

The Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time February 23rd 2020

TITLE:

BE CREATIVE

Introduction

St. Matthew in the gospel we just heard suggests “TURN THE OTHER Cheek”//—

Turn the other cheek to a bully;// Give all I have to those who don't need it;// Walk the extra mile/ by submitting to callous// unjust law enforcement. —Those injunctions especially when we hear them at,/ the end of this Black History Month, FEBRUARY,// sound like they come straight out of the slave overseers' catechism. //-They assure the dominance of the strong, // and the subservience of the weak . //That makes them applicable across the centuries in just about every culture as,// the tenets of tyrants.//

QUESTION ?

Did Jesus really, // mean this? How does this jibe with the Book of Leviticus ,//in today's first reading ,//from the Old Testament,?? To be Holy like God//? -- // Does a truly holy person bow down before evil? //

The person who turns the other cheek,// throws the bully off guard ,//by negating the insult.// The person who

turns the other cheek ,//Proclaims “ I am more than you think I am” .// People who turn the other cheek are asserting their own dignity and subversively challenge despots to become more human.//

Legalism denudes poor people of every protection.

LEVITICUS writer, who tells us “CHERISH no GRUDGES”//. (THEY say about the Irish, they will forget everything, // except the GRUDGES.) // How often do my grudges feed my ego, // making me feel righteous// and feeling innocently victimized, // at the same time.//

People who grudge go through life pressing their bruises. // No injury will go forgotten, // no injury left unfestering, // in my offended heart.//

People who move through life like this, // may be missing a great career in accounting.//-- They have the ability, // to keep track of every cent and mill, //(that’s one tenth a penny).

AMEN.