

IF THE INNER WORLD HAD NOT THE OUTER WORLD TO THINK ABOUT,
WHAT WOULD BOTHER IT THEN?

- - -

WHILE THERE MAY BE NO CLEAR DIVIDING LINE BETWEEN EAST AND WEST,
UP AND DOWN, TRUE AND FALSE,
THERE CERTAINLY IS BETWEEN MAN'S EXTERNAL WORLD, INWHCIH HE MOVES,
AND HIS INTERAL ONE, INWHICH HE THINKS.

IT COULDN'T BE CLEARER -- IT COULDN'T BE MORE CONFUSED.

- - -

A MAN ONCE HAD A BIRD, APPARENTLY BRED TO LIVE ONLY INDOORS,
AND WHICH HAD A PECULIAR DISPOSITION --
-- IT WOULD ONLY EAT FOOD BROUGHT IN FROM OUTSIDE THE HOUSE.

A MAN ONCE INHERITED A CASTLE WHICH CAME WITH A PERMANENT RESIDENT - A TALKING BIRD,
OF WHOSE CONSTANT NOISE HE EVENTUALLY GREW WEARY AND WISHED TO SUPRESS,
BUT THE TASK PROVED SUPRISINGLY DIFFICULT UNTIL HE DISCOVERED A TRICK:
AS LONG AS HE ALLOWED THE BIRD NO ACCESS TO FOOD RAISED OUTSIDE THE CASTLE --
-- IT WAS SILENT.

WHAT COULD BE SIMPLIER -- WHAT COULD BE MORE TICKLISH?!

IN A DREAM DO PRESENT AND FUTURE CHANGE PLACES --

ARE FAST AND SLOW SWAPED --

DO REAL AND UNREAL BECOME THEIR CONTRARIES --

IN A DREAM ARE ALL THINGS IMPOSSIBLE, POSSIBLE FOR THE MIND OF A SLEEPING MAN.

IN THE MID DAY SUN WE ALL ARE BORN,

ONLY TO BE MINUTES OLD AND IT BE MIDNIGHT.

THOSE OF THE QUEST SEEK THINGS MOST STRANGE,

TO TURN BACK TIME -- TO TURN TIME AHEAD.

ONLY THE BLIND CRITICIZE -- ONLY THE DEAF RIDICULE.

IT TAKES A SPECIAL KIND OF UN-HEALTH TO BE HEALTHY ENOUGH TO EVER BE FREE.

'TIS NOT MERELY THE WALLS OF A PRISON THAT HOLD YOU,
NO! -- MUCH OF IT DEPENDS ON YOUR HABIT OF BEING THERE.

FEW ARE THE WHALES WHO ATTEMPT ESCAPE FROM THE BELLY OF A WHALE.

CAPTIVES WHO BECOME FREE ARE THOSE WHO FIRST LEARN THE ART OF DISGUISE.

FROM WHICH -- AN INNER, OR OUTER VIEW --

CAN THE STOMACH LINING OF A MINNOW BE TOLD FROM THAT OF A WHALE?

YOU MAY NOT BE THE ONE WHO SWALLOWED YOU, BUT YOU CAN BE THE ONE TO SPIT YOU UP.

FREEDOM IS NOT: OVER-THE-WALLS -- UNDER-THE-FENCE, OR AROUND THE GUARDS --

FREEDOM IS -- THROUGH YOU!

...RIGHT DOWN THE MIDDLE -- THROUGH YOU.

IF CIRCUMSTANCES DO NOT REQUIRE THE MIND'S IMMEDIATE PRESENCE
IT WILL ALWAYS BE SOME WHERE ELSE.

YOU'RE EITHER "DISTRACTED", (AND NOT ACTUALLY HERE,
OR ELSE, "ATTENTIVE" AND PRESENT.

SIMPLE! -- FAR TOO SIMPLE FOR SOME!(MOST).

WITH ANOTHER YEAR COMPLETED,
AND THE COMING OF SPRING AGAIN,
A MAN SO REFLECTED:

"THOUGH I MAY NOT HAVE TRAVELED FAR FROM WHENCE I STARTED,
I WOULD NOW BE PLEASED COULD I BUT CEASE TO DREAM OF HOME."

RESIDENTIAL GARDENING

AS LONG AS THE PLACE CAME WITH A GARDEN --
AND YOU STILL HAVE A GARDEN --
AT LEAST KEEP IT IN A TENDER, PEACEFUL CONDITION.

* * *

FOR A FEW: THE ULTIMATE DEMISE.....WHILE YET ALIVE, (SORT OF):

I FELL INTO MY MIND,
AND DROWNED THEREIN.

* * *

ONE GUY'S SIGH:

"I CAN SOME TIMES BE A BUDDHA WHEN I'M SITTING DOWN,
BUT THEN IT'S ALL GONE WHEN MY FEET HIT THE GROUND."

WHAT IS IT THAT KILLS US -- MOVEMENTS EXTERNAL - OR SOME PLACE ELSE?!

THERE WAS ONCE A FISH WHO WAS CHOKING
BUT COULDN'T TELL WHETHER FROM THE WATER HE WAS IN,
OR FROM THE WATER IN HIM.

A MAN SEEKING LIBERATION COULDN'T BE SURE WHAT HE WAS STRUGGLING AGAINST --
THINGS OUTSIDE HIMSELF, OR HIS THINKING ABOUT SUCH THINGS --

-- AND TO MAKE IT WORSE, HE BEGAN CONFUSING HIMSELF WITH HIS TWIN BROTHER --
...WHOM UNTIL RECENTLY, HE DIDN'T KNOW HE HAD.

THE GUY SIGHS AGAIN:

"SOME TIMES WHEN I'M STILL, I CAN HOLD IT,
BUT THEN I START TO LOOK -- AND I'VE LOST IT."

IF BEATING UP ON YOIRSELF INDUCED AWAKENING
MOST ORDINARY PEOPLE WOULD BE AWAKE --
. . . . AND A SIZABLE PER CENTAGE OF MYSTICS ALSO.

ONE MAN KEPT TRYING TO REMIND HIMSELF:

"IF THERE IS NO WISDOM IN WORDS NEITHER IS THERE FOLLY.

IF THERE IS NO WISDOM IN WORDS NEITHER IS THERE FOLLY.

IF IGNORANCE DON'T KILL YOU, KNOWING WILL.

IF IGNORANCE DON'T KILL YOU, KNOWING WILL.

THAT'S A HEAP TO REMEMBER.", HE'D THINK TO HIMSELF,

IN THE GRIPS OF HIS KNOWING FOLLY.

A MIND TOLD A MAN: "DON'T WASTE MY TIME.",
AND THE MAN TOLD THE MIND: "DON'T TAKE MY SPACE."

AFTER HAVING MET A CERTAIN MYSTIC FOR THE FIRST TIME
A MAN SAID TO HIM, AS THEY TALKED, (WITH A TOUCH OF DISAPPOINTMENT),
"I EXPECTED YOU TO BE MORE CONFRONTATIONAL.", TO WHICH THE MYSTIC REPLIED:
"I CERTAINLY COULD BE. IF I TREATED YOUR INTELLIGENCE --
-- AS JUST DISPLAYED BY THAT COMMENT -- IN THE MANNER IT DESERVES."

THE UNWITING CRY OF THE ORDINARY IS:

"WE DON'T WANT JUSTICE! -- WE DON'T WANT JUSTICE!",
WHICH IS THE SAME FOR THOSE SEEKING LIBERATION -- ONLY, WITINGLY.

AN INTERESTING ASPECT OF ILLNESS, (EVEN DISTURBANCES OF THE MIND),
IS THE STARK RELIEF INTO WHICH TIME SEEMS TO BE BROUGHT.

...AND YET, BOWELS AND BRAINS RUN ON DIFFERRING SCHEDULES: -- (THAT IS TO SAY):
MINDS SHOULD NOT BE RUNNING ON ONE.

- - -

LEGEND TELLS OF A MAN WHO DIED AND FOUND HIMSELF FACE TO FACE WITH GOD --
-- WHO, AS IT TURNED OUT, WAS THE WORD, "SEEMS",
(AKA, "SHOULD NOT BE".)

A MAN ONCE MUSED: "I'LL BET THAT DEATH CAN REVEAL A BUNCH OF FASCINATIN' STUFF"
....THEN LATER PONDERED THE SAME POSSIBILITY FOR LIFE.

THE SECRET OF EVERY SUCCESSFUL EXPLORATION IS IN -- WHERE YOU LOOK.

* * *

TO BELIEVE THAT A TEACHING, (OR ANYTHING OUTSIDE YOURSELF), WILL SAVE YOU,
IS A CHILD'S FAITH THAT A CLOSED FIST HOLDS A PRIZE.

- - -

A MAN ASKED A MYSTIC:

"SAY, LOOK: RATHER THAN BEING COMPLETELY ENLIGHTENED,
CAN YOU LIKE, GET IN A LESSER STATE WHERE YOU'RE KIND OF ENLIGHTENED,
BUT NOT SO MUCH THAT YOU STILL CAN'T SNEER AT OTHER PEOPLE?",
...AND IN A CURIOUS MANNER THE MYSTIC MOMENTARILY ENJOYED THE QUESTION
IN THAT THIS WAS THE FIRST MAN HE'D EVER HEARD SPEAK IT,
ALTHOUGH MANY ARE THOSE WHO'VE THOUGHT IT...THOUGHT IT...THOUGHT IT.

WHEN THE GARDEN CANNOT BE ABANDONED IT SHOULD BE TENDED WITH A SINGULAR CARE.

- - -

THERE IS NO PLACE ON THE ORD SO UNFIT TO LIVE THAT IT CANNOT BE MADE BETTER
BY AN ALERT DWELLER.

WE LIVE WITHIN US -- WE LIVE WITHOUT US,
THE TRUTH OF AWARENESS IS ALL ABOUT US,
OPEN UP YOUR EYES AS FLOWERS OPEN UP THEIR PETALS,
THINGS CAN BE PRETTY EVEN ADMIST MUD AND STONE.

* * *

EVEN AFTER HAVING LIVED TO AN ADVANCED AGE,
ONE MAN SAID WHAT HE STILL FOUND MOST FASCINATING IN HUMAN EXISTANCE
IS HOW ONE CAN RIDE A GALLOPING HORSE WHILE ASLEEP IN THE SADDLE.

AROUND HIS OWN NECK, ONE MAN KEPT FORGETTING TO HEED THE POSTED REMINDER:
"ANYONE WHO SAYS THAT A MORE CONSCIOUS MAN WOULD DO EITHER,
THIS PARTICULAR THING,
OR THAT PARTICULAR THING,
IS AT THE MOMENT OF SO SAYING -- LESS CONSCIOUS THEMSELVES."

WHEN, AFTER LOOKING AT YOU, YOU HEAR THEM SAY THAT
THE NEXT TWENTY-FOUR HOURS ARE CRITICAL AND WILL DETERMINE YOUR SURVIVAL,
TAKE OFF IMMEDIATELY TO SOME PLACE TWENTY-THREE HOURS AWAY.

A MAN WHO'D BEEN IN THE EFFORT FOR MANY A YEAR,
ONE DAY RAN ACROSS LIFE AND ASKED:
"CAN I TRADE IN SEX FOR ENLIGHTENMENT?", AND LIFE SAID, "SURE.",
AND THE MAN THOUGHT ON THIS FOR A MOMENT, AND ASKED:
"CAN I SWAP HEALTH FOR AWAKENING?", AND LIFE SAID, "OKAY.",
AND THE MAN PONDERED AGAIN, THEN ASKED:
"CAN I EXCHANGE ENJOYING LIFE FOR LIBERATION?", AND LIFE REPLIED:
"NOT ONLY HAVE YOU NOW GONE TOO FAR, BUT YOU'VE ALSO - GONE TOO FAR.",
AND THE MAN BEAMED! -- KNOWING THAT HE'D FINALLY, NEARLY GONE -- FAR ENOUGH.

ALTHOUGH YOU'D NEVER GET IT FROM ITS TELLING,
THE MORAL TO THIS STORY IS THAT YOU SHOULDN'T SWAP LIFE FOR ANYTHING --
....EVEN IF YOU COULD.
...LEAST WISE THAT'S WHAT IT IS FROM LIFE'S VIEW --
...WHICH IS DAMN SURE, GOOD ENOUGH FOR US ALL.

IN RE QUESTIONABLE ACTIVITIES AND THEIR CONSEQUENCES:
AFTER A NIGHT OF DRINKING,
ONE MAN THOUGHT OF HIS HANGOVER AS: "GETTING BACK MY TEST RESULTS."

THE CLEARER A MAN'S SIGHT OF THE DESTINATION
THE LESS FROM HIM IS HEARD DETAILED DESCRIPTIONS THEREOF,

THERE IS A SECRET ACHE EXPERIENCED BY CERTAIN TONGUES
WHOSE HANDS CANNOT YET KEEP ABREAST.

* * *

THERE IS A TREASURE BOX WHOSE STORE IS LIMITLESS --
NO MATTER WHAT IS ASKED OF IT, IT CAN DELIVER --
-- IT IS THE MIND,
A THING AWESOME,
MIRACULOUS,
AND BOTH ENLIGHTENING AND MISLEADING,
WITH EACH BEING SO COINCIDENTAL
AS TO BE INDISTINGUIAHBLE, SAVE TO A FEW,
UNUSUALLY ALERT.

* * *

WHEN THE KNOWING SPEAK OF THE "ILLUSIONARY NATURE OF THE WORLD",
THEY DO NOT REFER TO THE EXTERNAL WORLD, WHOSE NATURE IS NOT ILLUSIONARY,
BUT TO THE WORLD IN MAN WHICH CONSTRUCTS HIS PERCEPTION OF THE EXTERNAL ONE
USING METHODS OF PREFERENTIAL FRICTION AND OPPOSITION OF FORCES
WHICH EMPLOY ILLUSION.

REFLECTIONS OF A FLOWER LOVER .

"WHEN NOT IN THAT SPECIAL PLACE,
I TEND MY GARDEN --
-- TEND IT AS A POET WOULD."

* * *

A MAN ASKED A MYSTIC:

"IS ALL THAT WE WRITE, AUTOBIOGRAPHY?!",

"YES, BUT OF LIFE -- NOT OF THE AUTHOR."

INQUIRY: HOW DO MEN LIKE THEIR CONSCIOUSNESS?

ONE EXEMPLARY RESPONSE: WHICH IS MORE POPULAR: DRINKING OR ATTEMPTS TO AWAKEN?

IN YOUR PURSUIT TO LEARN THE MAGIC DANCE
YOU SHOULD CHANGE PARTNERS AS OFTEN AS POSSIBLE,
(THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE EXTERNAL WORLD, BUT WITH THE VERBAL SHOES
INWHICH YOU THINK YOUR STEPS.)

ONE MYSTIC'S REMINDER TO THOSE WITH A HUNGER:
"IF YOU MUST TAKE OF SWEETS,
AVOID AT ALL COSTS,
CHOCOLATE AND VANILLA."

BUSY'S NOT OVERCOME BY BUSY, NOR FULL BY FULLER.

REFLECTIONS OF ONE WHO'D LONG PERUSED THE ANCIENT RECORDS

"I HAVE BEEN MUCH TOUCHED BY WHAT I HAVE HEARD FROM THE PAST WISE ONES --
-- ESPECIALLY SINCE I MYSELF HAVE BECOME LESS NOISY.

* * *

ONE MAN TRADED HIS EXTERNAL BLINDNESS AND DEAFNESS FOR AN INNER --
....AND WAS MUCH HAPPIER FOR IT.

THE JOURNEY IN A DARKENED WOODS

AS HE TRAVELED THROUGH THE FOREST HE WAS INCREASINGLY LEAD BY A SINGLE LIGHT
SHINNING THROUGH THE TREES UP AHEAD.

* * *

AS HE SAT NEAR A SUNSET, A CERTAIN MAN MUSED:
"ONCE WITHIN, I HARBORED A FIELD OF BATTLE,
BUT NOW I FIND IT TO BE MORE OF A GARDEN.",
AND AS THE REDS BEGAN TO OVERTAKE THE YELLOWS IN THE SKY, HE WAS AT PEACE.