

GLIMPSE

Indulgences and Annoyances

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During the recent Christmas-holiday time, I experienced several minor indiscretions in the various areas of cookie containers, cake plates, candy boxes, and even the much-maligned fruitcake tin. They were minor, because I was consistently moderate in my regular and frequent visits. I was discreet of course in my intake of fresh fruits and vegetables. The result is an increase of my corporeal reality. I am presently taking steps to become less a man.

I did not want to check on my total tonnage so I have avoided the unpleasant information available from the scale. My favorite football team lost a heart-breaking game last week and so I have deliberately been avoiding any TV or radio sports programs which might remind me of what I am trying to forget. I do deal well with reality when it doesn't hurt much.

All relationships are going to reveal, to each and all of the relators, something pleasant and unpleasant to discover about each. I enjoy the pre-marriage ministry I do here at the University. As the two slowly become one, they both find out during that process what they will be finding out throughout the remainder of the process called marriage. One question they have to answer is, "There are certain aspects of my future spouse that annoy me." Well this becomes a very interesting, for me at least, series of un-attacks. Without any hint of who should speak first, the female always invites the male to go first. So he does and she calculates the caliber of her response on the artillery he used in his opening un-attack. It never fails and then in the second round they get down to the nitty-gritty which in the long run is going to be a long run. As someone once said, "After First Communion it is all downhill."

We do tend to avoid the unpleasant experiences, especially what is not pleasing to our self-image or ego. It is interesting and embarrassing as well, to think of the people we tend to avoid and ponder what about ourselves these persons reveal of ourselves, to ourselves. We are born with such high ideals which have something to

do, I think, with the *Creating God* within us. We seldom, if ever, reach our hoped-for perfections so we avoid those experiences or people who just might see what we hope they don't see. They will reject what we reject in ourselves. Their seeing our almos^ts, will confirm our harsh judgments of ourselves and make them more real.

I have asked some golfers about their watching others in their little parties of four. What is their reaction to another's bad shot? For the most part they pretend they didn't notice; that they were watching a singing or flying bird in the other direction. They do not want to participate in the condemnation the mistaker is inflicting upon him or herself. Eventually, if there are enough bad shots and self-punishment, golfing will become a former punishment. We tend to avoid that which will slowly move us to avoid being us.

If I am taking steps these days to shed my past-Christmas indulgences to please any admirers who might notice, then I am trying to be who you think I should be or want me to be. If I do this un-indulging purgation for self-health reasons, because that is my who, then I am who I am by the grace of *God* and that's good enough for me. To whose tune are we dancing? It is just a glimpse shared with much too sweetness.