

An Interview with a Newborn Baby

CAST:

The Press.....
Robert Sward

Interpreter.....
Robert Zend

Baby.....Rob
ert Priest

Mother.....
.. Janine Zend

The Press: Good morning, Sir. When did you arrive on our planet?

Interpreter: Aw? Awawa? Wawa? Wa?

Baby: Mammam Mamma. Mammammam.

Interpreter: He says that he arrived via his mother, doesn't exactly remember when, but his stomach-acids require some protein-rich liquid.

The Press: What is your opinion about the present political situation? Do you think we should vote liberal or conservative? Which party, in your opinion, can assure a better and brighter future for our beloved country?

Interpreter: Gugu? Gigu? Gugi?

Baby: Yayyayyayyay, Yayyay, Yayy.

Interpreter: He thinks that these questions don't make too much sense. We can't accept a radical change of society in the near future! After all, the situation has been constantly deteriorating during the last 5 million years of history. The liberals or the conservatives will follow identical policies, only the names of the leaders will be somewhat different. In his opinion, it would be more purposeful to concentrate on the present and most urgent needs, namely to breast-feed him without delay.

The Press: How do you like Canada?

Interpreter: Nya-nya-nya?

Baby: G.. . g . . . g . . .Uh. D j ! D j ! D j !

Interpreter: In his opinion, Canada is a country which is engaged

in an unrelinquished search for its "Identity", and – due to this fact – it is quite impossible to determine whether one likes it or not. How can anyone like or dislike a territorial unit which doesn't even know whether it exists or not and if not, why, and if yes, why not? In fact, Canada as such is not very different from any other country in the world. After all, they all have newborn babies who are starved and need instant breast-feeding.

The Press: What specifically, in your opinion, is the most acute globally economical problem and how do you propose to solve it in the most efficient way?

Interpreter: Eng-eng? Ing inga? Gunga?

Baby: Oaa...oaaaaa...oaaaaaaaaa...

Interpreter: According to his carefully conducted observations, the most prominent global problem is the uneven distribution of foodsupplies. A minority of the population possesses the majority of the reserves and henceforth they have the privilege of preventing a just division of food supplies among the needy. One of the most outstanding examples to illustrate the above thesis is the swollen breasts of new mothers – a tension which could effectively be relieved by allowing their newborn babies to suck them. Legislation announcing this new project would at once alleviate the dissatisfaction thus postponing a potentially tragic outcome for both parties. He is willing, what's more, anxious, to be instrumental in initiating such an endeavour.

The Press: What measures should we take to eliminate the increasing unemployment and the growing inflation coupled with the sharply rising bank-interest rate?

Interpreter: Igabuga?

Baby: Go go go g o! . . . go go go!

Interpreter: The first thing we have to do is to curb the influence of the Press which, due to sheer sensationalism, mystifies the issues and instead of orienting the interest of the public toward the most urgent tasks, keeps asking superfluous questions, thereby distracting the attention of the interested parties from the primary problems of paramount importance. One of these imminent problems is to feed the hungry babies instead of interviewing them.

Mother: (comes up on stage and starts feeding Baby)

Baby: M m m m m m m m

Interpreter: After having arranged a long-desired dialogue with his mother, he came to the conclusion that the present interview

has, as it were, superceeded its allotted time and he would be pleased i f the Press would stop showering him with further questions. This, of course, does not exclude, whatsoever, the possibility of continuing this interview when the presently ongoing breast-feeding session with his mother will have been finished, and perhaps, also after he will have had a chance to study the questions in question more thoroughly, that is, let's say in thirty years or so, i f it is mutually convenient.

The Press: Gaga. . . gaga...

Interpreter: He says that the date set seems to him too late. By then, he will be even more senile than now.

By Robert Zend, published in *The Three Roberts On Childhood* (St. Catharines, Moonstone Press, 1985) pp. 14-16.
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