

ON THE THIRD DAY OUT,
 THE CAPTAIN ANNOUNCED OVER THE INNERCOM:
 "IN CASE THE SHIP GOES DOWN,
 THE UGLY AND THE STUPID WILL DROWN FIRST.",
 AND FEW AMONG THE PASSENGERS UNDERSTOOD WHAT HE MEANT --
 ...WELL, EITHER THAT OR THEY DIDN'T WANT TO!

THERE WAS ONCE A PLANET ONWHICH PARABLES AND ALLEGORIES WERE MADE UP IN THIS ORDER
 FIRST, THE STORY WOULD BE CONCEIVED OF WITH NO THOUGHT GIVEN AS TO ITS MORAL,
 OR PUNCH LINE,
 THEN, AND ONLY THEN -- AFTER THE STORY ITSELF HAD BEEN WRITTEN --
 WAS ITS POINT EXTRACTED.

AND YES MY FRIENDS -- JUST AS YOU FEARED,
 THIS ORB OF LIVING MATTER WAS NO OTHER THAN.....NO, STUPID, NOT EARTH --
 BUT: MIND WORLD!!

A BOY ONCE WALKED UP TO A MYSTIC ON A CITY STREET, AND SAID TO HIM:
 "IF I WERE TO BECOME YOUR SON,
 WOULD YOU PROMISE NEVER TO TELL ME JUST WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON HERE?!",
 (WHICH WAS THE MOST FUN THE MYSTIC'D HAD IN MONTHS!)

IF LIFE OFFERS A WIDE RANGE OF THINGS TO "THINK ABOUT"
THEN THE STRUGGLE FOR CONSCIOUSNESS NARROWS IT DOWN TO ONE,
BUT A ONE THAT HAS A WIDER SCOPE THAN ALL OF LIFE ITSELF,
AS IT IS PERCEIVED TO BE BY THE ORDINARY MIND.

EVERY TIME THIS ONE MAN WOULD GET A PACKAGE IN THE MAIL THAT WAS MARKED:
"REASONABLE; THIS BOX CONTAINS ONLY MATERIALS THAT, 'MAKE SENSE'
HE'D IMMEDIATELY CALL THE BOMB SQUAD --
-- THAT IS, HIS OWN PERSONAL, "BOMB SQUAD",
(WHO, BY THE WAY,
DID NOT HAVE THAT FAR TO GO TO REACH HIM.)

Man came up with the concept of "The Great, Noble, Though Futile, Feat"
upon first witnessing Adam in a state of mental transcendancy.

...After things had calmed back down,
the whole world joined hands and sang,
"We shot our arrows into the air,
and prayed to god they'd never return."

Or:

As life, in return, often croons to men,
"It's now or some other time."

MAN CAME UP WITH THE CONCEPT OF, "THE GREAT NOBLE, THOUGH FUTILE FEAT"....
UPON FIRST WITNESSING ADAM IN A STATE OF MENTAL TRANSCENDENCY.

...AFTER THINGS HAD CALMED BACK DOWN,
THE WHOLE WORLD JOINED HANDS AND SANG:
"WE SHOT OUR ARROWS INTO THE AIR,
AND PRAYED TO GOD THEY'D NEVER RETURN."

OR:

AS LIFE, IN RETURN, OFTEN CROONS TO MEN:
"IT'S NOW OR

IN THE BEGINING THERE WAS ONLY ONE WAY FOR MEN TO LIVE --
 THEN A FEW CONCEIVED OF THE STRUGGLE FOR EXPANDED AWARENESS.

IN THE BEGINING THERE WAS ONLY ONE WAY FOR MEN TO WORK FOR EXPANDED AWARENESS --
 ...MY, BUT HOW TIMES HAVE CHANGED.

YET ANOTHER DEMARCATION BETWEEN THE ORDINARY AND THE FEW CONCERNS,
 "HOW TIMES CHANGE", AND WHETHER THESE SHIFTS SHOULD BE SEEN AS EITHER:
 FAVORABLE,
 UNFAVORABLE,
 OR SOMETHING ELSE ALTOGETHER.

QUESTION: WITH X-RAY VISION, HOW COULD YOU SPOT A MORE PERCEPTIVE MAN?
 -- HE'D HAVE THREE EYES.....AT THE VERY LEAST.

MYSTICAL-MEDICAL FOOTNOTE: HAVING, "THREE EYES" DOES NOT INDICATE
 THE ABSENCE OF UNIFIED VISION....CONTRAIRE.

ONE MAN SWALLOWED A BEE --
BUT THANK GOD, IT PROGRESSED NO LOWER THAN HIS HEAD.

IN A FLASH OF INSIGHT,
ONE MAN DECIDED THAT THE ONLY PLACES HE'D GO WERE PLACES HE DIDN'T WANT TO GO.
...THEN, IN AN EVEN GREATER BURST OF COMPREHENSION,
HE DECIDED THAT HE'D ONLY BE DRAGGED TO PLACES WHERE HE DIDN'T WANT TO BE DRAGGED

A CERTAIN MATHEMATICAL MYTH SAYS THAT
THE MAIN REASON THOSE WHO AWAKEN ARE NOT ABLE TO DISCRIBE IT TO EVERYONE ELSE IS
THAT EVERYONE ELSE DOESN'T WANT TO HEAR ABOUT IT.

ONE MAN HAD A BEE FLY UP HIS ASS --
AND THANK GOD, IT PROGRESSED ON UPWARD,
FOR THIS MAN WAS DESTINED TO BECOME -- CIVILIZED!

A YOUNG BOY CAME WANDERING INTO THE TOWN, SINGING THIS SONG:

"LIFE NEVER TRIPS,
LIFE NEVER FALLS,
MEN GET TO BASE,
ONLY ON BALLS."

AND THE KING HAD THE LAD BROUGHT BEFORE HIM AND ASKED HIM WHERE
HE'D LEARNED SUCH A TUNE,

AND THE BOY POINTED TO JUST ABOVE THE RULER'S HEAD.

..... AIN'T THAT THE WAY IT ALWAYS GOES,
EVERY TIME, IN STORIES LIKE THOSE.....THESE.....

ONCE UPON A TIME

A MAN WHO WAS BORN-IN, GREW-UP-IN, AND LIVED-IN,
A CERTAIN MOST MAGNETICALLY POWERFUL AND ATTRACTIVE CITY,
ONE DAY SOMEHOW MANAGED TO GET OUT,
AND CLIMBED ATOP A HIGH MOUNTAIN OVERLOOKING THE TOWN,
AND FROM THAT VANTAGE POINT,
HIS FAMILY, FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS APPEARED TO LIVE LIVES OF FOOLS.
...HEY, CHILL! -- IT'S JUST A FAIRY TALE, FOR CHRISAKE.

ONE DAY, EXASPERATED, A MAN BLURTED OUT:

"I SWEAR TO GOD! -- YOU'RE DRIVING ME CRAZY!"

ONE DAY, EXASPERATED, A MAN BLURTED OUT:

"I SWEAR TO GOD! -- I CAN'T TAKE THIS ANY MORE!"

ONE DAY, EXASPERATED, A MAN BLURTED OUT:

"I SWEAR TO GOD! -- IF THINGS DON'T CHANGE I'LL KILL MYSELF!"

ONE DAY, EXASPERATED....DO I REALLY HAVE TO DO ANY MORE OF THESE
TO MAKE THE POINT?! -- AND EXASPERATED, A MAN REPLIED
"MY GOD -- NO!!!"

THE PRECEEDING FEATURE WAS BROUGHT TO YOU COURTESY OF THOSE
IN THE LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH FIELD
BEFORE THEY BECAME LOCAL,
AND WENT BONKERS THEMSELVES,

...SEE, AS ALWAYS -- HERE'S THE ANSWER: IF YOU HAVE TO ASK,
THEN,
THERE'S YOUR ANSWER.

THE ORDINARY'S REPETITION OF THE ADMONITION NOT TO JUDGE YOUR NEIGHBOR IS A CRUDE REFLECTION OF THE MORE AWAKE'S UNDERSTANDING NOT TO BE CRITICAL OF LIFE.

AFTER THE AGE OF TEN,
EACH AND EVERY MORNING, ONE FATHER WOULD CAUTION HIS SON:
"A MAN WHO DOES NOT KNOW WHAT HE IS GOING TO SAY NEXT
HAS NO BUSINESS GOING DUCK HUNTING." --
-- ADVICE THAT ULTIMATELY SAVED THE LAD A MINIMUM OF
EIGHTY-FOUR TONS OF USELESS EFFORT IN LIFE.

ONE MAN THOUGHT:
"WHY USE A PENCIL WHEN YOU CAN USE A PEN!.....OR, BETTER STILL:
WHY USE A PEN WHEN YOU CAN USE A TYPEWRITER?!.....OR, BETTER EVEN THAN THAT:
WHY USE A TYPEWRITER WHEN YOU CAN USE YOUR MIND?!,
AND THEN IT'S EVEN EASIER TO FORGET WHATEVER IT WAS!"

AFTER THE AGE OF TEN,
MOST PEOPLE FORGET THAT THEY EVER WERE TEN.

THE KING ONE DAY SOUGHT COUNSEL FROM HIS PRIVATE ADVISOR:
"IF I WERE CONSCIOUS, WOULD I BE RICHER?",
AND THE ADVISOR REPLIED:
"BUT MY LORD, YOU'RE ALREADY RICH.",
"HUMMMMM", MUSED THE KING;
"ALRIGHT, IF I WERE CONSCIOUS, WOULD I BE MORE POWERFUL?",
"BUT YOU ARE ALREADY POWERFUL, YOUR GRACE.", ANSWERED THE ADVISOR,
"HUMMMM, AGAIN.", REFLECTED THE KING:
"THEN IF I WERE CONSCIOUS, WOULD I BE A WISER RULER?",
"AHHH", RESPONDED THE ADVISOR,
"NOW YOU'RE ASKING ME THE KIND OF QUESTION THAT SHOULD I GENUINELY REPLY,
COULD GET ME KILLED.",
"BUT", SAID THE KING,
"IS NOT THAT THE VALID GOAL OF CONSCIOUSNESS?!",
"TOUCHE!, OLE DEAR.", SAID THE ADVISOR, CONCLUDING THEIR CONVERSATION.

ONE MAN BEGAN TO WONDER IF THE REASON ROYALTY HAS SUCH A BAD REP
IS BECAUSE SO MUCH OF IT TAKES PLACE INSIDE ONE'S OWN MIND (?!?)

MUCH OVERLOOKED BY HISTORY IS HOW LITTLE INTEREST HORMONES HAVE EVER HAD
IN SHARING THEIR THRONE.....REGARDLESS OF WHAT REALITIES HAVE BEEN
FORCED ON THEM BY THE BIRTH AND CONTINUAL EXPANSION OF CIVILIZATION.

ONE MAN FINALLY PUT TWO & RED TOGETHER AND REALIZED:

"IF THE MORE CONSCIOUS HAVE NO HEROES
THEN NEITHER DO THEY HAVE LEADERS."

...AN ASTOUNDING BIT OF DISCOVERY IF PROPERLY LAID TO ONE'S OWN THINKING PROCESS

ANCIENT MYSTICAL TRADITIONS ARE LIKE OLD USED CONDOMS --
-- UNLESS YOU KNOW HOW TO RECYCLE THEM.

AND UPON HEARING THIS, A MAN PONDERED:
"JUST WHAT IS IT THAT LIFE IS TRYING TO KEEP MEN FROM?!" --
-- AND WHILE HIS INTEREST IN THIS AREA IS UNDERSTANDABLE
HIS VIEW OF SAME
EXPRESSED IN THESE WORDS
REMAINS QUITE A WAY FROM THE MARK.

A CERTAIN SOLDIER VISITED THE FRONT LINES
AND MET THE ENEMY UP CLOSE! -- FACE-TO-FACE, AND EYEBALL-TO-EYEBALL,
AND WHEN HE RETURNED HOME, HE SMASHED EVERY MIRROR IN HIS HOUSE --
-- AND WHILE HIS PASSION IS UNDERSTANDABLE
HIS DIRECTION OF SAME
AT THE PHYSICAL WORLD
YET FAILS TO ADDRESS THE RIGHT FOE.

DREAMS SWALLOWED HISTORY AND THEN INSTEAD OF FACTS WE HAD, FABLES.

THEN MEN SWALLOWED ANIMALS....(OR MAYBE IT WAS THE OTHER WAY AROUND?!?)...

.....ANYWAY -- THEN WE HAD SOMEONE TO POPULATE OUR FABLES.

ONE MAN KEPT GLIMPSING FIGURES LURKING IN THE WOODS BEHIND HIS HOUSE --
"I'M SURE NOT GOING OUT THERE.", HE SAID,
"OR, EVEN IN HERE - IS THAT'S WHERE IT ACTUALLY IS."

....(DON'T YOU SOMETIMES WONDER HOW LIFE KEEPS TRACK OF ALL THESE FOLKS
IT OBVIOUSLY APPROVES OF SO HIGHLY.)

ONE MAN WAS TOLD:

"LEAVE YOUR NAME & NUMBER WITH MY SECRETARY AND I'LL BE IN TOUCH.",
AND THE MAN, (WHO'D BEEN AROUND THE LOCAL BLOCK ON MORE THAN ONE OCCASION
SUDDENLY WONDERED IF THE ONLY AWARDS POSSIBLE FOR MAN
ARE ALL POSTHUMOUS -- WHICH WOULD RENDER THEM, ILLUSIONARY.

THERE IS AN EXTREMELY UNSUBSTANTIATED MYTHICAL RUMOR THAT SAYS THAT
BUDDHA...OR MAYBE IT WAS MUHAMMD, OR MOSES, (I FORGET) - ANY WAY,
SUPPOSEDLY ONE OF THEM WENT BACK INTO TOWN ONCE AND LATER NOTED THAT NOW,
LISTENING TO ORDINARY MEN TALK - "SERIOUSLY"
WAS LIKE HEARING HIPPOS FART IN AN AMPLIFIED WIND TUNNEL.
...(HEY, WHO ELSE BUT A MUHAMMAD COULD GET BY WITH IT?!)

JUST AS IT TAKES MORE THAN NEURONS TO HOLD A HERD TOGETHER,
IT REQUIRES MORE THAN NEURONS TO TAKE IT APART.

PART OF BEING ORDINARY AND CIVILIZED IS TO LOOK TO THE SOUTH FOR SUN RISE.

FOR A WHILE,
THOSE WORKING FOR CONSCIOUSNESS
SEEM LIKE A BUILDING, NEWLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION
WHICH LACKS A VISIBLE FOUNDATION.

ANOTHER DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE FEW AND THE ORDINARY IS THAT
THE LATTER ARE ALWAYS SAYING: "WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?",
WHILE THE FORMER ARE IN A RELENTELESS STRUGGLE TO ALWAYS BE JUST AHEAD OF HERE.

THOSE WHO BELIEVE THAT THEIR THOUGHTS, OR THE PASSIONS-OF-THEIR-HEART
WILL SOMEDAY BRING FORTH AN UNDERSTANDING OF LIFE,
ARE LIKE MEN WHO WANT TO GO SURF FISHING, BUT ONLY IF
THEY CAN KEEP FROM GETTING THEIR FEET WET.

NOTE: THE DISCRIMINATION BETWEEN ORDINARY ALLEGORIES
AND THE TRANSCENDENTAL VARIETY IS THAT
WITH A LITTLE THINKING
THE FORMER CAN "MAKE SENSE" TO ORDINARY MINDS,
WHILE NO AMOUNT OF, " LITTLE THINKING"
WILL DO SO FOR THE LATTER.

IT'S LIKE THIS: WHEN MEN OF BINOCULAR VISION LOOK INTO A MIRROR
THEY SEE THEIR REFLECTION,
BUT WHEN THOSE OF MORE THAN TWO EYES DO SO
WHAT THEY PERCEIVE TRANSCENDS THE LIMITS OF A HANDBALL COURT.

ONE FELLOW,
FIRMLY ENSCONCED IN A TYPICAL CITY, SAYS:
"I SEE LITTLE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ALLEGORIES, AND ALLERGIES --
-- I FIND THEM BOTH ANNOYING."
....WELL-&-FAITHFULLY-SAID, GOOD CITIZEN.

AND NOW SOME NEWS FROM: DOWN ON THE FARM

TO A COW, A QUESTION IS AS GOOD AS AN ANSWER.

ALL THE HEALTH NEWS YOU'LL EVER NEED, (IF YOU'RE ABLE TO HEAR IT)

IF YOU'RE PHYSICALLY ALIVE, YOU'RE ALWAYS PARTIALLY SICK -- AND,
IF YOU'RE MENTALLY ALIVE, YOU ALWAYS BELIEVE THAT YOU ARE.

SOME TIMES, (AS A LITTLE TEST), WHEN LIFE BUMPS INTO A MAN IT'LL SAY:
"WHAT'S NEW?" -- JUST TO SEE WHAT HE'LL SAY.

A CERTAIN PRINCE ONE DAY SAID TO HIMSELF:
"IF A 'MAGIC BULLET' CAN KILL YOU,
THEN ONE CAN ALSO SURELY -- BRING YOU TO LIFE.",
UPON THIS SUDDEN REALIZATION,
HE FORTHWITH CALLED FOR THE HEAD OF THE PALACE GUARDS TO COME SHOOT HIM --
FOR SURE -- IN THE HEAD!

ANOTHER WAY TO THINK ABOUT THE MYSTICALLY INCLINED
IS LIKE A MAN WHO'D GET LIFE OUT BEHIND THE BARN AND SAY:
"I'LL SHOW YOU MINE IF YOU'LL SHOW ME YOURS."

A MAN ONCE PONDERED:

"ARE NOT THOSE WHO BELIEVE THAT THEY'RE RELIGIOUS
LIKE MEN WHO WANT TO SEE, BUT INSIST ON WEARING DISTORTING, BABY GLASSES?!"
...I DON'T KNOW WHY HE LIMITED HIS OBSERVATION TO THE RELIGIOUS
WHEN ITS VERACITY INCLUDES AND ACCOMIDATES ALL WHO THINK.

AND ANOTHER CHAP ONCE THOUGHT:

"IF YOU DON'T KNOW EXACTLY WHAT YOU'RE AIMING FOR
IT SURE IS EASIER TO COME UP WITH A SPECIFIC TARGET."
....(IS ANYONE OUT THERE A'LISTENIN'?!.....HUMMMMM?!)

ONE MAN BEGAN TO WONDER: "ARE WE LIVING IN THE MIDDLE OF A GREAT HOAX?!" -
BUT UPON EXAMINING LIFE ONCE AGAIN, IN THE MANNER HABITUAL FOR HIM,
STILL FAILED TO DETECT ANY PRESENCE OF HUMOR,
...THE VERBAL TRIP-WIRE HEREIN BEING THE WORDS:
"IN THE MANNER HABITUAL FOR HIM."

A MAN CALLED LIFE'S LOCAL OFFICE AND ASKED IF THEY HAD MAPS OF THE PARADE ROUTE.
...LUCKLY, I GUESS
THAT HE DIDN'T ACCIDENTALLY RING UP A MYSTIC, HUH?!