

FROM A JOURNEY UP IN THE MOUNTAINS

THOUGH I HAVE NEVER SEEN ALL OF THE PEAKS,
I HAVE SEEN WHAT THEY ALL LOOK LIKE.

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A CERTAIN MAN, DOWN IN THE VALLEY,
CURSED THE MANY PUDDLES ABOUT HIS HOUSE.
EACH AND EVERY ONE HE SINGLED OUT AND CURSED;
CURSED THEM INDIVIDUALLY -- AND CURSED THEM CONTINUALLY,
UNTIL IT ACCOMPLISHED NOTHING.

THOUGH HE SAW ALL OF THE PUDDLES
HE NEVER SAW THAT THEY WERE ALL THE SAME PUDDLE.

WHILE DOZING UNDER A TREE, A MAN DREAMED THE QUESTION OF WHETHER IT IS THE
STRENGTH AND CUNNING OF A FOE THAT OVERCOMES YOU, OR HIS NUMBER?!,
....(AND UPON AWAKENING FROM HIS SNOOZE, CHANGED THAT TO,
"HIS APPARENT NUMBER". HEY!, WHAT HOPE IS THERE IN WARFARE
IF YOUR INFO IS NOT EXACT?!)

THERE WAS ONCE A MYSTICAL ORDER WHOSE SOLE TEACHING WAS: "BE OF GOOD CHEER." -
....BUT IT TOOK MOST STUDENTS HALF A LIFE TIME TO REALIZE WHETHER THIS WAS
MEANT FOR THE MIND, OR FOR THE STOMACH.

....(AND SEE! -- THERE'S A BUILT-IN TRICK,
'CAUSE BY THE TIME YOU'VE SORTED THIS OUT
YOU'RE THEN TO THE POINT THAT IT NO LONGER MATTERS WHETHER -- EH!,
I WON'T INSULT YOUR INTELLIGENCE BY FINISHING THAT --
-- YOU KNOW THE TUNE FROM HERE.)

....("OH, DE HAMBONE CONNECTED TO DE - SEROTONIN SUPPLY SITE.")

THERE WAS ONCE AN EVIL KING WHO KEPT A POOR INNOCENT SOUL CAPTIVE,
USING ONLY THE METHOD OF STARVATION. THAT'S RIGHT! - AS STRANGE AS IT SOUNDS,
HE KEPT THE POOR MAN FOREVER CAPTIVE SIMPLY BY STARVING HIM. AND, NO!,
IT DIDN'T KILL HIM, FOR SUCH CAPTIVITY HAS A LIFE SPAN EQUAL TO THAT OF AN
UNNOURISHED MIND -- I MEAN, MAN.

....("OH, DE HAMBONE CONNECTED TO -- EVERY THING! -- OH DE HAMBONE CONNECTED TO ...

THERE WAS ONCE A RACE OF ROUND CREATURES
WHOSE COLLECTIVE, PHYSICAL EXISTANCE WAS DEPENDENT ON THINGS OBLONG --
BUT A FEW BEGAN TO SUSPECT THAT THEIR INDIVIDUAL RUN MIGHT BE
DRASTICALLY DIFFERENT IF THEY COULD THINK OF ONLY THINGS ROUND.

...THE FEWEST OF THE FEW WOULD GO ON TO EVENTAULLY SEE
THINKING ONLY OF THINGS ROUND AS BUT A STEPPING STONE TO
SOMETHING IN THE SAME GENERAL AREA -- YET OF ANOTHER ORDER ALTOGETHER.

SEASONAL SERENADES: MARCH: "MIRROR, MIRROR, ON THE WALL."
JUNE: "MIRROR, MIRROR."
SEPT: "WALL, WALL, ON THE WALL.",
AND THEN -- THE SINGING STOPPED.

RE THE MATTER OF: AWAKENING & THE ATTEMPTS TO AWAKEN

YOU CAN'T GET OFF A TRAIN WHILE IT'S STILL ROLLIN'.

...THE REASON THAT THE SECRET ANNALS CONTINUE TO RECORD MORE CASES OF
PLAIN, SIMPLE MEN EXPERIENCING ENLIGHTENMENT,
RATHER THAN SOPHISTICATED, SCHOLARY ONES,
IS BECAUSE THEY CAN MORE EASILY UNDERSTAND THIS.

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TO HOLD ON TO THE MOTIONS OF THE MIND
IS TO BE DRAGGED THROUGH RUGGED TERRAIN BY A WILD HORSE.

ONE MAN FOUGHT CONITNUAL BRUSH FIRES AROUND HIS HOUSE
UNTIL HE REALIZED THAT WHAT HE TOOK TO BE FLAMES WERE IN FACT HIS YARD.

TO THOUGHTS -- LIKE TROUBLES AND HOUSE FLIES --
ONE MAN GAVE THE SAME ACKNOWLEDGMENT: "So! -- ANOTHER ONE."

TODAY'S GRAND PRIZE QUESTION IS THIS:

WAS THE FIRST MAN WHO WENT TO SLEEP
ALSO THE FIRST MAN WHO THEN WANTED TO AWAKEN?

....HEY, DON'T WAIT ON ME FOR THE ANSWER -- LOOK AT YOUR SELF.

...OHHH -- COME ON NOW -- DON'T POUT AND BE LIKE THAT.....
HERE, I'LL GIVE YOU AN EASIER ONE.

WAS THE FIRST MAN WHO WENT STUPID
ALSO THE FIRST MAN WHO WANTED TO BECOME SMART?

...YEAH, GO AHEAD -- YOU CAN PEEK AT THE KID'S PAPER NEXT TO YOU.

("PHEW! - I NEVER THOUGHT I'D COME TO THIS --
HAVIN' TO MONITOR FOR CHEATIN' ON A IGNORANCE QUOTIENT EXAM! --
BUT - THAT'S WHAT I GET FOR HANGIN' OUT WITH HUMANS.")

PERHAPS OF SUPREME IMPORTANCE IS TO REMEMBER TO -- BE CAREFUL.

...YOU MIGHT ALSO REMEMBER THAT: A BUSY PERSON IS NOT A CAREFUL PERSON.

...OH YEAH, AND SOMETHING ELSE: BEING "BUSY" IS AN INTERNAL THING.

AT THE CONCLUSION OF A MYSTIC'S COMMENTS TO A CROWD
SOMEONE THEREIN BEGAN TO APPLAUD AND CALL OUT HIS NAME,
TOWHICH HE RESPONDED BY NOTING THAT IF THERE WAS ANYTHING TO BE APPLAUDED
IT WAS NOT THE MAN, BUT THE WORDS THE MAN SPOKE
WHICH MAY HAVE TRIGGERED NEW IDEAS IN THE LISTENER,
AND THAT BEING THE CAUSE OF THEIR DESIRE TO EXPRESS APPRECIATION.

IF YOU WERE EVER TRAPPED ON A PLANET WITH ZERO VISIBILITY,
AND WANTED TO IDENTIFY THE MORE CONSCIOUS THEREON,
ALL YOU WOULD HAVE TO DO IS LISTEN OUT TO SEE WHO REACTED FAVORABLY TO
SPLENDID IDEAS, RATHER THAN TO SPLENDIDLY APPEARING MEN.

HAVING HEROES-OF-IDEAS RATHER THAN HEROES-OF-MEN
ALWAYS SEPERATES THE FEW FROM THE MANY.

THE TRAVAILS OF TRAVEL TOO LONG SUSPENDED

IF YOU STAND ON A HILLSIDE, SEPERATING FACT FROM IGNORANCE,
YOU WILL FOREVER:

STAND ON A HILLSIDE, SEPERAFING FACT FROM IGNORANCE.

THOSE WHO SAY: "I CAN NOW MORE CLEARLY -- SEE THE TRUTH.",
MAY OR MAY NOT BE ABLE TO SEE MORE CLEARLY THAN THEY ONCE DID,
BUT SO LONG AS THEY SAY AND THINK SUCH THINGS, BE ASSURED THAT
THEY HAVE YET TO LEARN HOW TO ACTUALLY -- SEE!

...AND THE DOCTOR SAID: "STAND RIGHT HERE, THEN LOOK AT THE CHART.",
BUT THE MAN WAS ALERT ENOUGH TO RECOGNIZE HIS MIND'S VOICE,
EVEN IN DISGUISE, WHEN HE HEARD IT,
AND REALIZE THAT IT WAS STILL UP TO ITS STANDARD PROFESSIONAL ETHICS OF --
-- TEMPTING HIM TO STARE...AT THAT DAMN CHART...AND IF NOT THAT, SOMETHING ELSE

A MAN ASKED A MYSTIC:

"CAN YOU TELL ME HOW TO AWAKEN?",

"THAT I CAN.", HE REPLIED, "BUT FIRST

"BUT I MUST HAVE SOME PERSONAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOU.

YOU MUST TAKE NOTICE, THEN REPORT TO ME THE ANSWER TO THIS:

IN BED AT NIGHT, AS YOU PASS FROM THE ORDINARY DAY TIME STATE OF
CONSCIOUSNESS INTO THE NORMAL NIGHT TIME ONE OF SLEEP,

DO YOU SO PASS IN AN INSTANT?! --

ARE YOU AT ONE MOMENT AWAKE, AND THEN, 'BAMB!' - THE NEXT YOU'RE ASLEEP? -
OR:

DO YOU PASS FROM THE WAKING STATE TO THE SLEEPING ONE GRAD-U-LY?"

THERE WAS ONCE A MYTHICAL CITY WHICH HELD AN ANNUAL CELEBRATION THEY CALLED:
"A DAY TO SHOW OUR LACK OF HONOR TO SMART ASS MYSTICS.",

(WHICH OF COURSE CAUSED ALL MYSTICS AND WOULD-BE'ERS FOR MILES AROUND
TO MOVE THERE IMMEDIATELY....WELL....AS SOON AS THEIR CONSCIOUSNESS GOT AROUND TO
REALIZING THE IMPLICATIONS OF THIS ATTITUDE.)

THE MATH OF IT

AN AWAKENED MIND NEITHER ADDS NOR SUBTRACTS.

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ONE MAN'S MADE IT SIMPLE --
HE SAYS HE'S NARROWED IT DOWN TO THIS:--
THAT ANY ONE WHO'S DIED -- IS HIS HERO!
...(HE SAYS, "ESPECIALLY REGARDING THOUGHTS.")

SPEAKING OF IT....

THE ENLIGHTENED MIND NEITHER COMMENTS NOR DOESN'T COMMENT.

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ONE MAN'S HOPED-FOR, NEW HOME ADDRESS HE PICTURES TO BE:
"ABANDONMENT IS HEALTH -- POSSESSION, THE DEADLY CANCER."

TO WHAT, IN HIMSELF DOES A MAN REFER WHEN HE THINKS:
"I SHOULD LET IT GO."? -- (THAT'S AN EASY ONE - TRY THIS):

WHAT IS IT IN HIM THAT THINKS THE: "I SHOULD LET IT GO." STUFF? --
-- NOW THERE'S YOUR QUESTION!

THE ORDINARY LIKE TO FRET OVER PHYSICAL HABITS
LEAST THEY CONCERN THEMSELVES OVER THE PERTINENT ONES, AND RUN THE RISK OF --
TURNING INTO -- MYSTICS!, (UGH!)

A MYSTIC WITH 20/20 VISION STILL CAN'T SEE GOOD.

"I SHOT AN ARROW INTO THE AIR..."

"YOU MEAN YOU SHOT IT, EXTRENNALLY?!"

"THAT'S CORRECT -- I SHOT AN ARROW INTO THE AIR...CERTAINLY, EXTERNAL TO MYSELF-
WHAT'S THE POINT?"

"NEVER MIND."

PERFECT VISION DOES NO GOOD - IF YOU'RE LOOKING IN THE WRONG DIRECTION.

("I KNEW THAT," -- "NEVER MIND.")

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WHEN HE HAD NOTHING LEFT TO HUNT,
ONE MAN WOULD LAY A BLANKET OVER HIS OUTSTRETCHED LEG
WITH JUST HIS FOOT EXPOSED -- WHICH HE'D WIGGLE ABOUT
AS HE TOOK SHOTS THERE AT.

....(UMM UM! -- JUST THINK WHERE YOU COULD ALSO APPLY THAT!)

ONE GUY ABOUT DECIDED THAT:

"A MAN WHO WON'T TALK TO YOU MAY BE YOUR BEST FRIEND.

....HEY! -- MIND! -- DID YOU HEAR THAT?!", HE ADDED.

AS REGARDS ESCAPE....

THE LIBERATED MIND NEITHER RUNS NOR DOESN'T RUN FROM IT.

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