

W H A T F R I E N D S S A Y - About Themselves and Jesus,
Their Christian Anarchy, Their Common Ground with Buddhists and
Atheists, And Yet Their Determination to Work for the Fulfilment
of Revelation -----

"We do not need big banks, capital savings and investments to organise a work democratic way of life. We do not need churches and specialist priests to share the bread and the wine. Nor do we need paid experts to share housing, warmth, sorrow and joy with one another. We need to be willing to take up the unfinished business of Jesus in a quite religious yet irreligious way...

"Our base is a small-holding in central Sweden. There are usually three or four adults, with three children, a small flock of sheep, a cow, hens, and a lot of firewood to collect and bag for sale...

"We live in community of property and center our lives on a weekly sharing of bread and wine in fellowship with Jesus as we understand him. We would like more people to come and share this experience, if only for a weekend...

"So far our biggest inspiration has been to initiate 'Actions Against Big Banks' for the cancellation of debts. We believe that there can be no disarmament and peace, no justice and joy, against a background of 'I owe you' and 'you owe me' debt considerations between people...

"Some Friends prefer imprisonment to being out and about in a world that cares so little about the money madness that is the cause of so much suffering - spiritual suffering for the rich and hard, physical suffering for the poor...

"Two Friends spent eight days in prison over Christmas after breaking the window-front to one bank and then threatening to break the window-fronts to more banks, at least through Christmas, if they were not taken into custody...

"Their action and imprisonment received a good deal of publicity. In their dealings with the press they allowed themselves to be referred to as Christian anarchists, but they also pointed out that Jesus himself acted without the lable Christian or anarchist attached...

"If we are to be labelled Christians then we should also be labelled

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anarchists who share common ground with Buddhists and atheists...

"God is what is central to one's life - from a pet dog or cat, to an idolised motor car or relationship, to the 'I Am, that is who I am' who spoke to Moses out of the burning bush, to the enlightened Buddhist's absolute nothingness...

"How one deals with the absolute relativity of all things depends on choice, education, concern and historical realism, or necessity. We like to think of ourselves as concerned with the fate of love and truth and purity of heart, and historically realistic in our approach to our concern...

"We want to be friends with Jesus, but not as the 'only begotten son of God, born of a virgin'. We think it is a big mistake to deify Jesus and keep him nailed up on a cross in the churches. That plays into the hands of worldly authorities and father figures - the very people that Jesus exposed as the enemies of true freedom...

"So why do we consider Jesus to be so important in our lives and his unfinished business so central to the life of the world? It is because we think of history as a disease, about man quite sick with father complexes - and Jesus came along at an acute point in the disease, as somebody quite incredibly father complexed and yet set on a cure - a cure that should bring history and culture and money dealings as we know them to an end..."

"We think that Jesus may have been himself confused about his own origins. In reality, he was probably fathered by a Roman soldier and mothered by a young woman who presented herself as a virgin to avoid being killed as an adultress. This unresolved issue was the driving force in Jesus's life, and he dealt with it in a way that makes sense psycho-therapeutically...

"Now our own liberation from the worldly fathers and their killing economic and political power structures depends on our being psychologically realistic in our approach to Jesus's victory over their cross. We are then encouraged to follow his way of projecting the universal father need on to the most perfect, all-loving, all-for-giving father-in-heaven figure we can imagine, while taking care not to accept any worldly father figure as having final authority over us..."

"By accepting the father-in-heaven that Jesus seeded in the collective consciousness of historically diseased man in this psychologically

realistic way, we find the courage to live our lives so fully, as saints and sinners, in fellowship with Jesus, that there will eventually be no material and father attachments and no un-lived lines left to the body of man. In this understanding lies the secret of the resurrection, we believe...

"And in the next thousand years there will be many people focussing all their powers on proving the resurrection of the body, and then going on from there for the final liberation, of dying (as father, son and holy spirit - one) into nothingness and paradise...

"However, right now the historical dynamic still rests with the power of the cross rather than the resurrection - with the disease rather than with the cure. Therefore, truly free action under God - the God of the Bible - now leads not into joyful, resurrectional experiences so much as into experiences of "no"-saying and exile from the world...

"Perhaps, in line with the prophesy of Revelation, the Lord of history, or rather its undoing, is thus drawing His elect out of the world into the heavenly realms from which the new order of things is to be directed - a new order of no banking, no institutional churches, no worldly father figures ruling the roost - a new order in which people learn how to share and be brothers, sisters and mothers to one another, within an ambience of healing and resurrectional love...

"Whether the inspiration is from above, here on earth, or both, in the next millenium mankind is going to have to set its mind on an economic order that puts the need for justice, healing, food, clothing and shelter FIRST, in a way that is not damaging to earth, air and water, and in a way that does not use up non-renewable resources...

"This requires § removing the capital savings base to human cooperation and enterprise § cancelling debts § accepting that we have the capacity for mind-over-matter healing powers such as Jesus displayed...

"As enough people come to think straight about debts, the need to close down the big banks, and the power of love, a radiance will permeate the world, to resurrect it out of the dead moneyed culture of today. Then living will be so organised that all labour is voluntary, all energies used renewable, and all movement and management free. This is how we anticipate the 'first resurrection' of Revelation (chap. 20), in preparation for something entirely new: "New heavens and a new earth - the home of justice" (2 Peter 3:v13).