

MM Pre-Thanksgiving Blue Sheet — November 2015

Morgan's Moment...



AVERY ART KIRBY DAVID

There were four of us...
born within five years
our mother's pride and joy.
I've had only a week
of getting used to the idea
we now are only three brothers.
It is becoming clear
that we are still four brothers
even though one has died.
Avery was our second brother...
then David and Kirby
making the four of us.
My elder brother role faded
as each of the younger ones
achieved his own stature.
I envied Avery's study habits...
how he did his homework
and got good grades.
He mastered algebra and much more...
became an acclaimed research engineer
in aeronautics for Honeywell.
A patentee and creator
of space age technology
I can't begin to understand.
There was a whole lot more to him
but let it be understood
that his big brother was proud.

Art Morgan

BOOK CORNER

We once shared a Unitarian pulpit where we spoke about cults. His sister had died when she left everything to follow the Reverend Jim Jones to Jonestown. More than 800 obeyed his command to commit suicide together.

How could people do that? How could bright, young, capable men and women give their minds and bodies in a spiritual-political quest? The book was still on my shelf. I've been re-reading "Holy Terror, The Fundamentalist War on Americas Freedoms" by Flo Conway and Jim Siegelman.

HOLY TERROR ALL OVER AGAIN

Time to End the Holy Day of Thanksgiving

We're off to our cabin again. The only thing unfinished is my Thanksgiving Moment page. It's titled "Holy Terror".

That line won't leave me.

My Huskies just trashed the Beavers. Holy terror!

Terrorist news does not get any better. Tribes and religions and nations built around a doctrine of blood revenge and retribution make an end solution remote. "Eye for an eye" theology abounds. Even Jesus saying..."but I say to you..." is virtually ignored.

Paris terrorists were heard to shout "Allah Akbar" as they blow themselves and others to pieces. Some say it means "God is great." What it really says is "'My Allah is greater than your God."

Extremely devout—and brainwashed—men and women, often young, do the unthinkable in the name of their faith. Like my friend's Christian sister dying with those 909 others at Jonestown in 1978. Why?

Then I open Dave Bell's Thanksgiving blog. (I have recommended him many times) He dares suggest that after turkey and pumpkin pie "*maybe it is time to talk on why it is time to end the US celebration of Thanksgiving.*"

Yikes! What happens to First Grade art work of the Mayflower and Indians and turkeys and corn at Thanksgiving?

Lots of people have already plugged that story into the mythology column. A whole lot more don't question it.

We skip the horrible slaughter of about 700 of the Pequot tribe—mostly women and children—when, the next day, the Governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony declared—a day of thanksgiving, thanking God that they had eliminated over 700 women and children."

It was signed into law that, "This day forth shall be a day of celebration and thanksgiving for subduing the Pequots."

The leader of the Puritan attack, John Mason, said:

"It may be demanded, should not Christians have more mercy and compassion? But sometimes the scripture declareth women and children must perish with their parents...We had sufficient light from the word of the Lord for our proceedings."

Really?

The book talks about brain-washing, mind-control, idealism, charismatic leaders and vulnerability. 400 years ago, 40 years ago, now.

To follow sacred texts without question leads to extreme fundamentalism. Obeying a holy book (Torah, Bible or Koran), without question, amounts to idolatry. And idolatry leads to holy terror.

And to imagine a divine power that commands such insanity...?

I'm thinking this discussion wouldn't help digestion at the Thanksgiving table. Many of us are already sorry that our history happened as it did. What is, is...even if it shouldn't have been.

It is right for us to know when we have been wrong, and more right when we work to correct wrong.

We might begin by declaring that terror is never holy.

Thanksgiving is a good place to start.

— Art Morgan From South Salish Sea, Herron, Washington

(Quotes from Dave Bell, Ridged Valley Reflections, yakamamission.org "Time to End the Holy Day of US Thanksgiving")