

MY SO-CALLED NEWS FOR SEPTEMBER 20, 1999

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THOSE WITHOUT THE FULL STORY BELIEVE THAT THEY CAN,
 "THINK THEIR WAY OUT OF THINKING" -- (OR, IF YOU LIKE):
 "THINK THEIR WAY TO UNDERSTANDING WHAT THINKING IS".

UNTIL YOU HAVE THE FULL STORY FOR YOURSELF. SUCH WILL BE YOUR FRUSTRATION.

A MAN WELL KNOWN FOR HIS WRITINGS ON THE SUBJECT OF "AWAKENING"
 ONE DAY, AT HIS TYPEWRITER MUSED:
 "AS LONG AS I'M WRITING ABOUT BEING AWAKE I DON'T NOTICE THAT I'M ASLEEP."
 HAVE YOU EVER IN YOUR LONG, INSIGHTFUL LIFE HEARD A SADDER,
 MORE HEART WRENCHING MUSING?!.....BUT HEY,
 THE TRUTH HAS THE PROPINCITY TO WRENCH CERTAIN ORGANS,
 BE THEY METAPHORICAL OR NOT.

THERE ONCE EXISTED A BOOK ENTITLED:
 "THE BOOK THAT WAKES EVERYONE UP WHO READS IT."
 QUESTION: DID YOU EVEN MOMENTARILY ENTERTAIN THE POSSIBILITY THAT
 SUCH A WORK IN TRUTH EVER EXISTED?

NOW THAT YOU CAN LOOK BACK ON THE MATTER FROM A MORE ENLIGHTENED PROSPECT:
 "AIN'T HOPE GRAND?!"

THEOREM: YOU CAN WAKE UP FASTER WITH A SMART-ASS ATTITUDE THAN YOU CAN WITH
 A SERIOUS AND RESERVED ONE.

QUEERY: HOW MANY HERE HOPE THAT IS SO?

YET ANOTHER THEOREM: A CLEVER MAN, MILDLY PISSED CAN STILL BE YOUR FRIEND --
UNLESS THE MAN IS YOU.

THE DANGERS OF PURSUING THE MYSTICAL PATH IN TIBET AND OTHER EARTHLY AREAS:
 IN THE COURSE OF TRYING TO AWAKEN ONE MAN INADVERTENTLY TURNED INTO A YAK.

IF A MYSTIC IS EVER GOING TO BECOME A WORLD FAMOUS MYSTIC
 HE MUST DO SO BEFORE HE COMPLETELY AWAKENS.

IT IS IN THIS AREA ALONE THAT MEN BECOME WELL KNOWN FOR THEIR EFFORTS --
 -- NOT THEIR SUCCESS.

AND A FATHER ASKED HIS ELDEST SON: "AND HOW DO YOU WANT TO BE REMEMBERED?",
 "I DON'T.", HE REPLIED, TO HIS OLD MAN'S DEEP SATISFACTION.

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A NOTE REGARDING, "SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION", (AND THOSE OF LESSER SORTS):
 A GREAT DISCOVERY, (EVEN ABOUT THE BRAIN AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO THINKING),
 WILL NOT ALTER ONE'S OWN THINKING.

DOES THIS NOT STRONGLY POINT YOU TOWARD A POSSIBILITY CONCERNING CONSCIOUSNESS
 THAT IS NORMALLY OVERLOOKED EVEN BY THOSE ACADEMICALLY TRAINED IN THE SUBJECT?!
 ...OR, PERHAPS THIS: MIGHT THE UNRECOGNIZED ASPECT I REFER TO
 BE BEYOND THE GRASP OF INQUIRING CONSCIOUSNESS ITSELF?!

AND ONE GUY ONE DAY MUSED TO HIS OLE SELF:
 "I WONDER WHICH IS REALLY THE MOST FUN:
 THINKING ABOUT AWAKENING BEFORE YOU'RE AWAKE -- OR AFTER?!"

HEY, HOW'S THIS FOR A QUANDRY:
 "IF YOU'RE AWARE THAT YOU'RE AWAKE -- YOU'RE NOT, BUT,
 IF YOU'RE NOT AWARE THAT YOU'RE AWAKE YOU'RE ALSO NOT.
 ...NEAT, HUH?!...HEY, DID SOMEBODY JUST MUTTERED, "CONFUSING"?!"

AN OBVIOUS FACT TOO OFTEN IGNORED: THE DUMBER YOU ARE
 THE MORE DELIBERATE SHOULD BE YOUR ACTIONS.

AND NOW THIS FRIENDLY HINT: IF YOU ENJOY THINKING THAT YOU ARE
 UNUSUALLY "INTELLIGENT" -- ENJOY IT NOW.....WHILE YOU CAN.

SUCH ABSOLUTE TERMS AS BEING EITHER: "AWAKE OR ASLEEP"
 ARE IN ACTUALITY, TOO DRAMATIC FOR THOSE WITH SOME PERCEPTION OF
 WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT:

SUCH DESCRIPTIONS WERE INITIALLY USEFUL, BUT IN THE SAME WAY THAT
 ADULTS WILL TELL CHILDREN THAT IF THEY DO NOT BRUSH IMMEDIATELY AFTER
 EVERY MEAL THEIR TEETH WILL FALL OUT AND THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO EAT,
 AND WILL STARVE TO DEATH,

(OR THAT HOBGOBLIMS WILL GET THEM IF THEY DON'T GO TO BED ON TIME),
 BUT MYSTICS WITH SOME MATURITY TO THEM NEED MORE USEFUL & ACCURATE
 DESCRIPTIONS, (SUCH AS PERHAPS):

YOU'RE EITHER: "HERE AND YOU KNOW IT -- OR YOU'RE NOT."

YOU'RE EITHER: "HERE AND FOCUSED -- OR YOU'RE NOT." OR:

YOU'RE EITHER: "QUIET & CALM AMIDST THE SWIRL OR ELSE LOST IN THE CHAOS."

THERE IS A BRAND NEW ANCIENT LEGEND THAT SAYS THAT BUDDHA RECENTLY
 RETURNED TO LIFE AND AFTER SURVEYING THE ACTIVITIES OF SOME PEOPLE
 WITH HIS INTERESTS, (ESPECIALLY THOSE STUDYING THE STATES OF "MYSTICAL SLEEP &
 AWAKENING" IN LIGHT OF MODERN NEUROLOGY KNOWLEDGE REGARDING BRAIN ANATOMY,
 AND PHYSIOLOGY), THOUGHT TO HIMSELF:

"I'M GLAD SOMEHOW, THAT I LIVED PRIOR TO ALL OF THIS (?!?)"

NOTE: EVEN IF A SCIENTIFICALLY SUPPORTABLE MODEL OF THE BRAIN IS DEVELOPED
 THAT PRETTY WELL EXPLAINS THE PHYSICAL BASIS OF CONSCIOUSNESS,
 SUCH WILL STILL NEVER EXPLAIN WHAT CONSCIOUSNESS ITSELF IS
 ...NEAT, HUH?!, OR IS SOMEONE ELSE GONNA AGAIN SAY, "NO -- CONFUSING"?!
 ...

COME ON NOW, A LITTLE MORE STARCH IN THE OLE MYSTICAL BACKBONE:
 TO EVER SEE WHAT I'M POINTING TO REQUIRES THE COMBINED VIEWS OF A:
 COLD BLOODED, HEARTLESS POET, AND AN ARTISTIC, METAPHORICAL SCIENTIST,
 (AND ONCE YOU'VE GOT THAT DOWN, YOU MOVE ON TO ABANDONING THEM BOTH
 IN FAVOR OF NO VIEW ALL AT:
THERE IS WHERE THE TRUTH IS.

WORDS, NO MATTER HOW SEEMINGLY POWERFUL AND EVEN APPARENTLY MEANINGFUL HAVE NO REAL IMPACT ON MEN EXCEPT WHEN EXTERNAL CIRCUMSTANCES PHYSICALLY SO FORCE THEM, (SUCH AS IN A JUDGE SENTENCING A CONVICTED MAN AS PER THE WRITTEN LAW, OR IN THE ENFORCEMENT OF CONTRACTS BETWEEN MEN, ETC):

THE REST OF THE TIME MEN SIMPLY "TALK" ABOUT THE GREAT, INESCAPABLE EFFECT THAT WORDS HAVE ON HUMAN LIFE WHEN NO SUCH THING IS SO: LIFE MOVES ALONG IN A CERTAIN FASHION REGARDLESS OF WHAT VERBAL ACCOMPANIMENT MENS' TONGUES MAY PROVIDE.

...AND DON'T WASTE YOUR TIME IN EVEN PONDERING WHETHER OR NOT YOUR OWN INTERNAL CHATTERING IS SO SUBJECT.

AND WITHIN A CERTAIN MAN'S HEAD THE FOLLOWING RECENTLY OCCURED:

"I SIT AT MY DESK, LOOKING AT A DARK, MUTE TELEVISION SET STANDING ACROSS THE ROOM, AND CONSIDER HOW IT RESEMBLES MY OWN ORDINARY CORTICAL ACTIVITY, IN THAT APPARENTLY ANY NUMBER OF DIFFERENT PICTURES AND SOUNDS CAN COME THEREFROM, AND YET I KNOW FROM EXPERIENCE THAT A QUITE LIMITED NUMBER IS ALL I WILL GET FROM EITHER.

SO, I SIT AND GAZE AT THE PRESENTLY SILENT AND NON-ANNOYING ELECTRONIC GADGET AND THINK OF IT AS A SIMILE FOR MY CONSCIOUSNESS, AND PONDER WHY I CANNOT MORE CONSISTANTLY -- MORE PERMANENTLY -- STAND AWAY FROM IT TOO, AND MAINTAIN SUCH A RELATIONSHIP!?.....

...FOR IN THOSE MOMENTS WHEN I REMEMBER TO DO THIS IT IS AS THOUGH THE TV-SET-OF-CONSCIOUSNESS ALMOST GOES BLANK AND SILENT, BUT AT THE VERY LEAST, FOR AS LONG AS I CAN HOLD THIS POSITION, IT CEASES TO BE OF NOTABLE DISTRACTION."

AND WE NOW GO FROM ONE MAN'S REFLECTION TO SOME SOLID, SCIENTIFIC NEWS: ANYTHING YOU DO TO A CHAOTIC SITUATION WILL ONLY ADD TO THE CHAOS.

THE DIFFICULT THING TO SEE AND TO HOLD IS THE REALITY THAT -- ANY AND ALL THINKING YOU MAY DO ABOUT YOUR INTERNAL SITUATION WILL NEVER HELP, BUT ONLY ASSURE ITS CONTINUATION.

A MAN WITH COMPLETE FAITH IN THE IDEAS OF HIS CEREBRAL CELLS MAY CERTAINLY LIVE A NORMAL LIFE, BUT IN THE END HE WILL BE GREATLY DISAPPOINTED IF HIS DESIRE WAS TO SEE WHAT WAS ACTUALLY GOING ON DURING THAT TIME.

MAXIMUM: YOU CAN'T SEE WHAT'S GOING ON IF YOU'RE LISTENING TO YOUR THOUGHTS TELL YOU WHAT'S GOING ON.

A HUNGRY MAN'S ATTENTION IS FOCUSED ON HIS HUNGER:
 AN INJURED MAN'S ATTENTION IS FOCUSED ON HIS INJURY,
 AND A LOVE STRUCK MAN'S ATTENTION IS FOCUSED ON THE OBJECT OF HIS PASSION,
 BUT TELL ME:

ON WHAT CAN BE -- OR, SHOULD BE -- THE ATTENTION OF PEOPLE SUCH AS US
 BE FOCUSED?!...

....IS THERE SOME NATURALLY PRESENT "SOMETHING" THAT IS A DEFINABLE GOAL,
 MATCHING OUR INTEREST ?!

PERHAPS THE FINAL TRICK TO THIS THING OF, "BEING AWAKE"
 WOULD BE FOR THE CELLULAR ACTIVITY IN OUR BRAINS THAT PRODUCES CONSCIOUSNESS
 AND THOUGHT TO KEEP SOME PORTION OF THIS ACTIVITY ALWAYS FOCUSED ON ITSELF --
 ...(SUCH IN FACT, IS THE REALITY SUPPORTING ALL OF THE TIME HONORED
 METHODS PURPORTING TO LEAD TO AWAKENING -- BUT, A QUESTION, (IF I MAY):
 IS WHAT I HAVE JUST DESCRIBED, PHYSICALLY POSSIBLE?!

IF OUR ORDINARY STATE OF CORTICAL ACTIVITY IS SEEN AS A PRISON
 THEN IT IS THE SINGULAR EXAMPLE OF A PLACE OF CONFINEMENT WHEREIN
 ALL THOUGHTS OF ESCAPE MERELY ASSURE YOUR CONTINUED CAPTIVITY.

THIS IS THE IRRATIONAL NATURE OF BELIEVING THAT,
 "YOU ARE ASLEEP IN CONSCIOUSNESS",
 A SNARE-OF-THE-MIND THAT FEW WHO STEP THEREIN
 EVER STEP THEREOUT.

AND DOES ANYONE HERE RECOGNIZE HOW THIS IS TIED TO THE FACT THAT
 ANYTHING YOU SAY ABOUT MAN'S ORDINARY STATE OF CONSCIOUSNESS,
 AND ALTERNATIVE POSSIBILITIES ALWAYS COMES OUT AS A FORM OF CONDEMNATION?!
 AND I ASK YOU ONCE AGAIN: FOR WHAT PURPOSE MIGHT MAN BE SO DRIVEN TO
 CONDEMN HIMSELF?!, AND PARTICULARLY AS REGARDS SUCH AS WE WHOSE FEELINGS
 OF DISSATISFACTION WITH OURSELF CONCERNS A MATTER ABOUTWHICH NO ONE ELSE
 EVEN GIVES NOTICE?!

IT IS NORMAL, (OR AT LEAST, NOT UNEXPECTED), FOR PEOPLE TO CONDEMN THEMSELVES
 FOR THEIR APPEARANCE, THEIR LAZINESS, THEIR LACK OF SOCIAL STANDING,
 BUT NONE SAVE WE ARE DISSATISFIED WITH THE PERFECTLY NORMAL, ROUTINE OPERATIONS
 OF OUR OWN CONSCIOUSNESS.

... (ARE WE A NEAT LITTLE GROUP OR WHAT?!)