WITHOUT PROPER BREATH, THERE IS NO THOUGHT,
AND WITHOUT PROPER THOUGHT THERE IS NO PROPER BREATH.

* * *

OUT ON THE GREAT, HIGH-PLAINS,
THERE IS THE LIGHTNING,
THERE IS THE GOO,
AND THERE IS THE WIND.

* * *

WHEN MEN FIRST DISCOVER THE JOY & IMPORTANCE OF CONTROLLED ATTENTION,
THEY ARE WANT TO CALL IF GOD,
AND UPON REALIZING ALL THAT CAN DISTRACT THEM FROM THE DISCOVERY
LEADS TO THEM CONJURING UP THE CONCEPT OF SATAN --
  AND NEVER THEM AWARE THAT THEY HAVE THUS VILIFIED
  THE TOTALITY OF MAN'S EVERDAY EXISTANCE.

- - -

ONLY THE EXTRAORDINARY IS EXTRAORDINARY,
ONLY THE UNIQUE, WORTHY OF NOTICE.

* * *

ONE DAY,
LOCAL CONDITIONS TOLD THIS ONE GUY:
"LOOK,
I'VE ALWAYS LIKED YOU SO I'M GOING TO TELL YOU SOMETHING:
IF YOU KEEP TRYING TO CHANGE YOUR STATE OF AWARENESS
YOU'RE GONING TO END UP WITH LIFE MAKING YOU EITHER:
SIT ON THE EDGE OF A KNIFE, OR ON ITS TIP.",
AND THE GUY WAS DELIGHTED.

A KID ASKED HIS FATHER:
"CAN THEY ARREST YOU FOR, 'TALKING-TO-YOURSELF'?",
AND THE ELDER REPLIED:
"WHO CARES!?",
AND THE LAD SMILED TO HIMSELF:
"IF NOTHING ELSE - IS MY OLD MAN PITHY, OR WHAT!?"

* * *

THERE IS A RUMOR IN ONE LAND THAT CLAIMS
HUMANS JUST BEGAN PHYSICALLY REPRODUCING THEMESLVES
IN IMITATION OF THEIR LEFT-BRAIN, RIGHT-BRAIN PHENOMENA.
...(IF IT MAKES YOU FEEL ANY BETTER,
EVEN THOSE SPREADING THE RUMOR DON'T KNOW WHAT IT MEANS.)

* * *

ON DAYS OF POTENTIAL MYSTICAL SIGNIFICANCE,
ONE MAN WOULD STAND BEFORE A MIRROR,
BRUSH BACK HIS HAIR ALONG THE SIDES,
HOLD HIS HEAD UP HIGH,
STRAIGHTEN HIS SPINE, AND TUG AT HIS JOCKEY SHORTS WHILE
CONFIDENTLY ANNOUNCING: "I'VE GOT VITAL FLUIDS I HAVEN'T EVEN USED YET!"

* * *

LOOKING AROUND AT HIS LIBRARY, A MAN SUDDENLY THOUGHT:
"MY GOD!, I NEVER REALIZED IT, BUT ALL BOOKS ARE WRITTEN ABOUT OTHER BOOKS!",
THIS MADE HIM SO EXCITED THAT HE WAS ALMOST FRIGHTENED TO THINK
HOW HE WAS GOING TO FEEL AS SOON AS HE APPLIED THIS TO ALL IDEAS..

AN ANIMAL IS CARRIED, BUT BY BREATH,
MAN, BY BREATH AND BY THOUGHT --
AN ENLIGHTENED MAN BY CONSCIOUS BREATH AND THOUGHT,

- - -

THE INTELLIGENT MAN ASKS HIMSELF:
"IF I AM NOT HERE TO BREATHE, WHO SHALL DO IT FOR ME!?,
AND IF I DO NOT REMEMBER TO BE HERE, HOW WILL I EVER LEARN TO THINK!?"

* * *

TO AN ORDINARY MAN, THERE ARE MANY, MANY ASPECTS OF SIMPLY, "BEING ALIVE",
BUT TO THOSE WITH AN OUTSIDE GOAL, THERE IS BUT ONE,
AND TO ACHIEVE IT, ONE MUST BE CONSTANTLY AWARE OF THE WIND,
AND ALWAYS ALERT TO THE LIGHTNING.

* * *

WHENEVER THE FORCES OF EVIL
THREATENED TO OVERRUN THE FORCES OF GOOD,
SAINT ALONSO WOULD RETIRE TO HIS TENT ALONE,
AND ASK HIMSELF: "JUST WHO THE HELL ARE YOU, ANY WAY!?",
AND THE TROUBLE WOULD PASS.

ON ONE WORLD THERE WERE 5 SCHOOLS TEACHING 5 DIFFERENT APPROACHES
REAGRDING HOW ONE MIGHT BRING ATTENTION UNDER SUFFICIENT CONTROL
SO AS TO BETTER FACILITATE THE POSSIBILITY OF IGINITING ONE'S CONSCIOUSNESS
TO A HIGHER STATE:
THE FIRST SCHOOL TAUGHT TO CARRY A PEBBLE ALWAYS IN YOUR SHOE,
THE SECOND SAID THAT YOU SHOULD CONSTANTLY REPEAT A SECRET WORD,
THE THIRD SCHOOL'S METHOD WAS TO COUNT EVERY BREATH YOU TAKE,
AND THE FOURTH & FIFTH GROUPS REFUSED PERMISSION FOR ME TO REVEAL THEIRS.

...BUT, ALL IS NOT IN VAIN:
FOR CANNOT YOU ALREADY SEE HOW THE SOPHOMORE YEAR CONTAINS ALL OF THE FRESHMAN!
AND THE JUNIOR CONSUMES ALL THE SOPHOMORE!?,
AND THE SENIOR OVERTAKES THE JUNIOR,
AND HOW GRADUATION RENDERS ALL PAST INSTRUCTION IRRELEVANT!?

...(AND FOR THOSE WHO NEVER CARED FOR SCHOOL,
YOU MIGHT BE PLEASED TO LEARN THAT:
THOSE WHO KNOW-THE-SECRET
GET TO LIVE OFF CAMPUS.)

* * *

THE PROBLEM WITH JUST "CHASING THOUGHT" IS THAT
IT CAN TURN INTO "THOUGHT CHASING YOU" AND YOU NEVER REALIZE IT.

- - -

ALL TRICKS ARE GOOD, BUT THOSE REQUIRING AT LEAST TWO HANDS ARE BETTER.

* * *

IT IS SAID THAT SOME PASSENGERS ON THE GREAT MYTHICAL EXPRESS,
(EVEN AS THEY RIDE), DO EXERCISES, ANAGRAMS, FLOSS THEIR LUNGS,
AND LEARN TO PLAY THE BANJO.

* * *

ONCE INSIDE REALITY'S APARTMENT,
ONE MAN COULD HEAR LIFE BREATHING BEHIND THE CLOSED BEDROOM DOOR,
AND TO HELP PROTECT HIMSELF -- (JUST IN CASE) -- REAL LOUD HE SAID:
"YEAH, I'M MAD AS HELL -- AND IT'LL BE MY PLEASURE TO TAKE IT LOTS MORE."

DON'T FORGET: A SAFE MAN IS A MAN ALREADY DAMN-NEAR DEAD.

* * *

WHENEVER THE POWER OF HORMONES THREATENED TO OVERRUN THAT OF NEURONS, SAINT ALONSO WOULD STEP BEHIND HIS TENT AND PISS ON AN IMPORTANT DOCUMENT.

A MYSTIC TOLD AN AUDIENCE OF PEOPLE INTERESTED IN SUCH MATTERS:
"IF THE MOST EXTRAORDINARY THING IN YOUR LIFE IS COMING TO HEAR ME SPEAK,
THEN YOU'RE NOT DOING ANYTHING EXTRAORDINARY ENOUGH TO BRING ON AWAKENING."

- - -

A BOY SAID TO HIS FATHER:
"I DO SO LOVE TO HEAR THE SOUND OF THE TRAIN AS IT PASSES - SO FAR AWAY."
AND THE ELDER RESPONDED:
"BUT THERE IS SOMETHING FAR GREATER THAN THE NOISE IT MAKES -- AND,
IT IS NOT AS FAR AWAY AS YOU THINK."

* * *

A MAN, SEEKING DIRECTION, WROTE TO DR. PAINFUL:
"DEAR DOCTOR: IN MY ATTEMPTS TO BRING MY OWN ATTENTION UNDER CONTROL,
ALL I CAN SEEM TO MANAGE IS TO REMEMBER TO READ BOOKS ABOUT IT.
IS THIS ENOUGH?....DOES IT COUNT FOR ANYTHING?"

* * *

NOW, SOME MORE: MYTHICAL HISTORY

THE FIRST MAN TO BECOME COMSCIOUS,INVENTED THE PENCIL,
THE FIRST MAN TO BECOME MORE CONSCIOUS, INVENTED THE PENCIL WITH AN ERASER,
THE MAN WHO BECOMES MORE CONSCIOUS TODAY, ALWAYS BREAKS HIS PENCIL.

* * *

MANY PEOPLE CANNOT SWIM AND BREATHE AT THE SAME TIME,
AND SOME CANNOT FLY AND DO SO SIMULTANEOUSLY.

WHAT IS IT THAT YOU CAN'T DO, AND BREATHE AT THE SAME TIME?

* * *

ONE MAN'S MIND TOLD HIM:
"I DO WISH THAT YOU'D WARN ME WHEN YOU'RE ABOUT TO DRASTICALLY
CHANGE THE SUBJECT!",
BUT THE MAN KNEW THAT IF HE DID -- THEN HE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO.

* * *

ONE MAN SOLVED ALL OF HIS READING REQUIREMENTS BY HAVING JUST
ONE NON-FICTION BOOK, (CHOSEN AT RANDOM), WHICH HE READ AS FICTION.

AS HE INCREASINGLY BEGAN TO DISCERN THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN:
"REALITY-AS-PERCEIVED", AND,
"LIFE-AS-IT-IS",
THIS ONE MAN STARTED PICKING UP THE ELEVEN O'CLOCK NEWS, FIRST AT TEN,
THEN AT NINE,
THEN AT EIGHT,
AND LIKE THAT.

* * *

ONE CHAP WAS RECENTLY PROPMPTED TO THINK:
"IF THE BODY RUNNING DOWN EVENTUALLY RESULTS IN DEATH,
WHAT MIGHT THE MIND WEARING DOWN LEAD TO!?",
AND JUST THE QUESTION ITSELF SO EXCITED THE MAN THAT HE, EVER-SO-SLIGHTLY,
SOILED HIS PANTS,....(IN A METAPHYSICAL & METAPHORICAL MANNER, I'M SURE.)

* * *

AS PER ONE MAN'S VERSION,
"THE QUESTION OF QUESTIONS" IS AS FOLLOWS:
IS IT MORE IMPORTANT TO KNOW: WHAT TO DO -- OR,
TO KNOW HOW TO REMEMBER TO DO WHAT IT IS YOU SHOULD DO?

HEY, DON'T LOOK AT ME! -- IT'S HIS QUESTION.

...OKAY, TRUTH TIME: THAT'S ALWAYS BEEN THE QUESTION.
...(WELL-L-L, ISN'T IT NICE TO KNOW THAT SOME THINGS NEVER CHANGE!?)

* * *

ONE GUY WROTE A BLUES SONG TO HIMSELF THAT WENT:
"IF YOU DON'T,
TREAT ME BETTER
I'M GONNA,
LEAVE YOU
SOME SWEET DAY.",
BUT THEN WAS AFRAID TO LET HIMSELF HEAR IT.
...I MEAN, GOD KNOWS! WHAT AN UN-PREPARED AUDIENCE MIGHT <u>DO</u>
IN RESPONSE, THERETO!

ONE MAN DREAMED OF A STABLE ELEVATOR SHAFT, RUNING UP A BUILDING
AS HIS SPINE, THROUGH HIS OWN BODY.
THIS EXCITED HIM GREATLY! --
BUT HE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DREAM AFTER THAT (!?!)
BUT I DO! -- HOW ABOUT YOU?

"OKAY, YOU PEOPLE -- KEEP THE LOBBY CLEAR -- LET SOME AIR IN HERE."

* * *

....

ONE MAN DREAMED OF A LAND BEYOND METAPHOR --
BUT COULD NEVER SEEM TO FIND IT --
EVEN THOUGH HE KICKED AT SMALL STONES EVERDAY
AS HE WALKED THE EARTH, IN HIS SEARCH.

ONE MAN WROTE HIMSELF THIS REMINDER:
"YOU CAN EITHER: THINK ABOUT IT,
OR YOU CAN: DO IT,
OR YOU CAN: THINK ABOUT IT WHILE DOING IT -- BUT,
CAN YOU: DO IT WHILE THINKING ABOUT IT?",
...(EVEN THE NOTE ITSELF FINALLY BECAME DIZZY & CONFUSED.)

"THE LAND BEYOND METAPHOR": YOU'RE STANDING ON IT! --
BUT UNTIL YOU NOT KNOW IT, YOU CAN'T KNOW IT.

* * *

LOOKING DOWN AT HIS DOG,
AND AT WHAT HE'D JUST THOUGHT,
A MAN WONDERED:
"WHAT IF I HAD
THE CONSCIOUSNESS OF AN ANIMAL,
AND THE KNOWLEDGE OF A MAN --
-- WHAT WOULD I HAVE!?!....."

* * *

WITH HIS LEFT HAND, ONE MAN DREW PICTURES OF FOOD,
AND WITH HIS RIGHT, ARCHETECTURAL SKETCHES --
  HE COULD FEEL, IN HIS BURGEONING THIRD HAND,
  THE RE-NEWED DESIRE TO PAINT FROM NATURE.
  ...BUT PERHAPS A NEW NATURE, THIS TIME 'ROUND.

THE WISDOM OF PROVERBS, UPDATED

MANY BELIEVE THEY HEAR THE CALL,
BUT ONCE THEY GET THERE, DAMN-NEAR EVERY ONE OF THEM THEN THINKS:
"WHY THE HELL DID I COME HERE!?"

* * *

IN SPITE OF HIS FAIRLY REGULAR CHURCH APPEARANCES,
AND ATTENDENCE TO ITS PRESCRIBED RITUALS, AND OFFERINGS,
THIS ONE MAN SUFFERED A CONTINUING STRING OF SET-BACKS AND DISAPPOINTMENTS,
TIL FINALLY ONE DAY, INTO THE CONFESSIONAL BOTH HE TOOK HIMSELF,
AND SAID TO THE ON-DUTY, CLOISTERED CLERGYMAN:
"FATHER, I HAVE REACHED SUCH A LOW POINT THAT I AM TEMPTED TO
RENOUNCE MY FAITH.",
AND THE VOICE OF THE HIDDEN CONFESSOR,
(WHO HAD HEARD MANY YEARS OF COMPLAINTS FROM THE MAN), RESPONDED:
"FRANK, IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU FACED UP TO IT: LIFE SUCKS.",
AND FRANK REPLIED: "MY WIFE TOLD ME THE SAME THING.",
AND FROM AROUND THE SCREEN THAT SEPARATED THEM,
POPPED THE FACE OF THE SUPRISED CLERIC, WHO SAID:
"I DIDN'T KNOW YOUR WIFE WAS IN THE PREISTHOOD!"

CONCERNING MYTHS, METAPHORS, LEGENDS & ALLEGORIES

AN ALERT PASSENGER ON THE GREAT TRAIN RIDE FINALLY REALIZED:
"IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER WHAT THE STORY IS
JUST AS LONG AS IT KEEPS A MAN AWAKE DURING THE TRIP."

* * *

DAMMIT!!!: A SHORT STORY

EVERY TIME THIS ONE GUY WAS JUST ABOUT TO "GET IT ALTOGETHER", AND,
"COME TO HIS SENSES" -- SOMEBODY WOULD KNOCK ON THE DOOR & DISTRACT HIM --
-- AGAIN! -- DAMMIT!

* * *

RATHER THAN GOING AWAY AND JOINING A SECRET SCHOOL -- OR:
HAVING HIS AWARENESS APARATUS REPLACED,
ONE MAN JUST DISCONNECTED HIS DOOR BELL.

"Oh Say Do You Think!?": A Poem

Oh - You can:
Think about this,
Or -
Think about that,
But a -
Right-thinking-mystic doesn't -
Have to put up with crap like that.
Oh.

* * *

What They Do Have In Common

ALL PUBLIC MYSTICISM ARE HISTORIES OF MYSTICISM.

* * *

THOSE WHO ONLY WANT TO THINK ABOUT BEING MORE INTELLIGENT,
ARE THE SAME KIND OF PEOPLE WHO'LL ONLY EAT SOMETHING AFTER IT'S DEAD.

"OKAY, YOUNG GREEN-THUMBERS,
YOU GOT CHUR'SELF THESE TWO CHOICES:
YOU CAN EITHER: PLANT CHUR'SELF A GARDEN -- OR: GO LAY IN ONE.

WHENEVER HE COULD REMEMBER TO DO IT, ONE MAN WOULD CRY OUT:
"I'M NOT HOME! -- I'M NOT HOME!",
WHICH WOULD CAUSE HIM TO SUDDENLY -- <u>BE</u> AT HOME.

The Mythology Of Myth

After hearing yet more of the old man's magical stories & mystical allegories
The young lad told him how meaningful they had become to him,
And with a knowing smile, the old one nodded and said:
"Yep, real humdingers & bed-wetters all."

* * *

SIMPLE-MINDEDNESS: AN OVER VIEW

THERE ARE TWO KINDS OF "SIMPLE MINDEDNESS":
THE NATURAL KIND, AND THE TYPE ACHIEVED.

* * *

Time For More Facts

Yes, it is true --
In the attempt to change consciousness, there is only one method --
-- The method that works for you.

While this <u>should be</u> agreeable news - in the begining, it's not.
But, Hey! -- what are facts for!?

* * *

WHENEVER THE URGE TO RETREAT WOULD THREATEN TO OVERTAKE HIS DESIRE TO PRESS ON, SAINT ALONSO WOULD KILL HIMSELF.....AGAIN.

WHEN THE DAY FINALLY CAME,
WHEN EVERYTHING HE KNEW THREATENED TO OVERTAKE EVERYTHING HE LONGED FOR,
SAINT ALONSO MOVED TO A PLACE COLD ENOUGH THAT HE COULD SEE HIS BREATH.

(CONCLUDING ADDENDUM: A "WELL-TEMPORED" SYMBOLISM
IS NOT WORTH THE PAPER IT'S WRITTEN ON.)

ABOVE THE TOMB OF THE MYSTIC WAS THE MESSAGE:
"PATIENCE COMES IN A HANDBAG, AND IS DISTRIBUTED BY THE TRUNKLOAD.",
BUT FEW EVER GOT TO SEE IT SINCE
THE PLACE WAS OPEN ONLY ONCE OR TWICE A YEAR ON DAYS NEVER ANNOUNCED.

IRONY: FLAVORED CHILDREN'S ASPRIN FOR SIMPLE MINDED HEADACHES.

* * *

METAPHORS: REALITY WITH THE WRAPPER REMOVED.

* * *

THE "AH HAH!" FACTOR: LIFE WITH REALITY REMOVED.

* * *

THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE AWAKENED: CONCLUSIONS WITHOUT A PREMISS.

* * *

THE SONG:

"HOW TO DETERMINE THAT, (BEYOND YOUR AWARENESS), YOU HAVE ALREADY:
FLUNKED OUT OF MYSTICAL SCHOOL, BEEN THROWN OFF THE TRANSCENDENTAL EXPRESS,
AND MIGHT NOW BE READY TO START YOUR OWN PUBLIC MINISTRY."

(HOW TO TELL): YOU'RE PREPARED TO TEACH TO OTHERS,
THAT WHICH YOU YOURSELF CAN'T REMEMBER TO DO.

* * *

CODA: SOME THINGS NEVER CHANGE! --
AND A SELF-IMPOSED-POX BE ON HE WHO ONCE KNOWS THIS,
AND THEN TWICE OR MORE FORGETS IT.

\- - -

THE TRUTH, (OR ANYTHING ELSE), CAN'T "SET YOU FREE" IF YOU DON'T REMEMBER IT.
...(RIM-SHOT, AND OUT.)

* * *

ACCODING TO A CERTAIN LEGEND,
THERE WAS ONCE A CERTAIN SCHOOL OF HIGHER AWARNESS & INTELLIGENCE
THAT DISTINGUISHED BETWEEN: THOSE-WHO-KNOW, & THOSE-WHO-SIMPLY-SUSPECT,
ON THE BASIS OF WHETHER,(AND HOW),THOSE IN QUESTION
THEMSELVES DISTINGUISHED BETWEEN: "CAN'T", AND, "DON'T".

TO TRY AND EVEN UP THE ODDS OF THE GAME,
ONE MAN WOULD SPEND MORE ON BATHROOM TISSUE
THAN HE WOULD ON METAPHYSICAL MANUSCRIPTS.

IN DEFENSE OF HIMSELF, AS HE STOOD BEFORE THE GREAT TRIBUNAL OF LIFE,
ONE MAN OPENED WITH THESE WORDS:
"MAY I FIRST SAY THAT: I MAY BE STUPID AS HELL BUT..." AND THE HEAD JUDGE SAID
"THANK YOU.
NEXT CASE."

AFTER SEARCHING FOR IT
ALL OVER THE WORLD,
FOR A GREAT LONG TIME,
WITH HIS MIND,
THE SHOCK OF HIS ULTIMATE DISCOVERY CAUSED HIM TO DECLARE TO HIMSELF:
"THE FIRE IS ALL AROUND US! ---- BURN ALL YOUR NOTES!"

STILL ON THE TRAIN

UPON ARISING ONE MORNING, HE FOUND A NOTE SLID UNDER HIS COMPARTMENT DOOR,
AND SITTING BACK DOWN ON THE BED, HE READ IT:
"SOME WHERE BETWEEN PARIS AND ISTANBUL
YOU WILL PASS A MAN IN THE COMPARTMENT WAY
WHO WILL MOVE TO THE LEFT WHEN YOU DO THE RIGHT,
AND WILL BREATHE IN WHEN YOU DO OUT.
DO NOT LET HIM BY -- STOP HIM!,
FOR HE IS YOUR WAY STATION."