

COSMOLOGICAL UPDATE FOR THE INTELLECTUALLY, "UP-TO-DATE":

IF THERE IS A "HOLE IN THE UNIVERSE" THEN YOUR CONSCIOUSNESS SHOULD BE IT.
(WHERE DO YOU THINK EXTRAORDINARY INFO'S GONNA COME FROM!?)

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WHEN ROUTINE, CITY MEN FIND THINGS TO BE GOING WELL IN THEIR ORDINARY AFFAIRS
 THEY LIKE TO SAY THAT, "THEY'RE ON TOP OF THE SITUATION.",
 WHILE A MORE ALIVE & ALERT PERSON WOULD THINK OF THEMSELF AS BEING AN
 INSEPERABLE PART OF ANY AND ALL HUMAN SITUATIONS.

....WHERE DO YOU THINK THAT ALL EXCEPTIONAL INFO COMES FROM!?

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DEFINITION: SITUATIONS AND CIRCUMSTANCES: GODS WITHOUT THE TRAPPINGS.

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IF YOU ENJOY HEARING THE COMMONNESS OF COMMON MEN CELEBRATED
THEN YOU --(WELL, YOU KNOW) -- YOU'RE ONE OF THEM.

DEFINITION: CIVILIZATION, (THAT IS, THE OPERATIONAL REALITY OF MAN'S COMBINED
INTELLECTUAL EFFORTS:

CIVILIZATION: THIS SOLAR SYSTEM'S ONLY MANIFESTATION THAT
THRIVES -- NAY, SOLELY SURVIVES ON -- CRITICISM.

(UPON HEARING THIS, ONE CHAP FELT AS THOUGH THE WHOLE THING SOUNDED
WAY-Y-Y TOO MUCH LIKE HIS OWN MIND AND PERSONALITY.)

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THE STRUCTURE THAT IS THE, "QUESTION OF SURVIVAL" IS AND SHOULD BE, A RIGID ONE,
BUT IN THE STRICTLY HUMAN, AVOCATIONAL AREAS ABOVE THIS LEVEL,
LIFE SHOULD BE A BIT MORE RELAXED AND NOT QUITE SO SOLEMN.

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QUESTION: WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A REKNOWNED PROFESSIONAL PHILOSOPHER,
AND A MAN WHO KNOWS MORE? --

THE FORMER MUST BE SERIOUS SINCE HIS MAKE-BELIEVE REPUTATION
DEPENDS ON IT.

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"OH MR. BALANCHINE, YOUR WIFE CALLED AND SAID FOR YOU TO WASH YOUR FEET BEFORE
COMING HOME TONIGHT."

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MORE SPECIAL HUMAN HISTORY LOOKED AT THROUGH A GLASS BRIGHTLY

TO THE BODY, HABIT IS SO DOWNRIGHT PLEASING, AGREEABLE AND COMFORTING
THAT IT NEVER DID HAVE TO TELL THE INTELLECT --- "HEY, YOU SHOULD TRY IT."

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ANOTHER REASON PERHAPS(?) THAT THOSE WHO WANT TO GO AGAINST THIS ARRANGEMENT
ARE SO FEW -(?!)

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WHAT THE "REPORTING OF THE NEWS" REVEALS, (AND IT'S NOT "THE NEWS"!):

IN THE CONTEMPORARY MEDIA, THE TWO MOST POPULAR FEATURES ARE THOSE REGARDING HEALTH, AND, FINANCES --

THESE TWO ARE ALSO THE CHEAPEST TO PUT TOGETHER AND PRESENT.

QUESTION: THINK THERE'S ANY CONNECT BETWEEN THESE TWO FACTS!?.....

DURING A LATE NIGHT CHESS GAME, ONE MAN SAID TO HIS PARROT:
"MANY QUITE ORDINARY MEN HAVE LONG LOVED TO MAKE NOTE OF THE,
'BITTER-SWEET' NATURE OF EVERY DAY HUMAN EXISTANCE,
BUT I'LL TELL YOU THE TRUTH, OLE CHUM,
HAVING THE EXCEPTIONAL HUNGER TO EXPLOSIVELY, EXPAND ONE'S UNDERSTANDING OF LIFE
GIVES A WHOLE HIGHER MEANING TO THE EXPERIENCE OF BOTH LOVING SOMETHING DEARLY,
AND HAVING IT DAMN NEAR DRIVE YOU NUTS."
THEY BOTH SMILED KNOWINGLY AS THE BIRD GOOD-NATUREDLY CHECKED HIM.

The silent slogan of many a man is: "A rigid mind is a happy — or at least — normal mind."

IN THE CITY - (THAT IS, UNDER THE MOST NORMAL, ORDINARY SANE AND CIVILIZED OF
CONDITIONS) -- IN THE CITY,
SMALL MEN FIGHT OVER SMALL AFFAIRS,
AND LARGER MEN OVER MATTERS THE SMALL MEN BELIEVE ARE LARGER.

A MAN WHO CLEARLY SEES THE CITY FOR WHAT PURPOSE IT, AND ITS INHABITANTS SERVE,
IS MOSTLY SILENT REGARDING ITS DAY-TO-DAY ACTIVITIES.

IF YOU LOOK AT THE MYTHS OF CHIVARY AS ALLEGORIES OF THE MYSTICAL QUEST,
THEN YOU CAN SEE THE STRICT CODE OF HONOR THE KNIGHTS ADOPTED AS REFLECTIVE OF
THEIR AWARENESS OF THE IMPERTINANCE OF CIVILIZED STANDARDS IN THEIR OWN LIVES,
AND THUS THEY UPPED THE ILLUSIONARY STAKES.

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A HOMEOWNER WHO FINDS AN IMAGINARY OUT-BUILDING SITTING ON HIS PROPERTY
HAS TWO SALIENT POSSIBLE RESPONSES, (WELL, ONE SALIENT AND IN COMMON USE,
AND THE OTHER, ONLY APPARENT TO A FEW),
HE CAN RANT & RAVE AND COMPLAIN ABOUT THE ILLEGAL, MAKE-BELIEVE STRUCTURE --
(TO, I MIGHT ADD -- NO AVAIL -- OBVIOUSLY!, WHAT!?),
OR HE MIGHT "PLAY, KNOWING ALONG", AND EVEN PRETEND TO TRY AND SHORE UP THE
ILLUSIONARY CONSTRUCT'S FOUNDATIONS.

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A SHORT CULTURAL REVIEW OF CITY MINDS

SIMPLE, UNEDUCATED MEN PROMOTE RELIGION;
LEARNED, SOPHISTICATED ONES DENOUNCE IT;
BOTH GROUPS ARE DUMB AS DIRT.

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REMEMBER: MEN DON'T CAUSE CULTURE! --
AND EVEN THE REVERSE IS ALMOST AS UNTRUE!

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AND A VIEWER SAYS -- AH, SCREW A VIEWER! --
IF HE OR SHE ACTUALLY HAD ANYTHING WORTHWHILE TO SAY THEY WOULDN'T BE
MERELY A VIEWER.

"OH, COME NOW, OLE DEAR -- DO CALM DOWN AND GET AN INTELLECTUAL HOLT ON YOURSELF
THERE ARE POSITIVE THINGS TO BE SAID ABOUT BEING JUST A VIEWER."

"OH YEAH -- LIKE WHAT?"

"OKAY, LIKE BEING A VIEWER MAKES PLAGIARISM, AND
VACARIOUS-FAN-PARTICIPATION-AND-PASSIVE-BY-STANDER-OBSEVATION PERMISSIBLE."

"I NOTICE YOU SAID, 'PERMISSIBLE', AND NOT, 'ACCEPTABLE'."

"IT WOULD HAVE BROKEN UP THE ALLITERATION."

"OH."

MEDIA-WATCH AND INFO-AGE; TWENTIETH CENTURY AND BEYOND

TAKING THE NEWS OF THE CITY "SERIOUSLY" WILL MAKE YOU PART OF THE NEWS.

..(AND ONE MAN SAID: "GOD FORBID!", AND GOD SAID: "HEY, DON'T QUOTE ME IN PRINT!")

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IF CIVILIZATION ITSELF IS ALL IMAGINARY THEN EVERYTHING IN IT MUST ALSO BE;
AND THAT MEANS THAT ALL PRISONS AND FORMS OF CAPTIVITY ARE ILLUSIONARY,
AND I GUESS YOU SEE WHAT THAT MEANS!?......HEY!, WAKE UP, I'M TALKING TO YOU!

ONE OF OUR ATTENTIVE VIEWERS SAYS THAT, THANKS TO US, HE'S ADOPTED THIS MOTTO:
 "TENSE & PREPARED FROM THE MENTAL LEVEL DOWN; LOOSE AS A GOOSE FROM THERE ON UP."

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QUESTION MARK? - QUESTION MARK? - QUESTION MARK?

WHILE NO ONE SPEAKS OF HAVING ARTHRITIS AS BEING PROOF OF THEIR PHYSICAL FLEXIBILITY
 MEN, AS THEY AGE, CONTINUE TO LABEL THEIR INCREASING INTELLECTUAL RIGIDITY AS
 WISDOM - ?!?!

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"OH MR. RUSSELL! --- YOUR WIFE CALLED AND SAID THAT YOU SHOULD WASH OUT YOUR HEAD
REAL-L-L GOOD BEFORE COMING HOME TONIGHT."

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ONE THURSDAY, (RATHER THAN DOING HIS NAILS), ONE MAN SAT DOWN AND THUS REFLECTED
"THE TRICKY THING ABOUT WORDS, (AND THINKING ITSELF), IS THAT
THE MORE YOU UNDERSTAND THE MORE YOU REALIZE THAT NEITHER
ACCURATELY REPRESENT WHAT THEY CLAIM TO! -- BUT! --
THE MORE YOU UNDERSTAND -- EVEN BEYOND THAT! --
THE MORE YOU REALIZE THAT NOTHING DOES! -- AND THAT NOTHING IS SUPPOSED TO."

...(TO BE COMPLETELY HONEST WITH YOU,
BY LATE FRIDAY, HE'D COME TO SEE THAT ALTHOUGH WHAT HE'D THOUGHT
SOUNDED NEAT-AND-DEEP, THAT IT WAS NOT ACTUALLY SO, BUT -- "SO WHAT!?" --
SINCE HE'D ALREADY ESTABLISHED THAT NOTHING IS ANY WAY!)

SOME UNVACCINATED ZOOLOGICAL NEWS FOR THOSE WHO STILL LIVE IN DOMESTICATED
ENVIRONMENT:

IT DOESN'T PAY TO BE NICE TO A CHEAP DOG;
IT DOES NEITHER THE DOG, NOR THE OWNER ANY GOOD.

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...(SOME OF YOU MAY CARE TO NOTE THAT THIS IS NOT ONLY SO REGARDING DOGS,
BUT ALSO APPLIES TO WOLVES, TO HORSES, TO LIONS, TO AUTOMOBILES,
AND TO THE HUMAN MIND.)

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HOW CERTAIN MYTHOLOGICAL AND THEOLOGICAL IDEAS COULD BE OF SOME DIRECTIONAL
ASSISTANCE IF THEY WERE UNDERSTOOD A, "BIT DIFFERENTLY":

ASSUMING THE EXISTANCE OF SUCH: A MAN COULD NOT BE HELPED BY EITHER THE FORCES OF,
GOOD, OR EVIL, BUT ONLY BY THOSE OF INDIFFERENCE.

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BEING "SMARTER" THAN EVERYONE ELSE IS HARDLY WORTH THE EFFORT --
.....IF THAT'S ALL YOU HAD IN MIND.

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...AN INTELLIGENT MAN KNOWS WHEN TO SHUT UP;
A REALLY INTELLIGENT ONES KNOWS WHEN TO -- IN ADVANCE.

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"DADDY, TELL ME A DEFINITION."

"OKAY, HERE'S ONE: 'SHUTTING UP: AN ACT THAT CAN NEVER BE IN THE WRONG PLACE
AT THE WRONG TIME',"

"DADDY, IT WAS A TRICK! --

I JUST WANTED TO SEE IF YOU'LL ACTUALLY ANSWER ME."

"WHY YOU SNOT-BRAINED LITTLE BASTARD YOU! -- MY BOY!"

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FOR THOSE WHO LIVE IN THE BASEMENTS, AND POORER PARTS OF THE CITY,
HUMAN PROGRESS MEANS LITTLE UNLESS IT APPARENTLY PRESENTS IMMORTALITY.
....(AND IF NOT THAT, THEN IN CERTAIN "HIPPER" LIMBIC/NEURAL GHETTOS,
AND LEAST A CAMEO APPEARANCE ON A SOAP OPERA.)

IN CASE YOU'D LIKE A LITTLE ADDED ENDUCEMENT TO DO SOME TRAVELING:
ON ONE OF JUPITER'S ASTEROIDS THEY HAVE A QUIZ SHOW WHICH,
IF YOU CAN REACH THE FINAL ROUND,
OFFERS AS A PRIZE YOUR NEW CHOICE OF EITHER EVENTUALLY GETTING OLD,
DYING, OR BECOMING INCREASINGLY, "LESS STUPID AND RIGID".
....(ALMOST WORTH THE PRICE OF A PET-SITTER FOR FIDO.)

THE MINORITY, CLEAR-VIEW OF THE BACKGROUND OF RELIGION IS THAT
EARLY ON, CIVILIZATION RECOGNIZED ITS OWN INHERENT WEAKNESSES,
(BEING AT LEAST SUFFICIENTLY INTELLENT TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE
ILLUSIONARY LACKS,[SHALL WE SAY], A CERTAIN DEGREE OF PUISSANCE),
AND QUICKLY CAME UP WITH A,"BOOGER BEAR STORY" TO FRIGHTEN ALL THE CHILDREN. AND
HELP KEEP THEM IN LINE.

SINCE MEN HAVE NO TRUE PSYCHOLOGY, THE ONLY TRICKS THAT WILL WORK ON THEM ARE
PSYCHOLOGICAL ONES.

THE SUBSTITUTE PROFESSOR TOLD THE STAND-IN CLASS:

"THE UNIVERSE IS 15 BILLION YEARS OLD, AND HUMANITY, A MILLION.

I, HOWEVER, HAVE AN UNCLE WHO HAS A MIND THAT VERY LIKELY SURPASSES BOTH FIGURES"
AND THEY BROKE FOR LUNCH.

EPISTEMOLOGY UPDATE BY WAY OF NON-STANDARD LOGIC

IF YOU UNDERSTAND THIS "ONE CERTAIN THING", YOU'LL UNDERSTAND EVERY THING.

IT IS THUS IN THE MYTHICAL ADVENTURE-WORLD OF THE NEURAL KNIGHT THAT
ONE PART IS GREATER THAN THE APPARENT WHOLE,

IN THE SAME WAY THAT FOR INSTANCE, AS REGARDS EVERYDAY CIVILIZATION,
ANY PIECE OF AN IMAGINARY STRUCTURE IS JUST AS LARGE,
AND JUST AS MEANINGFUL AS THE STRUCTURE ITSELF.

IF YOU BEGIN TO SEE THIS, THEN YOU "BETTER BE CAREFUL",

CAUSE IT AIN'T FAR FROM THERE TO REALIZIN' THAT THE SAME CONDITIONS HOLD TRUE
AS APPLIES TO THE CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATIONS OF YOUR OWN MIND.

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ALTHOUGH ROUTINELY OVERLOOKED BY THE CITY DANCE TEAM JUDGES,
 AND IN-TOWN, FIGURE SKATER'S SELECTION COMMITTEE,
 THERE IS A MOST SIGNIFICANT CONNECTION! -- FOR THOSE FEW WHO
 STILL INSIST ON WHIRLING ABOUT, "ON-THEIR-OWN", IN-THEIR-OWN-HEAD,
 AND WITHOUT ANY OFFICIAL SANCTION --
 THE CONNECTION BETWEEN BEING ABLE TO CONTINUALLY REMEMBER A MOST EXTRAORDINARY
 PERSONAL AIM, AND A "FORTUNATE-TURN-OF-EVENTS",

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QUEERY: WHAT IS A PRIMARY DISTINCTION IN THE CURRICULAS OF A THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE
 AND JUST A BUNCH OF PEOPLE WHO GET TOGETHER TO PONDER ON THE WORKINGS OF
 THE GREAT MYSTICAL ADVENTURE?
 THE SEMINARY HAS NO COURSE IN, LUCK.

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HOW THINGS ARE, (MEDICALLY SPEAKING), IF YOU LIVE A ROUTINE PART IN THE
EVERYDAY HUMAN DRAMA, OUTSIDE OF THE POSSIBLE, RARER MYTHOLOGICAL,
MYSTICAL SCRIPT:

IF YOU HAVE A HEAD — YOU'LL HAVE HEAD ACHES;
IF YOU HAVE A HEART — YOU'LL HAVE HEART ACHES;
IF YOU HAVE LUNGS & GUTS — YOU'LL DIE.

NOW! -- CHEER UP, BY GOD, AND GO "DO BETTER"!

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AND NOW ANOTHER ENTRY FROM THE "M" VOLUME OF OUR NEW INTELLIGENCE ENCYCLOPEDIA

MEN CONCEIVED OF THE IDEA OF ADDING MORALS TO THE END OF STORIES ABOUT
HUMAN ADVENTURES SINCE THEY REALIZED THAT WITHOUT THEM THEY'D HAVE NONE.

AS PER HIS SPECIAL REQUEST, SUBMITTED TO CREATION'S LOCAL CUSTOMER SERVICE OFFICE,
RATHER THAN A STANDARD-ISSUE INTELLECT, THIS ONE MAN WAS GIVEN A TICK INSTEAD.

...(FEARING THAT YOU MIGHT NOT IMMEDIATELY GRASP THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SWITCH,
HE ADDED THE COMMENT THAT IT WAS, "MORE RELAXING" THIS WAY.)

ONE MAN TOLD HIS CHILDREN ONE DAY:

"IN A SENSE,

ALL OF US THINKING CREATURES BORN TO A POLAR BASED LIFE ON THIS PARTICULAR PLANET
ARE, IN THE FINAL, RATIONAL ANALYSIS -- INTELLECTUAL IDIOTS! -- BUT,
YOU DO NOT HAVE TO COMPOUND THE PROBLEM BY NOTING IT ABOUT YOURSELF, OR
CRITICIZING IT IN OTHERS."

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MILKY WAY MYTH ADDENDUM

THE TWO SPIRITS FIGHTING FOR CONTROL OF THE EARTH, THE GOOD ONE, AND THE BAD ONE,
HAVE NO USE FOR MEN WHO HOLD A PERSONAL, SMILE-IN-THEIR-BRAIN;
THE BAD SPIRIT SIMPLY HATES THEM, AND THE GOOD ONE SIMPLY DOESN'T TRUST THEM.

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ONE MAN SAYS HE HAS THIS LITTLE PRIVATE,(QUOTE),"PRAYER" HE THINKS ABOUT SOME TIMES, THAT GOES LIKE THIS:

"DEAR GOD: THANK YOU FOR MAKING SO MANY PEOPLE TAKE CIVILIZATION SO SERIOUS, AND THUS PROP IT UP SUFFICIENTLY THAT A FEW OF US OTHERS CAN DO SOMETHING A BIT MORE INTERESTING."

In the Legendary Kingdom of Uuv
they tell their mythical version of
the infinite battle between two forces
as being that of The Rigid vs The Loose

AND NOW: HERE IS THE VERY LAST PIECE OF "NEWS" YOU'LL EVER NEED REGARDING,
"THE NEWS":

THERE IS -- AND ALWAYS HAS BEEN -- BUT ONE PIECE OF NEWS -- AND THAT IS THAT:
YOU'RE GOING TO DIE!

- - -

NOW LIGHTEN UP, AND TURN ON OVER TO THE COMICS.

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If you must be told something
you'll never actually ever understand it;
Thus it is that all of civilization's
LAWS AND directives of morality
must be backed up with threats of
punishment

AFTER MANY YEARS OF MIND SEARCHING AND HORMONAL UPHEAVALS,
ONE MAN ANNOUNCED THAT HE WAS LEAVING HIS FAMILY AND ORDINARY LIFE
TO GO SEEK THE MYSTERY THAT IS LIFE,
AND HIS WIFE AND FRIENDS ASKED HIM IF DISCOVERING THIS WOULD BRING HIM
RICHES, OR POWER, OR IMMORTALITY, AND IF NOT -- THEN WHAT WOULD HE ACHIEVE!?,
AND HE REPLIED: "A LIFE SPENT AS I -- AS I SHOULD SPEND IT.", AND LEFT.

IF YOU'RE SOLEMN & SERIOUS ABOUT ROUTINE HUMAN EXISTANCE, YOU'LL DIE FASTER -- BUT
 THIS'LL BE BALANCED OUT BY THE FACT THAT YOU'LL FEEL LIKE
 YOU LIVED LONGER!.....TOO LONG, IN FACT.

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"DISTINCTIONS GALORE" (AGAIN):

WHEN THE BODY FEARS IT'S GOING TO DIE, IT GETS REALLY-Y-Y, REALLY SERIOUS;
 AND SO DOES THE MIND -- BUT WHEN IT REALIZES THAT IT'S GOING TO LIVE.

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INQUIRY: DO YOU STILL CONSIDER IT MERE HAPPENSTANCE!?,
 THE FACT THAT CORPSES ARE STIFF AND RIGID!?

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ONE DAY, IN EARLY SPRING, TWO MEN WERE STANDING IN A FIELD AND SAW SOME TURKEYS,
AND ONE OF THEM NODDED TOWARD THE BIRDS AND SAID:

"SEEMS LIKE WHEN NATURE MAKES A REALLY-Y-Y UGLY CREATURE
SHE MAKES UP FOR IT BY MAKING THEM APPEAR HUMOROUS AND HELPLESS."

ONE DAY, IN EARLY SPRING, TWO TURKEYS WERE STANDING IN A FIELD AND SAW SOME MEN...