

ONE MAN FINALLY ASKED HIMSELF:

"WHAT HAVE I ACTUALLY LEARNED FROM A LIFE TIME OF RE-PLAYING OVER AND OVER AGAIN IN MY MIND THE BLUNDERS I HAVE MADE?.....

.....OTHER THAN THAT I AM INCLINED TO MAKE BLUNDERS?!"

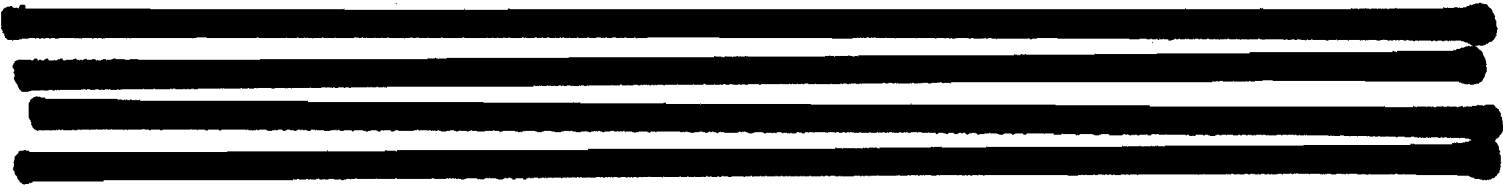
ASK YOURSELF: EXACTLY HOW HAS YOUR

THINKING ABOUT YOUR ACTIONS PAST, ABOUT WHICH, (AFTER THE FACT), YOU WERE CRITICAL

PROVED TO BE OF BENEFIT TO YOU?

-- WHAT SUCH RE-PLAYING DOES ACCOMPLISH IS TO REENFORCE THE NOTION THAT BY MENTALLY DWELLING ON PAST MISTAKES ONE WILL AVOID THEM IN THE FUTURE.-- AN IDEA THAT WILL NOT WITHSTAND CLEAR-EYED SCRUTINY.

AT THE HEART OF ALL ATTEMPTS TO "AWAKEN", OR "ACHIEVE ENLIGHTENMENT"
IS FOUND A CONTINUAL CRITICISM OF ONESELF -- WHICH ITSELF IS
A STATE OF SLEEP AND DELUSION.



LOOKING OUT AT BUSY HIGHWAY TRAFFIC, A MAN MUSED: "ARE WE -- ROBOTIC?"

LOOKING AT SPECTATORS AT A SPORTS GAME, HE MUSED: "ARE WE ROBOTIC?"

LOOKING AT THE MANY PEOPLE WORKING IN HIS OFFICE, HE MUSED: "ARE WE ROBOTIC?"

LOOKING AT THE RITUALS IN A PLACE OF WORSHIP, HE MUSED: "ARE WE ROBOTIC?"

LOOKING AT THE ACTIVITY IN THE CHAMBERS OF CONGRESS, HE MUSED: "ARE WE ROBOTIC?"

HE THEN STOPPED THIS THINKING, AND TRIED AS BEST HE COULD TO
LOOK AT HIS OWN THINKING,

AND WAS JUST ABOUT TO ASK THE SAME QUESTION -- BUT!

IMMEDIATELY THOUGHT BETTER OF IT!

THERE!

IF WHERE YOU FEEL YOU ARE AT THIS MOMENT
IS BORING --
-- WELCOME TO THE WORLD OF SLEEP.

QUESTION: IS IT ACTUALLY POSSIBLE FOR LIFE TO BE BORING?

ANSWER: IS IT POSSIBLE THAT AT ANY PARTICULAR MOMENT IN YOUR LIFE
NOTHING OF NOTE IS OCCURRING?

QUESTION: HOW CAN THESE MOMENTS BE HANDLED?

ANSWER: NON THINKING CREATURES WOULD TAKE A NAP;
HUMANS WILL ALSO, BUT BY WAY OF MENTALLY DRIFTING AWAY FROM THE MOMENT.

FACT: IF YOU'RE BORED -- YOU'RE ASLEEP,
AND WITH THE FEW: IF YOU'RE ASLEEP -- YOU'RE BORED! ---- DISTRESSINGLY SO!

A LITTLE THEOLOGY FOR A SUMMER DAY

FIRST GUY ASKS THE SECOND GUY: "DO YOU BELIEVE IN DEMONS?",
AND SECOND GUY'S REPLY: "YES.", AND FIRST GUY SAYS: "I DIDN'T KNOW YOU
BELIEVED IN STUFF LIKE THAT! DO YOU BELIEVE IN EVIL FORCES?", AND SECOND GUY
SAYS: "YES.", AND FIRST GUY SAYS: "WOW!, I REALLY AM SURPRISED
I WOULD HAVE NEVER SUSPECTED THAT YOU WOULD ENTERTAIN SUCH IDEAS.", & SECOND GUY SAYS
"YEAH -- WELL, I CALL 'EM BY A DIFFERENT NAME,
I LUMP 'EM ALL UNDER THE TERM; "IMAGINARY CONVERSATIONS IN MY HEAD".",
(AND AFTER MOMENTARY REFLECTION ON THE MATTER, THE FIRST GUY SAID TO HIMSELF:
"YEAH, THAT'LL SEND YOUR MIND TO HELL ALL RIGHT.")

A MAN WILL NOT TRY TO CHANGE UNLESS HE THINKS THAT HE NEEDS TO CHANGE,
AND THAT IT IS POSSIBLE TO CHANGE.

NOTE: EVEN IF IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO CHANGE,
IF A MAN TRIES TO ANY WAY
THIS IS A FORM OF CHANGE.

YOU WON'T GO OFF RIDING UNLESS YOU BELIEVE THAT THE ROAD GOES SOME WHERE,
AND EVEN IF IT DOESN'T --
AND YOU DON'T GO OFF RIDING ANY WAY
YOU'LL BE STUCK FOREVER WHERE YOU ARE NOW

THIS IS SOMETHING THAT THE KNIGHTS NEVER DISCUSSED AROUND THE TABLE,
BUT THAT EACH CARRIED SILENTLY WITH HIM IN HIS OWN SADDLE BAG.

WHILE THERE IS NO ONE, FINAL & PERMANENT WAY TO GO ABOUT ACHIEVING
OUR CERTAIN GOAL,
A TEMPORARY, EXPEDIENT APPROACH IS TO NOT EVEN TRY TO EMPTY THE MIND OF ALL
THOUGHTS, BUT RATHER TO JUST EXCLUDE FROM YOUR MIND ALL THOUGHTS ABOUT THE PAST;
FOR NOW, LET SLIDE THOUGHTS ABOUT THE PRESENT AND FUTURE --
JUST DISALLOW ANY THAT CONCERN THE PAST.

....(SO-CALLED, "PATHS TO ENLIGHTENMENT" DON'T GET MUCH BETTER THAN THIS.)

BEING ABLE TO THINK MAKES MAN FEEL UNIQUE IN LIFE;
BEING ABLE TO THINK MAKES MAN FEEL SUPREME IN LIFE;
BEING ABLE TO THINK MAKES MAN FEEL APART FROM LIFE.

THE HEADLINE TO THIS ITEM COULD HAVE BEEN:

"YOUSE TAKES DE BITTER WIT DE SWEET,
('LESSEN YOUSE PAST DISTINGUISIN' 'TWEEN DE TWO)."

ONE MAN OPINES: "IN ORDER TO
PRESERVE YOUR HONOR IN SOME AFFAIRS IT IS OFTEN NECESSARY TO
LIE ABOUT YOUR INVOLVEMENT THEREIN."

TOWHICH I ADD:

IT IS BETTER TO HAVE NEVER DECEIVED YOURSELF AT ALL THAN TO HAVE EVER TRIED TO
ACCURATELY DESCRIBE ANYTHING THAT EVER HAPPENED.

THE CONDITION CALLED BY THE FEW, "BEING ASLEEP"

..... IS EASILY DEFINED: THINKING ABOUT YOUR PAST,

THINKING ABOUT WHAT YOU'VE ALREADY DONE IS A SPECIAL FORM OF INSANITY FOR THE FEW

.....AS A MATTER OF FACT: CONSCIOUSNESS ITSELF IS A LATENT FORM OF INSANITY.

FINDING FAULT WITH YOURSELF SUPPORTS THE IMPRESSION THAT YOU CAN
"DO SOMETHING" ABOUT YOUR LIFE -- THAT YOU CAN "CHANGE" --
THAT YOU INDEED DO HAVE SOME CONTROL OVER YOUR LIFE.

THE CONTINUAL "FINDING FAULT WITH YOURSELF" IS LIKE OPENING YOUR EYES,
BUT STAYING IN A ROOM WITH NO LIGHT.

FOR A MAN WANTING TO SEE CLEARLY,
THE CONTINUAL "FINDING FAULT WITH YOURSELF" IS LIKE OPENING YOUR EYES,
BUT STAYING IN A ROOM WITH NO LIGHT.

WHEN, WHILE PERUSING A MEDICAL REPORT, A MAN RAN ACROSS THE STATEMENT:
"THE PROBLEM WITH SOME ILLS IS THAT THEIR FIRST SYMPTOM IS - SUDDEN DEATH!",
A MAN MUSED TO HIMSELF: "A SHAME THAT ENCROACHING "MENTAL DISTRACTION" DOESN'T
HAVE A SIMILAR -- "WAKE-UP!" WARNING."

LATER THAT SAME DAY, (AS HE WAS DRIVING ALONG THE NORTH BEACH HIGHWAY),
THE MAN FURTHER MUSED:
"IF IT CAME TO IT, WOULD I RATHER BE DEAD THAN HAVE TO STAY IN MY ORDINARY
MENTAL CONDITION?"

HE CONTINUED DRIVING.....AND CONTINUED MUSIN'.....

FACT: SOME PEOPLE TAKE THIS THING ABOUT "WAKING UP" AND GETTING UNTANGLED
MORE SERIOUSLY THAN OTHERS. (BUT YOU KNOW, &
THAT NORTH BEACH ROUTE IS AWFULLY SCENIC.)

IN THE FAUX ASYLUM, (JUST OUTSIDE THE CITY OF MAN),
SOME PATIENTS CRY OUT, CURSING THEIR PARENTS;
SOME CRY OUT, CURSING GOD;
SOME CRY OUT, CURSING THE GOVERNMENT; SOME CRY OUT, CURSING THEIR LUCK;
SOME CRY OUT, CURSING SUB CONSCIOUS TENDENCIES, AND ONE GUY -- THIS ONE GUY
CAN BE HEARD CURSING -- "IMAGINARY CONVERSATIONS."

FACT: THE DAMAGE OF "IMAGINARY CONVERSATIONS" IS MINIMIZED
IF THEY ARE LIMITED TO SCENES SET ONLY IN THE HERE-&-NOW,
WITH NEITHER OF THE SPEAKERS MAKING REFERENCE TO ANY PAST OR
POTENTIAL FUTURE EVENTS.

IN REGARD TO HIS CONSTANT CRITICISM OF HIMSELF, ONE MAN FINALLY DECLARED:
"I'M SICK OF HEARING ABOUT IT!",
ONLY TO INSTANTLY REALIZE THAT HIS "BEING SICK OF HEARING ABOUT IT"
WAS HIM "HEARING ABOUT IT" AGAIN.

YIKES! --

BRING ON THE GREEK CHORUS

THE ONE WHO'S HAD THEIR TONGUES REMOVED.

ONE MAN JOINED A SCHOOL FOR ENLIGHTENMENT WHOSE METHOD WAS TO ONLY:
"MENTALLY LIVE IN THE PRESENT MOMENT", AND WHO SAID THAT IN FACT TO ONLY
MENTALLY LIVE IN THE PRESENT MOMENT IS TO BE ENLIGHTENED.

AFTER TWENTY YEARS THERE, THE MAN DECIDED A CHANGE WAS IN ORDER,
AND JOINED UP WITH ANOTHER SUCH SCHOOL WHOSE SOLE APPROACH WAS TO BE:
"MENTALLY PRESENT ONLY WHERE YOU ARE AT THE MOMENT",
AND WHO CLAIMED THAT INDEED,
"BEING MENTALLY PRESENT ONLY WHERE YOU ARE AT THE MOMENT" IS TO BE ENLIGHTENED.

HIS MOTHER ASKED HIM WHEN HE WAS GOING TO SETTLE DOWN,
GIVE UP SHOW BUSINESS AND GET A REAL JOB.

AS REGARDS THE UNSEEMLY COST OF "BEING TOO CLEVER",
HOW CAN YOU TELL THAT YOU'RE BEING SO? -- SIMPLE:
YOU'RE BEING TOO CLEVER FOR YOUR OWN BENEFIT IF YOU ARE RE-LIVING IN YOUR MIND
A PAST EVENT IN WHICH YOU ACTED IN A WAY YOU AFTERWARDS REGRETED,
BUT NOW INWHICH YOU PICTURE YOURSELF ACTING OTHERWISE.

THINGS YOU'VE ALREADY DONE THAT YOU LATER FELT WERE STUPID, SAMEFUL, AND
INEXPLICABLE
ARE TRULY ONLY SO
IF YOU THINK ABOUT THEM.

...(AND I REMIND YOU: "THINKING ABOUT THEM" IS -- "BEING ASLEEP".)

THE HEAD OF A MONESTARY ONE DAY SAID TO THE MONKS DURING HIS DAILY ADDRESS:
"AFTER US ALL BEING HERE TOGETHER FOR THE LAST THIRTY YEARS
I HAVE COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT I AM MORE ASLEEP THAN ANY OF YOU."

AFTER SEVERAL DAYS OF DISCUSSION AMONGST THEMSELVES,
THE MONKS WENT TO THE MASTER AND ASKED HIM TO EXPLAIN THE
METAPHORICAL INTENT OF HIS WORDS, AND HE SAID: TO THEM:
"THERE WAS NO METAPHORICAL INTENT INVOLVED -- I MEANT IT LITERALLY."

IF YOU ARE NOT HOST TO NORMAL HUMAN THINKING -- YOU ARE ALWAYS HERE;
BUT IF YOU ARE SO INVOLVED YOU ARE MOSTLY SOME WHERE ELSE.

NOT BEING HERE IS ALL THAT THE SO-CALLED STATE OF "BEING ASLEEP" IS ABOUT;
NOT REALZING THIS IS WHAT "STAYING ASLEEP" IS ALL ABOUT.)

THERE ARE TWO WAYS TO BE DAZED AND DELUDED:

ONE: TO BELIEVE THAT YOU CAN EXERCISE SOME CONTROL WHEN YOU CAN'T,
AND TWO: TO NOT TRY TO EXERCISE SOME WHEN YOU SHOULD.

.....(THING IS, YOU GOTTA ALREADY BE DAMN NEAR AWAKE TO UNDERSTAND THIS.)

THE COMMON BELIEF AMONG MEN IS THAT YOU MUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE PAST
SO AS TO MAKE INTELLIGENT DECISIONS IN THE PRESENT,
BUT THEY PONDER NOT WHETHER THEY DID SO IN THE PAST
WHEN THEY MADE THEIR DECISION AS TO HOW TO ACT THEN.

AND UPON HEARING THIS, A BOY TURNED TO HIS FATHER AND SAID:
"THAT BRINGS UP THE QUESTION..." - "DON'T ASK!", THE ELDER CUT HIM OFF.

AS HE HEARD THE
SUBJECT OF SHAME BEING DISCUSSED, TO HIMSELF ONE MAN MUSED:
"LOOKING BACK NOW, MY GREATEST EMBARRASSEMENT IS IN THE FACT THAT I
ONCE ENJOYED THE STUDY OF HISTORY."

NOTE: YOU CAN ONLY "FIND FAULT WITH YOURSELF" BY
THINKING OF YOUR ACTIONS PAST.

AFTER A LAD HAD ENGAGED IN A RANTING DISMISSAL OF PSYCHICS, SOOTHSAYERS,
AND THEIR RELATED LOT,

HIS FATHER SAID:

"NO, NO THERE'S

NO A PROFESSIONAL PROGNOSTICATOR'S GUESS ABOUT THE FUTURE IS AS GOOD AS
ANYONE ELSE'S."

THE HEADLINE TO THIS ITEM COULD HAVE READ:

"HOW THINGS REALLY ARE IF YOU COULD GET FREE OF HOW YOU THINK THEY ARE".
....(BUT THEN AGAIN, SUCH COULD BE THE HEADLINE FOR ANYTHING NOTED
REGARDING THE LIFE OF MAN.)

ONE MAN HAS CONCLUDED:

"THE ONLY DISTINCTION OF SIGNIFICANCE BETWEEN THE TRUTH AND FICTION IS THAT YOU DON'T HAVE TO PAY ROYALTIES WHEN YOU REPEAT THE TRUTH."

TO CLEAR ONE AREA YOU MUST LITTER ANOTHER;
 TO MAKE ONE PLACE LIGHTER YOU MUST MAKE ANOTHER HEAVIER,
 THUS IS ALL CHANGE BUT A REARRANGEMENT.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

FIT THIS INESCAPBLE REALITY INTO YOUR NOTION OF
 CHANGING YOUR CONDITION OF CONSCIOUSNESS -- ALTERING YOUR STATE OF MIND.

... "NOT A VERY PRETTY PICTURE, HUH?!" --

"OH, I DON'T KNOW.....HOW ABOUT THIS:

ONLY A PROPERLY "EMPTY" MAN IS
 PROPERLY "FULL OF HIMSELF".

"AH HAH!", CRIED A MAN, "I MUST BE AWAKE! --

-- I DON'T SEE ANYTHING!"

TRANSLATION FOR YOU OUT-OF-TOWNERS:

WHEN THE SUN COMES UP -- THE SUN APPEARS;

WHEN IT RAINS -- WITNESS OCCURS;

WHEN YOU FALL -- YOU LAY THERE, (UNLESS YOU IMMEDIATELY DREAM ABOUT
 HOW YOU WERE TRIPPED!)

ONLY A MAN WHO, THRU PERSONAL EXPERIENCE, UNDERSTANDS WHAT ALL THIS,
 "WAKING UP" STUFF IS REALLY ALL ABOUT,
 REALLY UNDERSTANDS WHAT ALL THIS "WAKING UP" IS REALLY ALL ABOUT,
 AND ONLY HE KNOWS AT ANY GIVEN MOMENT WHETHER OR NOT HE IS AWAKE, AND IF HE
 MOSTLY IS AWAKE, HE'S MOSTLY BEYOND THE PLACE WHERE "KNOWING" IS OF ANY
 SIGNIFICANCE.

FACT:

SOME PEOPLE ARE MORE INTERESTING WHEN THEY ARE NOT PRESENT
THAN THEY ARE IN PERSON;

SOME PEOPLE'S IDEA OF AN ENLIGHTENED SELF IS MORE INTERESTING IN THEORY
THAN IT IS IN REALITY.

DOES THIS MEAN THAT YOU SHOULD CEASE SEARCHING FOR IT? - HELL NO.

FACT: WHEN YOU WIPE OFF ONE AREA THE DUST JUST SETTLES SOME PLACE ELSE.

...SHOULD THIS CAUSE YOU TO STOP DUSTING? -- DON'T EVEN ASK!

-- JUST BE ALERT TO THE DIRT.

SUCCESS IS FLEETING, BUT FAILURE'S EVEN BRIEFER.

