

ATTENTION! -- PASSENGERS --

THE DESTINATION'S THE SAME -- THE MAPS CHANGE.

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AFTER THEY HAD BEEN STANDING FOR SOME TIME
SILENTLY, OUT IN THE HUMAN FIELD WITH NOTHING GOING ON,
LOCAL CONDITIONS FINALLY TURNED TO THE REPRESENTATIVE LIFE HAD SENT AND SAID:
"I'M NOT REALLY CLEAR AS TO WHAT'S SUPPOSED TO BE HAPPENING,
ARE WE HERE TO HOLD A BURIAL, OR TO CONDUCT SOME SORT OF AWARDS CEREMONY?",
AND THE REPRESENTATIVE PATTED HIS HAND DOWN IN THE AIR AND SAID: "SHHH."

ONE MAN SAID TO NO ONE IN PARTICULAR:

"HANGIN' AROUND CIVILIANS MAKES ME NERVOUS.",

AND HIS PARTNER QUICKLY ADDED:

"I BELIEVE WHAT HE MEANT TO SAY WAS THAT IT MAKES HIM - EDGY."

THE BACKGROUND TO THE MANY MYTHS REGARDING MAN BEING HELD IN SOME TYPE OF CAPTIVITY IS THAT EARLY ON IN THIS PART OF THE GALAXY LIFE STABILIZED THE MAN-CREATURE BY DEVELOPING IN HIM AN INTELLECT, COMPOSED IN LARGE PART OF THE SAME INGREDIENTS AS IN FLY PAPER.

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AND NOW FOR SOME MORE OF THE: HISTORY LEFT OUT OF THE HISTORY BOOKS:

ONCE JEHOVA HAD DECIDED TO LEAVE,
HE TOLD MAN THAT HE WAS BRINGING IN SOMEONE NEW TO TAKE HIS PLACE;
THEN HE WENT IN THE NEXT ROOM,
PUT ON SOME GLASSES AND A FAKE BEARD,
CAME BACK IN AND ANNOUNCED THAT HE WAS THE PROMISED REPLACEMENT: SIGGY FREUD.
BUT SOME AMONGST THE MORTALS WERE NOT THAT EASILY MISLEAD,
HAVING ALREADY BEEN THROUGH SIMILAR INCIDENTS WHEREIN LIFE HAD LOCAL CONDITIONS
TAKE CERTAIN PLAYERS OFF THE FIELD,
CHANGE THE NUMBER ON THEIR JERSEY, THEN SEND 'EM BACK INTO PLAY AS THOUGH THIS
SOME HOW MADE IT A "WHOLE NEW BALL GAME"!

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A CERTAIN MAN ONCE WONDERED:

"EVEN IF SOME OF WHAT LIFE DOES TO MAN

SEEMS TO BE IN THE FORM OF SOME SORT OF, 'HUMOROUS LEGERDERMAIN",

IF YOU'RE WITHIN A CLOSED SYSTEM,

AND CAN THUS SEE ONLY THE INSIDE OF THE SYSTEM,

YOU'RE LEFT FOREVER PERCEIVING THE SET-UP TO THE STUNT,

BUT NEVER REALIZING THE "MAGIC" OF THE TRICK ITSELF.

HOW TO DEVELOPE A MIND THAT'S SANE AND STABLE: THAT'S EASY -- JUST THINK THE
SAME THINGS OVER & OVER
FOR SIXTY OR SEVENTY YEARS.

IF YOUR DESIRE TO "BE RIGHT", (IN AN ARGUMENTATIVE SENSE),
IS GREATER THAN YOUR HUNGER TO KNOW
THEN YOU NEVER WILL.

* * *

A MAN WROTE THE ENLIGHTNEMENT DOCTOR:

"DEAR DOCTOR: HOW COME SO MUCH OF WHAT'S SAID ABOUT ACHIEVING A
HIGHER STATE OF CONSCIOUSNESS IS SAID IN A NEGATIVE SORT OF WAY,
YOU KNOW LIKE HOW YOU'LL NEVER ACHIEVE IT IF YOU CONTINUE TO DO THIS-OR-THAT
SORT OF COMMON HUMAN THING?

YOU KNOW, THIS SURE CAN BE DISCOURAGING WHEN YOU'RE HIT WITH IT
OVER AND OVER AGAIN."

* * *

.....OKAY, IF THE DOCTOR HAD REPLIED HE WOULD HAVE NOTED THAT THE WHOLE
SCENARIO THE MAN DESCRIBED TAKES PLACE IN A PERSON'S OWN NERVOUS SYSTEM, AND
NOT IN ANY WAY PROFITBALE, OUTSIDE THEREOF, SO THERE,

"IF EUCLID BE THE FOOD OF LOVE...": A POEM:

THE SIMPLE THINK IN STRAIGHT LINES,
THE SOPHISTICATED, IN CIRCLES --
WHILE THE ACTUAL, "MORE-COMPLEX"
TAKE THEIR BURGERS PLAIN,

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"PAPA, I HAVE A STOMACH ACHE."

"WELL SON, I GUESS YOU ATE TOO MUCH."

"NO, PAPA, I DON'T THINK IT'S A MATTER OF FOOD AS MUCH AS IT IS MY STOMACH."

AND THE ELDER HAD HIMSELF A GRIN

AS HE REALIZED THAT THEIR MANY DISCUSSIONS AT THE KITCHEN TABLE
HAD NOT IN VAIN BEEN.

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AFTER LEARNING OF WHAT GREAT ASSISTANCE IS THE BACTERIA NATURALLY IN MAN'S
INTESTINES TO THE PROCESS OF ELEMINATION,
ONE MAN DECIDED IT WOULD THEN BE GOOD TO ADD SOME AGENT-OF-DETERIORATION
TO HIS MENTAL OPERATIONS!.....BUT THEN REALIZED THAT SUCH WAS
ALREADY PRESENT,...,BUT JUST NOT BEING USED IN THE EXACT MANNER HE ENVISIONED,

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ON ONE WORLD IS A LEGEND THAT SAYS THAT EVERYONE IS BORN WITH A
GIVEN NUMBER OF HOURS TO LIVE,
WHILE A COMPETING TALE CLAIMS THAT A FAVORED FEW, ARE INSTEAD,
BORN WITH A GIVEN NUMBER OF WORDS THEY HAVE TO SAY.

"DEARLY SEMI-BELOVED,
WE ARE GATHERED HERE TODAY TO ASK OURSELVES WHETHER WE WOULD PREFER TO DIE,
-- OR TO SHUT UP."

ONE MAN LEFT WRITTEN INSTRUCTION THAT FLOWERS SHOULD NOT BE PLACED ON HIS GRAVE,
BUT RATHER -- HIS TONGUE.

* * *

...YEAH, YEAH, I KNOW, I KNOW - BUT BEYOND ALL THAT YOU STILL GOTTA CONSIDER THAT
WITHOUT WORDS -- NO PROGRESS. -- BUT,
WITHOUT NO WORDS -- NO SUPER-PROGRESS.

...AND I REALIZE THAT SOME MAY NOT GET IT,
BUT TRYING TO EXPLAIN IT WOULD JUST MAKE IT WORSE.

* * *

MEN GOT THE IDEA OF THERE BEING A SPEED (THAT OF LIGHT),
THAT IS TOO FAST FOR HUMAN COMPREHENSION
FROM FLEETING OBSERVATIONS OF THEIR THOUGHT PROCESSES.

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A MAN TURNED TO A FELLOW PASSENGER AND SAID:
"THE NICE THING ABOUT BEING ABOARD A TRAIN THAT HAS NO ANNOUNCED DESTINATION
IS THAT YOU NEVER FEEL TOTALLY LOST AND BEHIND SCHEDULE,
EVEN WHEN YOU ARE."
...AND HIS SEAT-MATE, (BEING FROM ANOTHER LEVEL OF AWARENESS), SHOT HIM.

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WHILEST WANDERING ABOUT IN THAT UNDEVELOPED TRACK OF LAND
BETWEEN NOUNS AND VERBS, A MAN THOUGHT:

"THERE'S NOTHING INHERENTLY WRONG WITH CRITICISM ITSELF,
IT'S JUST THAT WHEN MEN ENGAGE IN IT
IT MAKES THEM APPEAR EVEN DUMBER THAN THEY WERE BEFORE."

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IT REQUIRES A TRULY EXPANDED VIEW OF LIFE TO COMPREHEND HOW IT IS THAT
BY CATCHING A BAT, A MAN BECOMES BLIND.

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OUTSIDE

A TRANSCENDENTAL HARDWARE STORE WAS A MAN HANDING OUT CARDS WHICH READ:
"IF ORDINARY AWARENESS IS LIKE WATER,
THEN A HEIGHTENED VERSION WOULD BE LIKE THE ADDING OF GELATIN.",
AND SEVERAL WHO READ AND PONDERED THIS
WERE MOMENTARILY FRIGHTENED THAT THEY HAD PERHAPS IN THE PAST
UNWITTINGLY CONSUMED THEIR OWN BEST MENTAL POTENTIAL
ALONG WITH THEIR EVENING'S JELL-O.

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HOW TO TELL THAT YOU'RE A COW, SHEEP OR SOME-WISE COLLECTIVELY NORMAL:

YOU NEED THE THOUGHTS OF OTHERS TO INSPIRE YOU.

* * *

"DADDY, IS THAT WHY SO FEW MYSTICS HAVE COLLEGE DEGREES!?",

"NO SON, IT'S THAT MOST OF THEM ARE TOO DUMB."

....."DADDY?"

"YES, SON."

"SOME TIMES....TALKING TO YOU....CAN BE....WELL....",

"I KNOW SON, NOW COME ALONG, OR WE'LL BE LATE."

* * *

ONE MORNING A MAN SAID TO HIS THOUGHTS:

"AND TO WHAT SUBJECTS SHALL WE GIVE OUR ATTENTION, THIS FINE DAY?",

TOWHICH THEY REPLIED: "WHY THE SAME ONES WE DID YESTERDAY, OF COURSE."

* * *

COME WEDNESDAY, WAS A MAN WHO PROPOSED THE FOLLOWING QUESTION:

"IF THE MIND IS A NOUN,

AND IF THOUGHTS ARE A VERB,

THEN....THEN.....DOES ANYONE KNOW WHAT I WAS GOING TO SAY!?....."

* * *

THERE'S ONE MAN WHO SAYS THAT HE USED TO BE INTERESTED IN STUFF LIKE THIS,
AND SAYS HE WAS ALSO BEGINING TO UNDERSTAND WHY IT HAS SUCH A LIMITED APPEAL,
BUT HE SAYS WHAT SEEMS TO HAVE FINALLY LEAD HIM AWAY FROM IT WAS WHEN HE
COULDN'T HELP BUT START THINKING THAT MAYBE ALL WOULD-BE MYSTICS WERE SIMPLY
PEOPLE WHO, SOME-HOW-OR-THE-OTHER,
THOUGHT THEY COULDN'T HACK IT IN THE REAL WORLD.

HE SAYS FURTHER THAT,
IN LOOKING BACK ON IT NOW,
THAT HE SEES HOW HIS THINKING THIS ALLOWED HIM TO WALK AWAY FROM ANY
ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT IN ATTEMPTING TO EXPAND HIS CONSCIOUSNESS -- AND,
- AS IS SO COMMON IN THE HUMAN PERSPECTIVE --
HE IS BOTH SATISFIED, AND SADDENED BY WHAT HE DID.

....AFTER HEARING THIS, (AND PERHAPS MOMENTARILY EXPERIENCING SOMETHING
RESEMBLING COMPASSION), LOCAL CONDITION SAID TO THE MAN:
"DON'T TAKE IT SO HARD -- MOST EVERYONE ELSE IS AS DUMB AS YOU ARE -- AND,
YOU'RE STILL GOING TO DIE."

...AND IN A WORSE-STILL-WORLD, (READ: THIS ONE),
THE MAN WOULD BE BOUYED BY SUCH AN, "ASSURANCE".

BEYOND ALL FORMS OF ANALYZING,
COMPARING, DISSECTING, AND SCRUTINIZING,
PAST ACADEMIC ANNOTATIONS,
AND ALL ARTISTIC DECONSTRUCTION --
AFTER ALL IS SAID AND DONE,
MAN'S ONLY LEGITIMATE CRITICISM IS CONTAINED IN
THESE FOUR WORDS: "I DON'T LIKE IT."

* * *

OKAY, LET'S TAKE A PLAINER LOOK AT THE QUESTION:

IT'S NOT THAT PEOPLE ARE AFRAID TO THINK OUTSIDE THE ORDINARY,
IT'S A MATTER OF THEM NOT BEING ABLE TO.

-- I GUESS THAT'S PLAIN ENOUGH.

* * *

STOPPING WORK FOR A SECOND, TO WIPE THE SWEAT FROM HIS EYES,
A FARMER SAID TO A TRAVELING SALESMAN:

"YOU THINK IT'S POSSIBLE TO COMPLIMENT A COW SUFFICIENT TO
MAKE 'ER BELIEVE SHE CAN FLY!?"

* * *

BUT -- ON THE OTHER HAND: THE PROBLEM WITH BEING BLUNT WITH ANIMALS IS THAT:

-- IT DOESN'T ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING.

...("BUT", NOTED THE SALESMAN,

"NEITHER DOES IT WITH MOST HUMANS.")

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AS Regards Collective Belief Systems,
INDIVIDUAL INTELLIGENCE, (AND ALL THAT)

A MAN WITH AN ISM,
HAS NO GISM.

* * *

AFTER INTRODUCING HIMSELF TO A CERTAIN MYSTIC WHO SEEMED THERETO, INDIFFERENT,
THE MAN REPEATED HIS NAME, STILL TO NO APPARENT EFFECT,
THEN, ASSUMING HE WOULD CATCH THE WISE ONE'S ATTENTION
IF HE MADE KNOWN HIS INTELLIGENCE,
HE GAVE HIS NAME AGAIN, BUT THIS TIME PREFACED WITH A FULL RECOUNTING OF
ALL HIS TITLES, AND ACADEMIC BACKGROUND,
TOWHICH THE HAZY ONE REPLIED:
"I FEAR I AM NOT IMPRESSED WITH ANYONE'S INTELLIGENCE
WHO MUST PRESENT PUBLIC PROOF THEREOF."

BUMPER STICKER ON THE REAR OF AN INTERPLANETARY TYRANNOSAURUS:
"THOSE WHO WOULD ABANDON THE REALM OF THEIR MIND FOR SOMETHING LESS CERTAIN
ARE THE KINDS OF PEOPLE WHO WILL THROW AWAY THEIR OLD RUNNING SHOES
JUST BECAUSE THEY'RE WORN OUT."

....(AND IN THE DUST, JUST BELOW IT, SOME WAG HAD WRITTEN: "DIG IT!")

* * *

HAVING RECEIVED NO MAIL FROM HIS READERS TODAY,
MISTER ADVICE-MAN ISSUED THIS UNILATERAL STATEMENT:
"JUST AS THERE ARE SOME HUMOROUS THINGS THAT AREN'T FUNNY,
LIKewise ARE THERE SOME SERIOUS MATTERS THAT AREN'T REALLY ALL THAT --
-- (SHALL WE SAY) -- SERIOUS!

YES! - LET'S DO GO AHEAD AND SAY THAT,

YOURS,

MISTER A.M."

* * *

FROM OUR TRAVEL DEPT:
A "GREYHOUD-EARTH" SIGHT-SEER'S TIP

IF YOU CAN'T LOOK IN OTHER PEOPLE'S EYES AND REALIZE HOW DUMB THEY ARE,
THEN YOU'RE AS DUMB AS THEY ARE.

(HAVE A NICE TRIP.)

* * *

THE MORTAL WORLD CONTINUES TO BE DIVIDED INTO TWO MAIN GROUPS:
 THOSE WHO DO NOT THINK ABOUT LIFE ENOUGH FOR IT TO
 HAVE MUCH OF AN EFFECT ON THEIRS,
 AND THOSE WHO THINK ABOUT SO MUCH AS FOR IT TO HAVE ALMOST TOO GREAT A ONE.

* * *

"THAT'S ALL RIGHT JUNIOR, WE'LL DISCUSS THE MATTER OF 'JUSTICE'
 ONCE YOU GET OLDER AND GROW OUT OF YOUR LARVA STAGE."

* * *

ALTHOUGH THE LIBERATION OF THE MIND IS A HIGHER STATE OF CONSCIOUSNESS,
 A HIGHER STATE OF CONSCIOUSNESS IS NOT MERELY THE LIBERATION OF THE MIND."

* * *

WHEREVER MARY WENT, THE LAMB WENT,
 WHENEVER YOU SEE A PENTHOUSE, YOU ALSO FIND A BASEMENT,
 AND WHERESOEVER GOES ISTANBUL, PARIS, IT DRAGS ALONG.

* * *

AND A MAN WROTE PROFESSOR ENIGMA: "DEAR PROFESSOR: WHAT D'YA THINK!?",
 AND HE REPLIED: "EXACTLY!"

* * *

AS HE BEGAN TO REALIZE THE ABILITY TO BE NEURALLY CONSCIOUS
APART FROM THE EVERYDAY LEVEL OF COLLECTIVE HUMAN INTELLIGENCE,
ONE MAN THOUGHT OF IT TO HIMSELF AS HIS: "ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCE".

LOCAL CONDITIONS TOLD SOME PEOPLE:

"LOOK, IN A CLOSED SYSTEM YOU'VE GOT TO LOOK AFTER YOURSELF.",
AND SOMEONE ASKED: "BUT IT SEEMS LIKE THE SYSTEM WOULD.",
AND CONDITIONS REPLIED: "HEY, DON'T SMART OFF."

* * *

A MAN ASKED COLUMBUS: "AFTER YOU'VE SEEN THE NEW WORLD
ISN'T IT HARD TO COME BACK AND LIVE IN YOUR OLD HOME TOWN!?",
AND CHRIS THOUGHT: "ONLY IF YOU TALK ABOUT IT."

* * *

AS HE SAT, WRITING HIS MEMOIRS, BUDDHA THOUGHT:
"ANY THING YOU SAY ABOUT THE ENLIGHTENMENT IS ACTUALLY A STEP AWAY FROM IT --
...BUT IF YOU DIDN'T MENTION IT AT ALL, MOST PEOPLE WOULD NEVER HEAR OF IT."

* * *

"DADDY, IS THAT WHY SO FEW MYSTICS HAVE LITERARY AGENTS?",
"NO SON, IT'S DUE TO THE FACT THAT MOST OF THEM LIVE TOO FAR FROM
LARGE, METROPOLITAN AREAS."
"THANKS DAD, I APPRECIATE THAT -- MOST FATHERS WOULD HAVE GIVEN SOME SORT OF
PREDICTABLE REPLY.....THAT MADE SENSE."

IN DELIVERING HIS DAILY COMMENTARY ON PAST MYSTICAL MUSINGS,
THE HEAD MONK SO ADDRESSED THE NEOPHYTES:

"'TIS BEEN SAID BY SOME THAT TO ENTER INTO A NEW KINGDOM,
A FRESH STATE OF UNDERSTANDING,
THAT YOU MUST BECOME AS, 'LITTLE CHILDREN',
BUT THE TRUTH IS, DEAR EARS,
THAT ONCE YOU'VE HAD THAT PARTICULAR EXPERIENCE,
AND THUS CLEANED UP YOUR CONSCIOUSNESS,
YOU'VE DAMN-SMALL CHOICE IN THE MATTER OF THEN BECOMING,
MENTALLY, A SIMPLIER, STRIPPED-DOWN VERSION."

INSTEAD OF GOING TO SCHOOL, (AFTER HE GOT GROWNER),
ONE KID ASKED HIS FATHER IF HE COULD HAVE HIS CHOICE OF EITHER:
READING A LOT, JUST ON HIS OWN. -- OR,
GET A JOB WITH A SEPTIC TANK SERVICE.

* * *

ONCE YOU GRASP THE FULL DEFINITION OF WHAT COMMON ENTERTAINMENT IS,
AND RECOGNIZE ITS NEAR, ALL-INCLUSIVE PERVASIVENESS,
IT GETS KINDA HARD TO KEEP ALL YOUR BALLS IN THE AIR, (LEAST WITH A STRAIGHT FACE)

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