

ALTHOUGH NOT DISTINGUISHED AS SUCH BY ITS COMMON DALLIERS,
THERE ARE TWO ASPECTS EXTANT REGARDING THE DESIRE FOR A MORE STABLE CONSCIOUSNESS
THE VERBAL, OFTIMES POETIC, MYSTERIOUS, GLAMOROUS, EXCITING
THINKING AND TALKING ABOUT IT,
AND THE PROSAIC, RIGHT-NOW, HANDS-ON EFFORT IT TAKES TO ACHIEVE IT.

THIS IS NO CONDEMNATION OF THE FORMER, BUT ITS DISTINCTION MUST BE RECOGNIZED
FOR THE LATER TO BE REALIZED.

AS WITH ALL FORMS OF ENTERTAINMENT IN THE HUMAN REALM
THERE ARE ALWAYS MORE FANS ON THE SIDE LINES ENJOYING THE GAME VICARIOUSLY
THAN THERE ARE ACTUAL PLAYERS ON THE FIELD,
AND THE GAME OF AWAKENING IS NO EXCEPTION.

MY VIEW IS: "ENJOY YOURSELF! -- ENJOY THE GAME!", BUT PERIODICALLY:
LAY DOWN YOUR PROGRAM;
CEASE YOUR CHEERING AND BOOING;
CLEAR YOUR HEAD AND BE FULLY AWARE ONCE AGAIN OF PERCISELY WHY
YOU SOUGHT OUT THIS EVENT IN THE FIRST PLACE.

THERE IS NO BENEFIT WHATSOEVER IN NOT ENJOYING LIFE, BUT TO SEE FOR YOURSELF
WHAT IS ACTUALLY GOING ON YOU MUST HAVE A CONSTANT AWARENESS OF THE DISTINCTION
BETWEEN WHAT IS ESSENTIAL, AND WHAT IS MERELY ENTERTAINING.

THE ILLNESS OF MEANINGLESS MENTAL SELECTION HAS TWO PARTS:
ONE IS IN YOUR APPROVAL AND DISAPPROVAL OF HOW YOUR MIND PERCEIVES THINGS TO BE,
AND THE OTHER IS IN YOUR ACCEPTING OR REJECTING HOW OTHER PEOPLE SAY THAT THEY
PERCEIVE THINGS TO BE.

"TO BE OR NOT TO BE" IS NOT THE QUESTION --
THE REAL QUESTION IS: WHEN ARE YOU GONNA -- GET OVER IT!?

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A QUITE ANCIENT DESCRIPTION OF THE ENLIGHTENED STATE OF MIND WAS THUS:
"A MIND CRAVING OF NOTHING." WHICH I COULD TRANSLATE AS REFERRING TO A MIND
NOT LOCKED IN THE MEANINGLESS STRUGGLE BETWEEN MENTAL LIKES & DISLIKES,
APPROVALS & DISAPPROVALS.

A MAN WITH A MIND CONTINUALLY ENGAGED IN SENSELESS -- CHEERING & BOOING
IS A MAN WHO WILL NEVER GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THINGS AND UNDERSTAND THE GAME.

A STRANGE VISITOR TO A MONESTARY WAS INVITED TO ADDRESS THE MONKS,
 AND HAD THESE WORDS: "WHAT YOU PEOPLE CALL, "BEING ASLEEP",
 I THINK OF AS SIMPLY A SYNONYM FOR, "INTROSPECTION".", AND THE HEAD OF
 THE ORDER INSTANTLY STOOD AND RETORTED: "BUT SURELY YOU DO NOT MEAN THAT LITERALLY."
 TOWHICH THE VISITOR REACTED: "ALL RIGHT: "USELESS INTROPSPECTION"."
 AND THE ELDER SMILED AND SAID: "AH! -- NOW THAT'S BETTER.",
 AND BEING BUT A TRANSIENT GUEST
 THE SPEAKER DECIDED NOT TO POINT OUT ALOUD THAT ALL INTROSPECTION IS USELESS
 REGARDING THE AIM HIS AUDIENCE HAD IN MIND.

SOME YEARS LATER, THE VISITING SPEAKER NOTED TO HIS SON THAT
 ALL CONFUSION AND DELUSION RESULTS FROM -- INTROSPECTION,
 AND THAT THE COURSE AN ALERT MAN SHOULD PURSUE IS NOT ONE OF EITHER:
 INTROSPECTION, OR EXTROSPECTION,
 BUT THE WAY OF -- NON-SPECTION --
 THE WAY OF -- EMPTINESS
 .WHICH ACTUALLY COULD BE TERMED, "UNI-SPECTION" IN THE SENSE OF SYMBOLIZING
 THAT ONE'S PERCEPTION IS UNIVERSAL, AND THAT ONE'S CONSCIOUSNESS DOES NOT
 MAKE THE ERRONEOUS DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE "IN-HERE" OF ITSELF,
 AND THE "OUT-THERE" OF EVERYTHING ELSE, THE VERY ILLUSION SUPPORTED BY
 SO CALLED, "INTROPSPECTION".

PART OF THE COMMON SPORT IN MAN'S STRICTLY "HUMAN REALM"
IS IN PEOPLE DISAGGREING ABOUT HOW THINGS ARE IN THE WORLD,
(AND IT BEING NON-PHYSICAL, AND THUS BEYOND THE GRASP OF OBJECTIVE MEASUREMENTS,
IT IS PRIME TERRITORY FOR DEBATE AND DISAGGREEMENT.)

A "MAN AWAKE" IS ACTUALLY A PRETTY SIMPLE THING;
HE IS A MAN WHO IS NOT STUCK TO HIS MIND --
WHICH WILL ALWAYS BE STRUCK TO AGREEING AND DISAGREEING AS TO
"HOW THINGS ARE" IN THE WORLD OF MAN -- THE AWAKENED MAN IS HE
WHO CAUSALLY LOOKS PAST ALL THAT STICKINESS,
AND JUST SEES HOW THINGS ARE.

....AND HE KNOWS THAT IF YOU COMMENT ON "HOW THINGS ARE" --
THEY ARE NO LONGER -- "HOW THEY ARE" BUT ARE NOW SOMETHING ELSE:
THEY ARE NOW PART OF A DREAM YOUR MIND IS HAVING.

QUESTION: HOW UN-ALERT DOES A MAN HAVE TO BE TO ARGUE WITH HIS OWN MIND
OVER THE PROPRIETY AND CREDIBILITY OF A DREAM?!

...(ALTHOUGH THERE MAY BE NO OBJECTIVE SHAME IN BEING OF ORDINARY MIND,
THERE PERHAPS SHOULD BE.)

FIRST THING EVERY MORNING AS SOON AS ALL THE FAMILY WAS GATHERED AROUND THE BREAKFAST TABLE, ONE FATHER WOULD CRY OUT:
 "WHAT IS COLDER THAN YESTERDAY'S TOAST?,
 LESS NOURISHING THAN OVERCOOKED FOOD?,
 EMPTIER THAN A LOVE AFFAIR THAT HAS RUN ITS COURSE?",
 AND ALL THE KIDS WOULD SHOUT BACK IN GLEE:
 "WORDS THAT PREVIOUSLY AWAKENED ME!"

I HAPPEN TO KNOW FOR A FACT THAT THIS SAME FATHER PLANS TO ONE DAY PRESENT A NEW QUESTION TO HIS BROOD --
 WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT HE IS GOING TO ASK THEM WHY NO ONE SEEMS TO REALIZE THAT THE ACTIVITY REQUIRED TO TRY TO "CALM THE MIND"
 IS THE SAME KIND OF ACTIVITY THAT YOU'RE TRYING TO STOP WHEN YOU DECIDED TO TRY TO -- "CALM THE MIND"!? ..

ASK YOURSELF: WHAT WOULD BE THE ULTIMATELY INSIGHTFUL MAN'S VIEW OF THE MATTER?
 IS HE TRYING TO ACTUALLY "PUT THE MIND AT REST",
 OR TRYING TO LEARN HOW TO PEACEFULLY LIVE WITH A MIND THAT IS NEVER AT REST?
 IN THE GAME OF, "ENLIGHTENMENT VS ILLUSION"
 IF YOU TAKE SIDES -- YOU LOOSE.

THE RESTLESSNESS OF THE MIND IS MUCH TAKEN UP WITH ITS COMMENTS REGARDING WHAT IT APPROVES OF AND DISAPPROVES OF IN THE REALM OF STRICTLY HUMAN AFFAIRS.

TO BE ENLIGHTENED, AND TO SEE THINGS AS THEY ARE
ALL YOU NEED DO IS CEASE APPROVING OR DISAPPROVING OF THE MEANINGLESS AFFAIRS
IN THE STRICTLY HUMAN ARENA.

BEING "ASLEEP, DELUDED, CAPTIVE AND STUPID" IS BAD ENOUGH,
BUT TO BE SO CONCERNING MATTERS THAT ARE TOTALLY IRRELEVANT....WELL.....

ONE MAN SPRAYED OIL IN HIS WIND-UP POCKET WATCH TO MAKE TIME RUN FASTER.
ANYONE WHO DISMISSES THIS AS FOOLISHNESS SIMPLY REVEALS THEIR IGNORNACE OF
HOW THE MIND RUNS.

A BOY SLIPPED DEFTLY ALONG SIDE HIS DAD AND SAID:

"IT STIRKES ME THAT IT'S NOT EVEN NECESSARY TO "STOP THOUGHTS" -- ALL THAT'S NEEDED IS TO STOP THOUGHTS OF APPROVAL AND DISAPPROVAL OF THE LIVES MEN LEAD."

HIS FATHER STRUCK A POSE OF REFLECTION: RUBBING HIS CHIN, ROLLING HIS EYES ABOUT -- THEN FINALLY SAID:

"OKAY, BUT ADD ONE THING: TURN AWAY FROM YOUR DISAPPROVAL OF YOUR MIND'S APPROVAL AND DISAPPROVAL OF OTHER MEN AND THE LIVES THEY LEAD."

AS TOLD IN A LONG FORGOTTEN MYTH:

THERE WAS ONCE A "GOOD UNIVERSE", (IN WHOSE EVIL TWIN WE RESIDE), AND IT MADE CLEAR TO ALL OF ITS TRANSIENT INNER COMPONENTS THIS FACT:

"WHEN YOUR ABILITY TO THINK BECOMES ACTIVATED: THE WORLD INWHICH YOU FIND YOURSELF -- "IS AS IT IS";

AND AS YOU AGE, AND BECOME EITHER SMARTER OR DUMBER, THINGS REMAIN: "AS THEY ARE."

AND THEN -- IN THE VERY CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE TAKING OF

YOUR FINAL BREATH -- THINGS ARE STILL -- "AS THEY ARE",

(REGARDLESS OF WHAT YOU GO-OUT THINKING.)

WHY NOT TURN LOOSE OF THE ILLUSION NOW.....NOW, AT A TIME THAT WILL DO YOU SOME GOOD.

LONG AGO SOMEONE SAID:

"A MAN WHO KNOWS WHAT IS GOING ON IS LEFT WITH -- NOTHING-TO-DO,
AND YET THERE IS NOTHING IN HIS LIFE THAT IS NOT DONE.",
WHICH I WOULD TRANSLATE AS AN EARLY ATTEMPT TO TAKE NOTE OF THE QUESTION
CONCERNING WHETHER MAN HAS SOME CONTROL OVER HIS LIFE.

THE MIND SEEMS TO HAVE MANY AND VARIED QUESTIONS,
BUT THERE IS ONE THAT IT NEVER POSES INGENUOUSLY.

THE -- "SEARCH FOR THE "TRUTH"!" IS UNNECESSARY;
WHAT CHU DO IS -- "ABANDON THE ABSURD"!

YOUR OWN SELF-CONDEMNATION IS DEPENDENT ON YOUR MIND'S OWN CONTINUAL ENTANGLEMENT WITH APPROVING-OF, OR REJECTING OTHER PEOPLE'S ACTIONS IN THE HUMAN ARENA.

THE ROCK-HARD REALITY BEHIND THE IDEA OF:
"CONDEMN YOUR NEIGHBOR -- CONDEMN YOURSELF"
IS UNDERSTOOD BY BUT A FEW.

THE PROBLEM IS NOT WITH OTHER PEOPLE'S LIVES,
THE PROBLEM IS NOT EVEN WITH YOUR OPINION OF THEIR LIVES,
THE ONLY SOLVABLE "PROBLEM" IS IN YOU NOT UNDERSTANDING THE
NATURAL GAME OF THE MIND.

TO WHAT LOWER LEVEL MUST A MAN'S INTELLIGENCE FALL FOR HIM TO BELIEVE THAT
IT IS MEANINGFULLY REPREHENSIBLE TO FAVOR HOCKEY OVER RUGBY!?,
OR GOD OVER ALLAH?!, OR HIS DELUSIONS OVER YOURS?!

TO BE "RIGHT" IS NOT THE GOAL --
TO "GET OVER IT" IS.

COME OVER HERE WITH ME FOR A MOMENT;
 COCK YOUR HEAD A LITTLE SIDWAYS, AND TAKE A LOOK AT A CERTAIN MATTER
 FROM ANOTHER ANGLE:

THERE IS NO, AND CANNOT BE
 ANY DISTINCTION BETWEEN A MAN'S NORMAL SELF AND HIS CIRCUMSTANCES --
 ---- HIS SELF IS HIS CIRCUMSTANCES.

IN THAT A MAN HAS NO FIXED, PERMANENT "SELF"
 IN HIS MIND
HIS SEEMS TO BE
WHATEVER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES CAUSE IT TO BE.

SINCERE OBSERVATION WILL READILY SHOW THIS TO BE TRUE --
 AND AFTER THAT
 HOW CAN ANY MAN STILL FEEL A DISTINCTION BETWEEN HIMSELF AND THE REST OF LIFE?!

STRUGGLING TO, "LIVE IN THE MOMENT." IS NOT THE ONLY WAY TO GO ABOUT IT --
 YOU CAN ALSO JUST TURN LOOSE THE ILLUSION THAT YOU ARE SOME PLACE ELSE! --
(JUST BECAUSE YOUR MIND THINKS THAT IT IS.)

A BOY ASKED HIS FATHER:

"IS IT FAIR TO SAY THAT AN ENLIGHTENED MIND IS ONE THAT HAS NO PREFERENCE AS TO HOW THINGS ARE OUT IN LIFE REGARDING OTHER PEOPLE?",

AND HIS LARGER VERSION REPLIED: "YOU LEFT OUT ONE PART: THAT AN ENLIGHTENED MIND ALSO HAS NO PREFERENCE REGARDING WHETHER IT IS ENLIGHTENED OR NOT."

...(THE LAD DIDN'T BOTHER TO SAY THAT HE COULDN'T YET GRASP THE FULL SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS STATEMENT INASMUCH AS IF HE COULD, HE WOULDN'T 'AVE ASKED A QUESTION CONCERNING AN ENLIGHTENED MIND.)

SOME BEACH MUSIC NEWS

ONLY THOSE WHO IMAGINE THEY'RE DROWNING
BELIEVE THAT THEY'RE DROWNING.

....OH, ALL RIGHT, DUE TO ONE LIFE GUARD'S LONG FACE I'LL REPACKAGE IT FOR YOU:
NO ONE IS ASLEEP UNLESS THEY THINK THAT THEY'RE ALSEEP,
AND NO ONE CAN AWAKEN WITHOUT FIRST THINKING THAT THEY'RE ASLEEP.

IT IS TO -- AWAKEN FROM A DREAM THAT WAS NOT EVEN A DREAM TO BEGIN WITH,
BUT WAS RATHER -- A DREAM OF A DREAM.

A PERIPATETIC PRACTITIONER OF ROOT MEDICINE,
(NOT THE APPLICATION OF MEDICINE MADE OF ROOTS,
BUT RATHER THE TREATMENT SOLELY OF ROOTS)
ONE DAY STOPPED IN A VILLAGE POPULATED ENTIRELY OF MEN STRUGGLING FOR
"THE ENLIGHTENED STATE OF MIND", AND AT THEIR REQUEST, ADDRESSED THEM ON THE MATTER

HIS WORDS WERE THUS:

"MOST OF THE TIME, MENS' MINDS HAVE NOTHING OF SIGNIFICANCE WITH WHICH TO
OCCUPY THEMSELVES;

THUS MOST OF THE TIME, MENS' MINDS ARE OCCUPIED WITH THINGS OF NO SIGNIFICANCE.

EASY OBSERVATION OF THE HUMAN RACE SHOWS THAT HAVING YOUR MIND OCCUPIED
MOSTLY BY MATTERS OF NO SIGNIFICANCE DOES A MAN NO HARM.

MY QUESTION IS: WHAT GIVES WITH YOU PEOPLE!?!"

...AND DON'T BOTHER -- I'LL SHOW MYSELF OUT OF TOWN."

RUMORED TO BE THE GREATEST OF ALL THE APPROACHES TO THAT SPECIAL GOAL
WAS ONE THAT WENT BY THE TITLE OF: "CASE DISMISSED."