

A MAN WANTING THE AWAKENING IS A PERSON WHO WANTS TO BELIEVE THAT THEY ARE BETTER THAN THEY ARE.

NOTWITHSTANDING HIS ABILITY TO MAKE FELLOW CREATURES OF HIS SPECIES LAUGH BY SOUNDS/WORDS HE UTTERS, PERHAPS THE MOST STRIKING, THOUGH OVERLOOKED SINGULARLY IDENTIFYING MARK OF MAN IS IN HIS CONCEPT OF: "MAKING HIMSELF BETTER THAN HE IS."

AFTER SEEING TO SURVIVAL ESSENTIALS, MEN FILL THEIR TIME WITH TWO ACTIVITIES; ONE IS IN MENTALLY INTERTAINING THEMSELVES, (THAT IS TO SAY: "PUTTING THEMSELVES TO SLEEP"), WITH SUCH THINGS AS; BOOKS, MOVIES, VIDEO GAMES, THEATRICAL AND SPORTING EVENTS),

THE SECOND WAY IS BY TRYING TO "IMPROVE THEMSELVES" THRU SUCH ACTIVITIES AS; RELIGION, EDUCATION, CAREER AND INCOME ADVANCEMENT, AND HEALTH ENHANCEMENT,

AND AT THE TOP OF THE LIST: THE ATTEMPT TO AWAKEN & ACHIEVE ENLIGHTENMENT -- -- THE ULTIMATE GRASP AT MAKING ONESELF BETTER;

IN ALL OF THE NUMERUOSLY NAMED ACTIVITIES DEVOTED TO IMPROVING ONE'S STATE OF CONSCIOUSNESS WHAT IS GOING ON IS THAT THE MIND HAS THE THOUGHT TO "AWAKEN" WHICH IT BELIEVES IS BETTER THAN THOUGHTS THAT ARE; HATEFUL, ENVIOUS, SELF-PITYING, CRITICAL, SPITEFUL, FEARFUL, ANXIOUS AND SELF-CONDEMNATORY, IN OTHER WORDS; THE THOUGHTS THAT HAVE ALWAYS BEEN A NATURAL PART OF EVERYONE'S MIND.

EACH MAN'S MIND IS MADE UP OF MANY POLARIZED SETS OF THOUGHT; IT HAS; POSITIVE THOUGHTS & NEGATIVE THOUGHT; HOPEFUL THOUGHTS & APPREHENSIVE THOUGHTS UP THOUGHTS & DOWN THOUGHTS - HOT THOUGHTS, COLD THOUGHTS, AND SO ON, AND EACH MAN'S MIND HAS AN EVER SHIFTING PREFERNCE FOR ONE OF THE THOUGHTS IN SUCH SETS OVER THE OTHER ONE,

BUT THOSE WANTING TO AWAKEN HAVE TAKEN THIS MATTER TO AN UNHEARD-OF EXTREME.

RATHER THAN FLOWING ALONG WITH THE NORMAL, FLUID NATURE OF THE MIND'S PREFERNCES THEY CONSTRUCTIVELY ATTEMPT TO IMPOSE THEREON, AN UNCHANGING, PERMANENT PARADIGM

THEIR GOAL, (WHETHER UNDERSTOOD OR NOT), IS TO RECONFIGURE THEIR MIND SO THAT IT HAS ONLY THE SUPERIOR "THOUGHT-OF-AWAKENING", AND NEVER AGAIN ANY OF THE LESSER, "SLEEPING" ONES.

THE MINDS OF ORDINARY MEN OBVIOUSLY ARE NOT EXTENSIVELY ENGAGED IN THOUGHTS OF "BECOMING A BETTER PERSON";  
 WITH MOST -- AT BEST --  
 IT IS A FITFUL ACTIVITY WHOSE SPECS AND EXPECTATIONS ARE CONTINUALLY SUBJECT TO THE VAGARIES OF LIFE'S CONDITIONS, A FACT THEY UNFLINCHINGLY ACCEPT.  
 BUT HERE AGAIN THE MINDS OF THOSE WANTING-TO-AWAKEN DEPART FROM THE NORM, FOR AT THE VERY HEART OF THEIR INTEREST IS A DETERMINATION TO TURN THEIR SUPERIOR, "THOUGHT-OF-AWAKENING" INTO THE PERMANENT TOTALITY OF THEIR MIND; OCCUPYING ALL MENTAL SPACE AT THE EXPENSE OF THE INFERIOR "THOUGHTS-THAT-SLEEP"

ANOTHER DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE MINDS OF ORDINARY MEN ENGAGED IN THE PASTTIME OF "SELF IMPROVEMENT" AND THOSE SEEKING THE ENLIGHTENMENT IS THAT THE MINDS OF THE ORDINARY TURN AWAY FROM THEMSELVES, AND LOOK OUTWARD TO OTHER MINDS, TO OTHER SOURCES FOR DIRECTIONS AS TO HOW THEY MIGHT, "MAKE THEMSELVES A BETTER PERSON", (TO A RABBI, TO THE KORAN, TO A BUDDHIST SECT), WHILE THE MIND OF A MAN WANTING THE LIBERATION DEPENDS SOLELY ON ITSELF.

ALL THAT IS REQUIRED IS THAT HIS MIND HAVE ONE RELIABLE, REOCCURRING THOUGHT THAT BELIEVES IT IS BETTER THAN ANY AND ALL OF HIS OTHER THOUGHTS --

-- AND OPERATES ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT IT CAN EITHER: OVERCOME THEM -- OR ELSE DRIVE THEM PERMANENTLY OUT.

IT IS CLEARLY ONE THING TO IMPROVE YOURSELF PHYSICALLY, BUT ASK YOURSELF: WHAT PERCISELY DOES IT MEAN TO MAKE YOURSELF BETTER IN SOME NON-PHYSICAL WAY?

I SAY THAT IN SPITE OF HOW REASONABLE IT MAY SOUND, THERE IS NO SUBSTANTIAL ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION.

AND I FURTHER SUBMIT THAT A THROUGH INVESTIGATION OF WHY THERE IS NO VALID RESPONSE TO THIS WILL TAKE YOU TO A PLACE OF RELAXED, ENLIGHTENED SATISFACTION.

WHAT AN ABSOLUTELY AMAZING AND AMUSING IDEA IT DOETH BE: THAT A CREATURE WHO DID NOT MAKE ITSELF

CAN

MAKE ITSELF -- BETTER!

THAT THE MIND, WHICH HAS NOTHING BYWHICH TO OBJECTIVELY COMPARE ITSELF, BELIEVES ITSELF

CAPABLE OF -- IMPROVING ITSELF.

WHEN SEEN IN A CLEAR, COOL LIGHT THE IDEA IS TRULY DUMB-FOUNDING,



AN OLDER, WELL KNOWN MYSTIC WAS ONE DAY VISITED BY A YOUNGER MAN WHO SAID THAT AMONG A CERTAIN GROUP, HE TOO HAD THE REPUTATION OF BEING AWAKE.

THE ELDER INVITED THE YOUNGER TO HAVE A SEAT -- WHICH HE DID, AND THEN HE SAID:

"I HAVE LONG WANTED TO ME YOU, AND TELL YOU OF MY IDEAS AND DISCOVERIES, BUT I HAVE ALWAYS ASSUMED THAT YOU PROBABLY BELIEVED THAT YOU ALREADY KNEW IT ALL AND WOULD HAVE NO INTEREST IN ME."

"NOT AT ALL.", SAID THE OLDER ONE, "I AM ALWAYS INTERESTED IN MEETING ANY ONE WHO CAN DO ANYTHING THAT I CAN'T DO.", AND THE IPSIDIXIT MYSTIC REJOINED; "DON'T YOU MEAN TO SAY THAT YOU'RE ALWAYS INTERESTED IN MEETING ANY ONE WHO KNOWS ANYTHING THAT YOU DON'T KNOW?!" -- "NOPE.", HE REPLIED.