

ONE GUY NAMED HIS MIND:

"THE UNKNOWN, MISSHAPENED, EXECRABLE WILDERBEAST FROM THE NINTH LEVEL OF SOME HORRIBLE HELL.", BUT THEN SAID IT WOULDN'T RETURN THE FAVOR.

DO YOU SUPPOSE THIS IS A JOKE OF SOME SORT!? ...

OR PERHAPS A COMMENT ON THE MIND'S GENERAL LACK OF ANY WHIMSY REGARDING ITSELF!

SIMPLE PEOPLE HAVE SIMPLE NEEDS, (SUCH AS):

"WHAT TIME DO WE EAT?",

"DO I GET MY OWN BED?",

"CAN YOU STOP THIS BLEEDING?", AND,

"WILL YOU LEND ME A MILLION DOLLARS?"

AS UNBELIEVABLE AS IT SOUNDS,

THERE ARE A FEW WHOSE HUNGERS GO TOTALLY OFF THE CHART & OUT OF RANGE.

THE MYSTIC'S MOTTO: "IF I'VE Got IT -- I DON'T, Want IT."

QUEERY TIME: WHY WILL REASONABLE MEN NOT ACT WITHOUT PLANNING,
BUT DO OTHERWISE WITH THINKING!?

...(AH, YOU KNOW, IT'S A JOKE QUEERY.)

ONE GUY'S BOOKS WOULDN'T SELL
BECAUSE HE HAD A NAME THAT
WHEN PRINTED IN THE AUTHOR'S NORMAL POSITION ON THE SPINE,
ALWAYS SEEMED TO BE A PART OF WHATEVER THE TITLE WAS.

(THE HEADING OF THIS ITEM WAS TO HAVE BEEN:

"EVERYTHING ABOUT MAN EXPLAINED",

BUT I FIGURED THAT'D MAKE IT EVEN MORE DISTURBING,
...WHAT WITH MOST OF YOU BEING MEN, AND ALL.)

"PERHAPS", SUGGESTED ONE HANGER-ON, "WE COULD CONSIDER A WHOLE NEW APPROACH:
'MYSTICISM FOR HAMSTERS'."

("SQUEAK IF YOU LOVE BUDDHA")

HISTORY: DIAPERS FOR THE DEAD.

REMINISCIN': SAME FOR THE BARELY ALIVE.

CONTRARY TO POPULAR BELIEF,
MEN INVENTED MATHEMATICS AS A KIND OF EXCUSE-CUM-RATIONALE
FOR THE CONSTRICTED WAY INWHICH THEY FOUND THEIR MINDS TO NORMALLY OPERATE.

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WAGERING TIP:

IN A GUNFIGHT BETWEEN THOUGHT AND ACTION,
BETWEEN BULLETS AND IDEAS,
PLACE YOUR BET ACCORDING TO WHICH SIDE OF THE STREET YOU FIND YOURSELF
STANDING ON.

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THE OWNER OF NUMBER 7, "QUICK AS A FLASH", COMMANDEERED THE TRACK P.A. SYSTEM
AND DECLARED TO THE CROWD, (SOME, MORE CREST-FALLEN TICKET HOLDERS THAN OTHERS):
"NO MATTER WHAT ELSE MAY HAPPEN, ALWAYS REMEMBER THIS:
A MAN'S MIND IS HIS VERY BEST FRIEND.",
AND SOMEONE NEAR THE PADDOCK CRIED OUT, (TO THE CROWD'S GREAT APPROVAL):
"BUT HOW ABOUT WHEN HIS MIND IS NOT UNDER HIS CONTROL!?",
AND THE STABLE-LORD SHOUTED BACK:
"MY GOD!, HAVE YOU PEOPLE TAKEN LEAVE OF YOUR SEATS!? --
HOW DARE YOU ASK ABOUT, WHEN MAN'S MIND IS NOT UNDER HIS CONTROL!!",
AND IMMEDIATELY SUGGESTIONS AROSE REGARDING A RE-RUNNING OF THE RACE...
...BUT AS ALWAYS -- TO NO AVAIL.

REGARDING THE STRUGGLE TO INCREASE CONSCIOUSNESS & WITHDRAWAL FROM ROUTINE LIFE

TO SAVE TIME, (AND MOVING EXPENSE), ONE MAN BECAME A "HEAD HERMIT".

THERE WAS THIS ONE GUY WHO WOULDN'T TALK TO YOU UNLESS YOU PAID HIM --
HE SAID THAT SINCE HE'D FAILED IN ATTEMPTS TO BOTH: INCREASE HIS INCOME,
AND: TO REDUCE HIS EXPENSES,
HE'D DECIDED TO REDUCE HIS INCOME.
....(THIS ONE TOO COULD HAVE CARRIED A TITLE ALONG THE LINES OF:
"EVERYTHING ABOUT MAN'S MIND THAT YOU DIDN'T WANT TO KNOW, EXPOSED.")

A SHADE-TREE MYSTIC, ONE DAY SAT AND SPECULATED:

"WHAT COULD BE WORSE THAN NEVER THINKING OF THAT GREATER STATE OF CONSCIOUSNESS!?"

THEN ALMOST UNCONTROLLABLY ADDED:

"EXCEPT DOING NOTHING BUT!?!"

HE IMMEDIATELY MANAGED TO MENTALLY "HEAR HIS MOTHER CALLING HIM",
JUMPED UP, AND RAN QUICKLY OUT OF THIS SCENE.

THE DISTINCTION REVISITED YET AGAIN:

THE SIMPLE, THE RELIGIOUS AND THE FAITHFUL
 CLAMMER FOR ADDITIONAL IMAGES TO CLING TO,
 WHILE THE INVISIBLY COMPLEX -- ABOVE ALL -- SEEK FREEDOM FROM ALL IMAGES.

THE REASON MAN CAME UP WITH THE IDEA OF A "SPIRITUALITY" WITHIN HIM
 WAS DUE TO THE BLUNT HEAD TRAUMA HE EARLY ON SUFFERED
 UPON REALIZING THAT THE SIREN'S SONG THAT SO ATTRACTED HIS MENTAL SHIP
 WAS BEING PRODUCED THROUGH A FEAT OF VENTRILOQUISM BY HIS OWN NEURAL NAVIGATOR.

MANY WHO UNDERTAKE THE MYSTICAL VOYAGE
 NEVER SAIL PAST THE POINT OF PICKING UP THE CHANTEY:
 "OH YOU CAN'T GET AWAY -- NO YOU'LL NEVER GET AWAY.",
 WHICH INITIALLY SEEMS AS PROGRESS COMPARED TO THE CHILDREN STILL ON THE BEACHES
 DREAMING THEY'RE OUT AT SEA,
 BUT YET THE REFRAIN ITSELF,
 (WHEN LAID TOO LONG ON THE CHARTS),
 CAN ITSELF, EVENTUALLY DISGUISE THE DOLLDUMPS FOR A BRISK BREEZE.

AND NOW FOR TODAY'S: NAUGHTICAL QUIZ: HOW COME SAILORS DON'T TALK MUCH!?!
 ...HEY, I GOT A BETTER ONE: HOW COME WE'RE ENDING UP THIS PARTICULAR ITEM,
 DISCOVERING SIMILARITIES BETWEEN MYSTICS & MEN-OF-THE-SEA!?!...HUH, ANSWER ME THAT

YOU CAN CUT AN APPLE INTO EIGHT PIECES,
AND A CATALOUPE INTO TWELVE,
BUT ALL YOUR HAIR'LL FALL OUT, AND YOU'LL DIE BEFORE
YOU CAN COUNT IT REGARDING THOUGHT.

REGARDING THE MATTER OF: KNOWLEDGE & THE AWAKENING:

THE AWAKENING TELLS YOU ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW --
....EXCEPT HOW TO STAY AWAKE.

WELL OH SURE, IT DOES --

BUT A LOT OF GOOD IT IS WHEN YOU'RE BACK IN YOUR OLD NORMAL STATE.

PRAYER & MEDITATION: WHAT SOME IN THE PAST DID WHILE AWAITING THE ARRIVAL OF
TELEVISION AND THE MOVIES.

IN SIMPLIER DAYS

PHYSICAL MEN WERE ENTERTAINED BY WATCHING CHRISTIANS THROWN TO LIONS,
NOW IS BY HAVING RECYCLED THOUGHTS TOSSED AT THEIR MIND.

THE SIMPLE ARE CONCERNED WITH BEHAVIOR,
THE MORE SOPHISTICATED ARE CONCERNED WITH THE BEHAVIOR OF THE SIMPLE --
IN A MAKE-BELIEVE, "BETTER WORLD", THOSE OF ENLARGED AWARENESS
WOULD SIMPLY PREFER TO RETIRE, (MAYBE), TO KEY LARGO,
OR DO, (PERHAPS), A TRANSCENDENTAL VERSION OF "HEAD HERMITING".
...(LOOK! -- I SAID, "MAYBE", AND, "PERHAPS".)

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THE COLOSSAL VOICE PROCLAIMED: "STAND BACK! -- COMING THROUGH!",
AND EACH OF THE FEW ALERT TRULY HOPED IT WAS THEM.

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THOSE WHO SAY THAT LIFE IS GOING "DOWN HILL"
ARE THEMSELVES HEADED IN SUCH A DIRECTION.

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STREET-LEVEL DEFINITION:

AN OPTIMIST: A PESSIMIST SUFFERING A MINI-STROKE.

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AS SHE PULLED UP THE COVERS AND ROLLED OVER, ZOROASTER'S GIRL FRIEND SAID:
"WAKE ME WHEN IT'S OVER.", AND HE IMMEDIATELY REFLECTED ON THE FACT THAT,
THAT'S JUST ABOUT THE TIME WHEN MOST PEOPLE WILL FIND IT POSSIBLE TO DO SO --
-- WHEN THEY'RE DEAD! -- AND, (SHALL WE SAY), PERHAPS A - BIT TOO LATE.

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THE VOICE IN THE DOOR WAY ANNOUNCED:

"DON'T ANY ONE MOVE! -- I HAVE AN EXPLOSIVE DEVICE.",

BUT NO ONE INSIDE HAD MOVED IN YEARS.

...(I CAN DOUBLE-GUT GAR'ANTEE YOU THAT I Y

SOME OF YA DON'T WANNA KNOW WHAT THE REAL TITLE OF THIS ITEM IS!)

IT WAS DECIDED THAT THE MATTER WOULD BE ONCE AND FOR ALL SETTLED
IN THE MIDDLE OF THE TOWN'S MAIN STREET, (SOME TIME AROUND NOON OR SO),
BY A SHOW DOWN BETWEEN THE HOMBRE WITH THE HISTORY BOOK,
AND THE SIDE-WINDER WITH THE LITERARY ANTHOLOGY --
BUT THEN A TIN-HORN WITH RELIGIOUS SCRIPTURE TURNED UP
DEMANDING THAT HE BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE,
AND, JEEZE!, AFTER THAT
THE WHOLE SHEBANG BEGAN TO UNRAVEL!

THE TERRITORIAL EDUCATIONAL COUNCIL LATER ADOPTED THE MOTTO:
"SEQUENTIAL THINKING IS A TERRIBLE THING TO WASTE ON THE MIND --
-- AND ESPECIALLY, VICE VERSA, (PARDNER)."

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A ROBOT & A MYSTIC?

TO ORDINARY MINDS THE CONCEPT OF A ROBOT IS MORE ACCEPTABLE THAN THAT OF A MYSTIC.

OKAY: TO A MYSTIC'S MIND, WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE?

....(MAYBE WE SHOULD LET WELL ENOUGH ALONE, RIGHT HERE.)

THE SAYING OF, "I" IS A FORM OF AUTO-SYCOPHANCY --
A SUCKING-UP-TO ONE'S OWN IMAGINARY ASS.

PEOPLE CAN RESIST AND REJECT ALL THEY WANT
 IDEAS OF THE MYSTICAL, THE TRANSCENDENTAL --
 OF THE AWAKENING, THE ENLIGHTENMENT, SOME OTHER STATE OF CONSCIOUSNESS,
 BUT THEY STILL RECOGNIZE ITS VALIDITY IN THAT THEY ALL FEEL THEMSELVES
 TO BE INCOMPLETE! --
 -- THEY'RE JUST NOT YET UP TO BEING ABLE TO LOCATE THE FEELING AS
 RESIDING ENTIRELY IN THE MIND.

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THE SIMPLE WORSHIP COWS,
 THE LESS SIMPLE -- GODS,
 THE MORE SOPHISTICATED -- THE IDEAS OF GODS,
 BUT ONLY THE FEW KNOW
 THE PHYSICAL LOCATION OF:
 JERUSALEM,
 MECCA,
 AND THE BODHI TREE.

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THE MANY STORIES OF CREATION WERE PROVIDED FOR THOSE MEN WHO DID NOT WANT TO -
 - KNOW-WHERE-THEY-CAME-FROM.

* ONCE ADAM DEVELOPED STRONG THIGHS, GOD GAVE HIM A BUS PASS. *

ONE MAN LIVED NEAR A MYSTICAL SCHOOL,
SOME TIMES HE LIVED CLOSER,
AND SOME TIMES HE LIVED FURTHER AWAY.

OKAY, LET'S TRY IT THIS WAY:

HOW CAN YOU BEST DESCRIBE MAN'S ROUTINE STATE OF CONSCIOUSNESS
TO THOSE IN THE ROUTINE STATE?

WELL YOU SEE, THAT'S THE PROBLEM -- YOU CAN'T.

HEALTH

A MYSTIC'S NOT INTERESTED IN SIMPLY "GETTING WELL",
BUT IN BECOMING SUPER WELL.

THE FIVE LEVELS OF POSSIBLE METAPHYSICAL SPEECH:

FIRST: TO BE ABLE TO MEAN WHAT YOU SAY.

SECOND: BE ABLE TO SAY WHAT YOU MEAN.

THIRD: BE ABLE TO MEAN OTHER THAN WHAT YOU SAY.

FOURTH: BE ABLE TO SAY OTHER THAN WHAT YOU MEAN.

AND FIFTH:

LONG
PAUSE
after
that
one

"OKAY", A GUY ASKED A MYSTIC, "LET'S GET THIS STRAIGHT:
IF YOU CAN'T THINK YOUR WAY OUT OF IT,
AND YOU CAN'T DO YOUR WAY OUT OF IT,
THEN HOW CAN YOU ESCAPE YOUR ROUTINE CONDITION!?",
AND THE MYSTIC REPLIED: "I COULDN'T AGREE MORE."

"OKAY", A GUY SAID TO A MYSTIC, "SOME THINGS ARE FUNNY, AND SOME THINGS ARE NOT
AND THE MYSTIC WONDERED WHAT THE GUY WANTED HIM TO DO ABOUT IT.

"OKAY", A GUY SAID TO A MYSTIC,
"SOME OF WHAT YOU SAY MAKES SENSE TO ME, AND SOME OF IT DOESN'T --
DO SUCH DISTINCTIONS ARISE BECAUSE YOU DO NOT ALWAYS SPEAK THE SAME,
OR BECAUSE I DO NOT ALWAYS LISTEN THE SAME.",
AND THE MYSTIC WAS TEMPTED TO TICKLE HIM UNDER HIS LITTLE CHINNY-CHIN-CHIN.

OUR INSPIRATIONAL THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

DEPENDING ON THOUGHT TO CURE UNCERTAINTY IS LIKE
HANGING UP FARTS AS AIR FRESHENERS.

....(WELL! - NOT EVERY ONE'S INSPIRED IN THE SAME FASHION!)

A MYSTIC WITH A PEDIGREE AND CREDITIALS: A ONE LEGGED FISH
WITH UNLIMITED FUNDS
WHO'LL TAKE YOU AND HIM
ANY WHERE YOU CAN AFFORD.

...AND A MAN WHO GOT A BRIEF WHIFF OF WHAT THIS MEANT, THOUGHT:
"BOY, I'M GLAD THAT WAS BRIEF!"

ONE MAN ANNOUNCED:

"I WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL OF THOSE FORCES THAT HAVE MADE ME WHAT I AM TODAY.",
AND AS THE TOTALITY OF THE UNIVERSAL ENVIORNMENT BEGIN TO STAND TO TAKE A BOW,
IT WAS MOTIONED BACK DOWN WITH THE REMINDER THAT THIS WAS
NOT A CHEAP KNOCK-OFF OF, "TO TELL THE TRUTH."

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ONE MAN LIKED HIS WHISKEY STRAIGHT --
MANY LIKE THEIRS WITH WATER --
AND WHEN IT GETS RIGHT DOWN TO IT,
EVEN THOSE WHO LIKE THEIRS STRAIGHT, PREFER IT WITH WATER.

QUESTION: IS THIS WHY, (AMONGST ALL HUMAN ACTIVITIES),
THAT MYSTICISM, (CONTRARY TO ALL APPEARANCES),
HAS NO COMPETING FACTIONS, OR VARIATIONS, AND IS A SINGLE WHOLE!? --
-- EVEN THOUGH NO ONE KNOWS WHAT IT IS!?

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THE AWAKENING: AS UNKNOWN AS TOMORROW -- AS FAMILIAR AS YESTERDAY.

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