKSGIVING ALONE HAS RETAINED ITS ORIGINAL CHARACTER. EXCEPT FOR A FEW TURKEY GROWERS AND CRANBERRY MERCHANTS, NOBODY IS DESPERATELY TRYING TO CAPITALIZE ON THIS HOLIDAY.

THANKSGIVING STILL BELONGS TO THE PEOPLE, TO THE FAMILIES. OTHER HOLIDAYS TRUMPET OUR VICTORIES, OR FLATTER OUR CONCEITS...EVEN MOTHER'S DAY BECOMES A COMPETITION IN EXHIBITIONISTIC SENTIMENTALITY...WHICH LOSES ITS MEANING. 'HATE YOUR MOTHER DAY'

▶ IT IS A PITY THAT OTHER COUNTRIES DO NOT CELEBRATE ^{THANKSGIVING} IT, FOR IT IS THE ONE UNIVERSAL HOLIDAY. IT PRAISES THE PROCESS OF CREATION AND THE MUNIFICENCE OF NATURE//IN GIVING SO FREELY AND LAVISHLY//WHAT WE TAKE FOR GRANTED ALL THE REST OF THE YEAR.

IT IS A MARVELOUS REMINDER THAT MAN NEVER

CREATES ANYTHING. HE SIMPLY TAKES FORCES
GIVEN TO HIM AND PUTS THEM TOGETHER IN CREATIVE
WAYS. THANKSGIVING IS AS MARVELOUS TIME TO BE
GRATEFUL//FOR THE FLOW OF GOD-MIND AS IT COMES
THROUGH US TODAY//.AND THROUGH THE GENERATIONS
OF THE PAST//.THE FRUITS OF WHOSE LABOR WE ENJOY
WITH ALMOST NO AWARENESS OF THE PAINS AND
PERILS ATTENDING IT.

THIS UNAWARENESS,//THIS UNCONSCIOUS INGRATITUDE,
//INCULCATES IN PEOPLE A DANGEROUS PRIDE,//
HARDNESS OF HEART,//AND A FALSE SENSE OF SELF-
SUFFICIENCY//THAT LEADS TO MUCH OF MAN'S
INHUMANITY TO MAN.

THANKSGIVING,//IN ITS OWN MODEST WAY,//TRIES TO
REMIND US//.NOT JUST WHAT WE HAVE TO GIVE THANKS
FOR,//BUT WHAT WE HAVE TO GIVE THANKS FROM.

PROJECTION

WE MAY VARY BY GREAT DEGREES IN THE LEVELS OF
OUR STATE OR STATION IN LIFE...THUS THERE WOULD

CERTAINLY BE A VARIATION IN REASONS FOR THANKS-
GIVING//IN TERMS OF WHAT WE MAY HAVE TO GIVE
THANKS FOR.

BUT WE CAN ALWAYS GIVE THANKS FROM THE
REALITY AT THE ROOT OF OUR BEING//.IN WHICH
WE ALWAYS HAVE THE NON-MATERIAL MEANS//TO
FIND A LIFE OF HEALTH AND FULFILLMENT.

WITH A GRATEFUL HEART, ONE IS NEVER POOR. WITH-
OUT IT ONE IS NEVER RICH. ONE OF THE DANGERS
OF HAVING TOO MUCH IN A MATERIAL SENSE//IS THAT
WE TEND TO LOSE SIGHT OF THE REAL RICHES OF
LIFE. THUS WE ALLOW THE ATTITUDE TO ATROPHY.

WEALTHY DANGERS

OF GRATITUDE

ABOUT SOME

A ~~WOMAN~~^{WOMAN} CONSULTED HER DOCTOR ~~DUE TO~~^{DUE TO} SEVERE
ACHES AND PAINS AND TENSIONS AND NERVOUSNESS.
HE ADVISED HER TO GET A JOB. SHE PROTESTED
THAT SHE WAS TIRED ALL THE TIME. HE SAID,
'MADAM, YOU NEED SOMETHING TO BE TIRED FROM,
NOT TIRED OF. THE SYMPTOMS YOU DESCRIBE ARE

THE RESULT OF TOO MUCH COMFORT IN THE HOME AND
TOO MUCH INGRATITUDE IN THE HEART.'

THE PHRASE 'THANK GOD' HAS BECOME A CLICHE.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN? HOW DO YOU THANK GOD? HOW
DOES A FISH ~~THANK~~ WATER?

ECKHART - 'I NEVER THANK GOD FOR LOVING ME,
FOR HE CAN'T HELP HIMSELF.'

THANKSGIVING IS NOT FOR GOD, BUT FOR US. PRAISE
RAISES OUR CONSCIOUSNESS. THE ONLY WAY YOU CAN
BE SURE YOU ARE THANKING GOD IS IF YOU ARE
THINKING GOOD. THIS ~~WORD~~ GOOD IS A VARIATION
OF THE WORD GOD. GOD IS GOOD - LITERALLY.

ASTRONOMER JOHAN KEPLER - 'O LORD, I AM
THINKING THY THOUGHTS AFTER THEE.'

THE OLD IDEA OF THANKSGIVING WAS 'COUNT YOUR MANY
BLESSINGS...COUNT THEM O'ER AND O'ER.' BUT WHEN
THOSE BBLESSINGS ARE INADEQUATE, THERE IS A

SUBTLE TENDENCY ~~TO~~ TO 'COUNT YOUR ENVIES ONE-BY-ONE'
... IF YOU HAVE PANTS WITH PATCHES ON THE SEAT, THE
OLD THOUGHT WOULD HAVE YOU GIVE THANKS TO GOD
FOR THE PANTS, PATCHES AND ALL. THIS REFLECTED
THE ~~OLD~~ ~~THEOLOGY~~ OF THE GRACE OF POVERTY --

'I AM GRATEFUL FOR MY LITTLE NOW,
FOR I ~~WILL~~ WILL HAVE ABUNDANCE BY AND BY.'

➤ SO I SAY, TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT THE IDEA OF GIVING
THANKS FOR YOUR WORN-OUT CAR, // YOUR LOW-PAYING
JOB, // YOUR PAIN-WRACKED PHYSICAL BODY, // FOR THIS
IS TO CENTER YOUR ATTENTION // ON LIMITATION AS
BEING YOUR LOT. MUCH AS YOU TRY TO BE POSITIVE
ABOUT IT, // YOU ARE REALLY ~~NE~~ SENSITIVE AT HEART.

➤ LOOK CLOSELY AT JESUS BEHAVIOUR ON THAT OCCASION
WHEN HE WAS FACED WITH 5000 HUNGRY PEOPLE. THEY
DISCOVERED THAT THEY HAD ONE BOY'S LUNCH. WE
HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT HE THANKED GOD FOR THIS
SUPPLY... BUT LOOK AGAIN.

'HE LIFTED UP HIS EYES AND GAVE THANKS...'
HE LOOKED UP, AWAY ~~FROM~~ THE SYMBOL OF LACK, TO
REALIZE THE ALLNESS OF GOD...AND HE GAVE THANKS,
NOT FOR THE MEAGER LUNCH, BUT FROM THE LIMITLESS
SUPPLY IN GOD.

THEN, IN THIS CONSCIOUSNESS OF SUPPLY, THE
DISCIPLES WERE TOLD TO DISTRIBUTE THE FOOD -
AND THERE WAS ABUNDANCE.

ACTUALLY, WHAT HAPPENED HERE WAS A CHANGE
OF THOUGHT. THE DISCIPLES HAD BROUGHT A
NEGATIVE REPORT OF LACK. JESUS GOT HIMSELF
INTO A POSITIVE FRAME OF MIND BEFORE TAKING
ACTION.

IT IS NOT A MATTER OF REJECTING THE PRESENT
SUPPLY. BUT IT IS SEEING THAT SUPPLY - NOT AS
AN EVIDENCE OF LACK - BUT AS A FORECAST OF
ABUNDANCE.

PENNY

'IN GOD WE TRUST'

FOR INSTANCE...SUPPOSE YOU HAVE A NEED ~~FOR~~ MONEY,
PERHAPS YOU HAVE A DOLLAR BILL - EVEN IF IT IS
YOUR LAST ONE. TURN YOUR THOUGHT AWAY FROM THE
'DOWN-TO-YOUR-LAST-DOLLAR' CONSCIOUSNESS...TO THE
REALIZATION THAT THE DOLLAR REPRESENTS SUBSTANCE
IN CURRENCY - CENTER YOUR THOUGHTS IN THAT
CURRENCY OR 'FLOW'. SO YOU CAN GIVE THANKS -
NOT ~~FOR~~ THE DOLLAR, BUT FROM THE CONSCIOUSNESS
OF THAT EVER-PRESENT FLOW.

SO THE THANKSGIVING PRINCIPLE IS THE KEY TO
POSITIVE THINKING. YOUR NEGATIVE THOUGHT IS
CENTERED ON HOW BAD THINGS ARE. TURN AWAY FROM
WHAT YOU HAVE NOT AND REALIZE WHAT YOU HAVE IN
TERMS OF YOUR ACCESS TO THE UNIVERSAL FLOW, GIVE
THANKS FROM THIS AWARENESS. SUDDENLY YOU ARE
IN A POSITIVE FRAME OF MIND. THIS GOOD THOUGHT
IS YOUR THANKSGIVING.

IN THIS POSITIVE STATE OF MIND IT IS AS IF THE SPIRIT CLAPS ITS HANDS WITH JOY BECAUSE WE ARE MAKING OURSELVES 'ORGANS OF ITS ACTIVITY.' IT IS LIKE THE RETURN OF THE PRODIGAL SON, WHEN THE FATHER SAID, 'LET US DRINK AND BE MERRY, FOR MY SON WHO WAS DEAD IS ALIVE AGAIN.'

THANKSGIVING DAY SHOULD BE A DAY DEVOTED TO THINKING GOOD..AND THE KIND OF STOCK-TAKING THAT CAN LEAD TO IT.

IF YOU FIND THAT YOU HAVE BEEN OVERLY-CRITICAL OR FAULT-FINDING OR UNFORGIVING...EVEN IF THESE STATES CAN BE JUSTIFIED IN TERMS OF WHAT OTHERS HAVE DONE // YOUR HEALTH OF MIND, BODY, OR AFFAIRS CANNOT AFFORD THE LUXURY OF THIS LEVEL OF THINKING.

LIFT UP YOUR EYES, // GET SOME ALTITUDE IN YOUR THINKING, // FOCUS ON THE INHERENT GOOD, // GIVE WAY TO THE CREATIVE FLOW.

IN HUMAN RELATIONS THERE IS ALWAYS A POINT OF GOODNESS IN EVERY PERSON. THIS SHOULD BE THE STARTING POINT. 'MAGNIFY THE LORD'

TO MAGNIFY MEANS TO 'MAKE GREAT OR GREATER'.

GRATITUDE MAKES US GREAT, // INCREASES OUR SELF--
WORTH, // EXPANDS OUR ABILITY TO SEE THE GOOD
IN PEOPLE AND SITUATIONS, // THUS TO EXTRACT THE
BEST FROM LIFE.

WE TALK ABOUT 'BEHOLDING THE CHRIST' IN SOMEONE.
IT IS THE HIGHEST FORM OF THINKING GOOD, SEEING
FROM THE HIGHEST POINT OF VIEW. YOU CAN'T SEE
THE CHRIST IN ANOTHER EXCEPT YOU SEE FROM THE
LEVEL OF THE CHRIST IN YOU.

WHEN YOU SEE FROM THE CHRIST, // YOU SEE FROM THE
AWARENESS OF ALLNESS. YOU SEE THROUGH 'SPIRIT-
COLORED GLASSES.' IT IS A KIND OF THINKING GOOD
THAT IS THANKING GOD.

THIS INTRODUCES A NEW MEANING FOR THANKSGIVING.
NOT JUST A PASSIVE RESPONSE TO THINGS AS THEY ARE
...GIVING THANKS FOR BLESSINGS. THAT IS GOOD...
BUT THERE IS SO MUCH MORE, IT IS, OR CAN BE,
AN ACTIVE PROJECTION OF GOOD THROUGH SEEING
TRANSCENDENTALLY. ^{As you} CONSIDER TAKING A THANKSGIVING
WALK, EVEN IF IN IMAGINATION, AND PROJECT A
POSITIVE BLESSING TO PEOPLE, // CONDITIONS, // OR
THINGS. NOT GIVING THANKS FOR THEM, BUT GIVING
THANKS FROM THE AWARENESS THAT BEHIND EVERY
APPEARANCE IS THE WHOLENESS OF GOD.

THE HEBREW WORD FOR THANKSGIVING IS 'YAW-DAW'
WHICH LITERALLY MEANS A STRETCHING FORTH OF OPEN
HANDS. THUS THE 'GIVING' IN RELATIONSHIP TO GOD,
IS A LETTING, A STEPPING BACK...A TIME OF
THANKS-LETTING.

SO IN CONSCIOUSNESS, STRETCH FORTH YOUR HANDS
IN A GIVING SPIRIT TO ALL THE WORLD.

YOU WILL THINK POSITIVE THOUGHTS OF PEACE, LOVE, HARMONY, ETC. AND THIS THINKING GOOD IS THANK-
ING GOD.

AND OUT OF THIS EXPERIENCE OF SEEING THE ~~GOOD~~
CAN EVOLVE THE BEAUTIFUL PRACTICE OF CELEBRATING
THE GOOD. FOR YOU ~~W~~ILL SEE MUCH THAT IS BEAUTI-
FUL, MUCH THAT EVIDENCES AFFLUENCE AND SUCCESS.

THIS SHOULD LEAD TO GRATITUDE THAT YOU WERE
BORN WITH EYES TO SEE//AND EARS TO HEAR//AND
SENSES TO APPRECIATE//THE BEAUTY AND ABUNDANCE
OF NATURE.

▶ LOOKING AT A SUNRISE I ALWAYS RECALL THE CONCLU-
SION OF ROSTAND'S 'CHANTICLEER' - THAT HUMBLE
ROOSTER WHO THOUGHT IT ~~W~~AS BECAUSE OF HIS CROWING
IN THE MORNING THAT THE SUN ROSE. MORNING AFTER
MORNING HE ROSE EARLY AND CROWED...AND INDEED
THE SUN DID RISE! BUT ONE DAY HE OVERSLEPT, AND
WHEN HE AROSE THE SUN HAD ALREADY RISEN.

IT WAS A GREAT DISILLUSIONMENT AND A BLOW TO HIS EGO...LEADING TO FEELINGS OF SELF-DOUBT AND INSUFFICIENCY. HOW INEFFECTIVE HIS LIFE WAS! THEN HE HAD A GREAT THOUGHT -

'IT MAY BE THAT IT IS NOT MY POOR VOICE THAT BRINGS ON THE DAY, BUT THIS AT LEAST I CAN DO, AND NOTHING CAN DEPRIVE ME OF THE JOY OF IT... IF I MAY NOT CAUSE THE SUN TO RISE, I MAY LIFT UP MY VOICE AND CELEBRATE ITS RISING.'

THIS IS A WONDERFUL KEYNOTE OF THANKSGIVING.

SOME PEOPLE MAY DO GREAT THINGS AND HAVE MUCH IN THE WAY OF HEALTH AND POSSESSIONS...THUS SEEMINGLY HAVE GOOD REASON FOR THANKSGIVING.

BUT EVEN IF ~~YOU~~ YOU DO NOT HAVE MUCH, // YOU CAN REJOICE IN WHAT OTHERS HAVE // OR WHAT THEY CAN DO. // YOU CAN CELEBRATE THE FLOW.

PERHAPS THAT IS WHAT TRUE AFFLUENCE IS... NOT JUST THE FREE FLOW OF SUBSTANCE INTO YOUR LIFE OR YOUR COFFERS... BUT THE ABILITY TO CELEBRATE ALL THE

ABUNDANCE IN THE UNIVERSE.

JESUS WENT FORTH WITHOUT SCRIP~~OR~~ PURSE, BUT HE
MOVED FREELY IN ALLNESS - THUS HE WAS RICH.

THIS IS HAVING IT WITHOUT BEING POSSESSED BY IT.

I LOVE THE ATTITUDE EXPRESSED BY A SUPPORTER OF
OUR RADIO W~~OR~~K, WHO SENDS~~E~~ GIFTS W~~IT~~TH THE
✓ CRYPTIC NOTE... 'HERE IS A PIECE OF THE UNIVERSE.'
IT REFLECTS THE CONSCIOUSNESS... "I LIVE IN THE
UNIVERSE AND IT LIVES~~E~~ IN ME... THEREFORE IT
IS MINE TO USE AND ENJOY."

◆ HOW GOOD TO KNOW THAT THE ART GALLERIES AND
LIBRARIES AND MUSEUMS ARE~~E~~ MINE TO ENJOY. THE
SUNRSISES AND SUNSETS~~E~~ AND MOONLIT NIGHTS ARE MINE
TO CELEBRATE. HOW RICH ONE CAN FEEL! AND THAT
FEELING OF RICHES IS THE KE~~E~~Y TO OPEN~~E~~ING THE
WAY TO THE FLOW.

THIS ATTITUDE WOULD LEAD TO RESPECT FOR PRO-
PERTY, ~~AND~~ HEALTHY RESPECT FOR PEOPLE ~~ALL~~ PEOPLE

MOST OF ALL, IT WOULD LEAD TO A HEALTHY SELF-RESPECT AND FEELING OF SELF-WORTH.

SO I CHALLENGE YOU TO MAKE THIS COMING THANKSGIVING DAY A DAY OF CELEBRATION. CELEBRATE THE AFFLUENCE ~~OF~~ THE UNIVERSE AND THE FREE FLOW OF SUBSTANCE//AND LIFE//AND INTELLIGENCE//IN YOU.

RESOLVE ON THIS DAY TO RAISE YOUR THOUGHTS TO THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE LEVEL ABOUT PEOPLE AND THINGS...KNOWING THAT THINKING GOOD IS THANKING GOD.

TAKE A THANKSGIVING WALK IN THE SPIRIT OF YAW-DAW STRETCHING FORTH THEIR HANDS IN THE SPIRIT OF GIVING.

W HOLING