War.... We read William Broyles' article on WHY MEN LOVE WAR... and we can experience something of the excitement when human nature is being put to the supreme test... Then we hear Jim Quay talk about how contrary killing is to the deeper dictates of human nature and how we have to call the enemy gooks and dinks in order to talk ourselves into being willing to engage in it.... We learn something, too, about the relation of war to religion. There were numerous examples.... of cardinals blessing the troops.... or the fighting forces praying for victory... or of the combatants assumings that there is some close relationship between JOHN WAYNE and JESUS CHRIST If you act like the one you'll be blessed by the other.... And, as we were confronted with these situations, And we learned that Vietnam was not an isolated case.... As we speak today, wars are going on between zealots of various religious factions.... in Lebanon... in Iran and Iraq.... There is a lealed contering with an an country It's been that way for a long time.... History records the victory of the Christians over the Saracen Moslems in medieval times.... AkxkhexkihekafxkhexRefakahtkahx The great hymn of the Protestant Reformation was "A Mighty Fortress is Our God...." During the Civil War, it was "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" The relationship of war to religion is long term... It runs deep.... It is complex.... And it may be inevitable.... We show how resolutely we believe in something by our willingness to fight for it.... to sacrifice....even to die for it... We praise the martyrs who died for a worthy cause We give medals for gallantry.... for unswerving and unwavering devotion to the cause of truth....

3

And when we identify the cause of truth, we are talking the language of religion.

Even when we say that the dead have not died in vain, we are referring to the ideals and values they the ideals they protected and the values they ensured. 化液化工作学问题的 是新游戏事具法被推荐。 电转载动频片 网络

We compare Vietnam with World War II, and we call the latter a "righteous cause" because the enemy was clearly <u>diabolical</u>. Vietnam didn't work as a war as well because the cause was not righteous so clearly nor the enemy so obviously diabolical....

小菜 明铅节 喜欢打笑的绝望的 系统长行 电自己重点行变计时间矩阵变 电数谱 重然 化口探索转光定行的

But Vietnam is also about some other things:

It's about adventures that didn't materialize... about pilgrimages that didn't live up to expectations.... about journeys into the unknown that for which there seemed to be no terminus or resolution...

The religious literature is full of examples of pilgrims who go off in search of enlightenment and wisdom.... who, after finding it -- or pieces of it -- return home to share it with those who will listen....

- Joseph Campbell describes it as the process of <u>initiation</u>, departure and return....
 - which we might paraphrase as <u>induction</u>, <u>departure</u>.... and homecoming....
- But in the Vietnam instance....there was no return.... there was no homecoming....or if there was, it has been delayed....

John Wheeler writes in TOUCHED WITH FIRE:

- "This is what happened. We kept our promise, as we had made it. The orders said Vietnam. We were trained. We went. No fighting force ever sent to war was better equipped or trained. But America makes a promise too. She promises to keep us in her heart, whether we live or die. She reneged on that promise. We woldiers were prepared for the war zone. We were not prepared for our return to America. We were locked out of her heart. It was a tragic abandonment... Whether we came back alive or dead, there was a grave waiting for our heartfelt inner self, in the attitudes of Americans we grew up with...."
- Wheeler goes on to describe the returning Vietnam Veteran as an "immigrant from the combat zone."
 - Analysts of situations like this know what to write when the circle has been completed......
- when the search for enlightenment akakwkxkwkwkwkwkkkk culminates in wisdom....
 - In fact, we have elaborate theories about how the actions of a society are motivated by that society's ideals...

We call these functional theories chan functional test is They describe how things work....or, indeed, work together.... But it is more difficult to come up with compelling theories to explain why things do not work or why pilgrimages are disappointing.... or why journeys into enlightenment end in confusion... we would be or exhaustion...or cynicism or despair.... This is why there has been so much talk in this class about "the dark night of the soul...." by which we refer to the absence of a presumed meaning.... to spiritual journeys that seem only to have discovered desert places.... wastelands.... regions from which God is absent.... spaces within the soul that are populated by reals and false accusers Bill Mahedy said it well. Jesus' word from the Cross, "MY God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me...? is a cry that has been uttered by thousands of those who experienced the horror of Vietnam firsthand ... And it separated those who knew the experience firsthand from those who didn't.... Even those who had objected to the war could not have known the depth of agony of the dark night of the soul.... d these The separation, who knew this experience from those who didn't lasted all the way through the dedication of the Memorial in Washington in November of 1982.... Jack Wheeler calls it "a horrible divorce" in which "America separated herself from us... America broke its emotional commitment to us." But Wheeler adds that that long prolonged period of isolation brought the veterans together...giving them a strong sense of unity... The symbolism of the Memorial: her increase in a second second second

5

So we employ dysfunctional rather than functional theories...

We talk about the absence rather than the presence of meaning...

We refer to shattered ideals.... to a broken myth....

We talk about contrariness...dissonance...inversions... correlations that don't correlate or arms of the meanings that don't mean...

As Bill Mahedy said, "it don't mean nothin..." That's what it means! create is the liting person

ONE OF THE GREAT PROBLEMS IS THAT THIS NATION HAS ALWAYS RELIED UPON MILITARY LITURGIES FOR ITS COLLECTIVE CELEBRATIONS....

Parades....banners....flags....weapons....fighter planes.... flying in formation.... signs of strength as in bombers...missiles.... Wieuniforms. The line that's story tolds and their flag waving....

And yet, because this is what has gone awry, it is difficult to employ the same liturgies after Vietnam.....

After Vietnam, the flag didn't mean what it meant before....

After Vietnam, statessies and in a world facing the possibility of nuclear catastrophe.... military symbols are always going to be suspect... tarnished....

not trusted....

SO THE PRIMARY SYMBOL BECOMES AN INVERTED SYMBOL, IN A WAY....

It is a scar on the earth.... 2,200 foot-long walls of polished black granite.... not above ground ... but below the ground....

containing the names of the war dead,

The names of the war dead are arranged chronologically in the order in which the servicemen fell..... the only dates etched in the granite are 1959 and 1975, when the first serviceman fell... and when the last one died....

It was designed by Maya Lin, who was 13 years of age in 1973, when the cease-fire took place.... Born in Ohio, a senior at Yale, majoring in architecture... first try at the design got her a B in an architecture course.

Maya Lin had never taken a course on the Vietnam war.... Though of Chinese ancestry, she was born in Oberlin, Ohio... And yet her design carries a strong Oriental influence.... Maya Lin described her design as a circle.... pointing out that in Oriental philosophy life and death are described as being part of a continuous circle....

A part of the circle are the two wings or arms of the wall...

the inverted V for Vietnam... perhaps for Victory....

The final segment of the circle is the living person who visits, and through his or her presence fills in the part of the circle that has been omitted....

She also wanted the names to be listed in chronological (rather than alphabetical) order....

The chroniological order would allow

the wall to be read like a story.... she said, like an epic Greek poem.... Vets would come there, find their story told; and their friends remembered.....

And the only inscription on the wall is this simple one:

IN HONOR of the men and women of the Armed Forces of the United States who served in the Vietnam War. The names of those who gave their lives and of those who remain missing are inscrbied here in the order that they were taken from us.

Then there is the Epilogue:

Our nation remembers the courage, sacrifice and devotion to duty of its Vietnam vetera.s This memorial was built through private donations of the American people..."

- And the designers made certain that none of these words would be larger or more noticeable than the names on the wall.....
- It was a controversial undertaking... and there was much discouragement....

One night, I am told, Jan Scruggs, deeply discouraged about the controversy and political infighting over the design of the Memorial....

went by himself quietly to the Lincoln Memorial.... And he stood there in the presence of that great figure.... Ahd he thought that this memorial was the symbol of America's greatest violence....

But nothing in the memorial favored either the North or the South...

A d nothing said that slavery was morally wrong... or that the Civil War was right... But people standing there could read the words of Lincoln's GEttysburg Address...or the words of his second Inaugural Address T en they would think about the words, stand quietly and let their feelings flow.... And they would come away different than when they arrived...

Scruggs pledged that the same would be true of the Vietnam Memorial.... and the only words would be the names of those who had given their lives for the nation....

I am told that Maya Lin visits the memorial frequently... And she has said, "The finished memorial is so close to what I had envisioned that it's scary... Now that it is completed, it's got a life of its own... I feel like just another visitor....

But I'd like to talk about something that is even scarier to me.....

When we were there, a few weeks ago.... after we listened to Jan Scruggs and John Wheeler talk about the significance of the Memorial.... and after Paul, Mario and Wilson saluted the statue and made their presentation....

We were just standing there.... Wheeler said.... how quiet...

And Felicia Ferrari thought that we should offer a prayer....

WHAT WE DIDN'T KNOW....WHAT I CERTAINLY DID NOT KNOW... is that this is what the designer intended.... THAT THOSE WHO COME THERE WOULD FORM A CIRCLE..... TO COMPLETE.....SO THAT WITH OUR PRESENCE WE WOULD FILL IN THE PART OF THE CIRCLE THAT HAD BEEN OMITTED....

That happened to me another time.... (Mother's Day a year ago....

> Every day is sacred.... Every moment of life is sacred....

I think this is the way the issues of the war get resolved.... when we form these kinds of circles.... and include everyone within it.... VETS, STUDENTS, CITIZENS... FORMER WAR PROTESTORS....CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS.... EVERYONE WITHIN IT....

I was standing with a father of one of the students....

There was John and Lisa-.... and Mario and Wilson and Paul.....

THE WALL SAYS THAT THE WAR WILL BE RESOLVED WHEN HEALING OCCURS.

It's about healing.... Not about Problem Solving....

You can't get the meaning of the war by reading a book.....

- And it isn't enough to say that there shouldn't have been a war... that the lesson of the war is that it shouldn't
 - have occurred.... You say that, and then you have to answer the
 - question: KKXKNHXKXMMWXMMKXKMKXKXK AFTER SAYING THAT, KKX WHAT DO YOU SAY NEXT?

Certainly there are some lessons from the war....

AND WE TRUST THAT THEY WILL NOT GO AWAY....

Myra McPherson in her book LONG TIME PASSING writes:

"I had hoped by the end of this long journey through the Vietnam Generation that I could concisely tie all the emotions and experiences and beliefs in a tidy conclusion of what Vietnam meant then... and what it means now and for the future.

This was not to be. Confusion-free conclusions may be the reward for only the doctrinaire on the right or the left. Vietnam was an ambiguous war that left us with ambiguous moral, political and personal conclusions....

Still, after listening to the voices of those who were there, there is one lesson we <u>must</u> learn. Sending young men into combat on the basis of nothing but the most abstract threats to national security is folly. Worse still is leaping into impossible situations where young men get killed for symbolic reasons.... The explanation for being there was that we were containing communism, primarily the Chinese. After the bloodshed, the destroyed land, the millions dead, the crops ruined, the Vietnamese are fighting the

Chinese and the Chinese are our allies."

(Closing)

the topic will remain unfunction

Scott Momaday ---

Coincidence of World WAR II Celebrations.... and Vietnam Celebrations....

> image of Shad sitting down at Thanksgiving Dinner with a World War II father

CLASS AS AN INSTRUMENT OF HEALING...... Jagart Implointly religing guality - Cain + Dhel Circle formed there in Washington....

Finally, lot of talk about eyes....mirrors....reflections..... perceptions.... watching Veterans in this classroom..... John Byer...sees his name on the wall and his face....in the reflection....

Craig Taylor -- looking at me....

Thomas Merton

they found out who they are....

That's the goal of a class....

And this subject does it more than any

I want to pay tribute to you.....

I see my own ideals and dreams and prayers reflected in all of you....

And I think you are the ones who help me most of all to see clearly....

So, as the one who's privileged to have his name associated with this class.... I want to kmpakxhykxx pay my respects to all of you....

And I want you to know how much I believe in you.... and How confident I am about what you will be doing with all of this.. THANK YOU...