

LAYING BESIDE A BUILDING, A MAN FOUND A NOTE THAT SAID:
"INSIDE, IS OPEN AND PROFITABLE -- OUTSIDE, CONFINING AND COSTLY.",
AND AS HAD BEEN THE CASE ALL OF HIS LIFE THUS FAR --
HE WASN'T SURE WHERE HE WAS, OR IN WHAT DIRECTION HE SHOULD GO.

STUDENTS OF SUPER ARCHETECTURE KNOW THAT THEY ARE THEIR OWN BUILDING,
AND THAT NOTES AND DIRECTIONS MEAN NOTHING
ONCE YOU'RE STABLY ORIENTED.

THERE WAS ONCE A MAN WHO DECIDED THAT THE WEATHER WAS HIS PROBLEM --
THEN AFTER MUCH PONDERING OF THE SITUATION, CONCLUDED THAT THE WEATHER THEN
MUST ALSO BE THE SOLUTION...AND AFTER MAKING EFFORTS HE BELIEVED PERTINENT TO
SUCH A CONCLUSION, HE COULD NOT DISCOVER HOW TO USE THE WEATHER AS A SOLUTION
TO THE WEATHER AS THE PROBLEM...SO HE PONDERED ON UP THE ROAD FURTHER, AND
EVENTUALLY ADOPTED THE POSITION THAT IF THE WEATHER IS THE PROBLEM,
BUT TURNS OUT NOT TO APPARENTLY BE THE SOLUTION, THEN AT LEAST IT MUST BE
THE PATH TO THE SOLUTION.

AND UPON ULTIMATELY FINDING THIS USEABLE, HE REALIZED THAT IT APPLIED TO
EVERY THING, EVERY WHERE.

A SIGN BY THE ROAD, FURT PAST THE NORMAL OUTSKIRTS OF LIFE, ANNOUNCED:
"IF YOU'RE NOT SURE WHERE YOU ARE...AND DON'T MIND -- WELCOME!
-- YOU MAY BE A MYSTIC IN TRANSITION."

AND ONE MAN LEFT HIS DICTIONARY OUT IN THE RAIN,
AND THE WORDS, "DEBT", AND "DEATH" RAN TOGETHER.

THERE WAS ONCE A MAN IN A TRAP --
HE READ ABOUT PEOPLE ESCAPING FROM SUCH TRAPS --
HE THOUGHT ABOUT IT AND BELIEVED THAT HE TOO COULD ESCAPE --
HE TRIED --
THEN HE TRIED SOME MORE --
AND SOME MORE --
AND SOME MORE --
BUT ESCAPE, HE DID NOT,

THEN ONE DAY HE SAW ANOTHER MAN READING THE SAME BOOK HE HAD REGARDING ESCAPE,
AND HE ASKED THE MAN'S OPINION ON WHAT IT SAID,
AND THE MAN REPLIED THAT HE DIDN'T FEEL RIGHT IN RESPONDING TO SUCH AN INQUIRY
IN THAT HE WAS THE AUTHOR OF THE BOOK,
WHICH CAUSED THE FIRST MAN TO ASK WHY SOMEONE WHO HAD WRITTEN A WORK
WOULD THEN GO BACK AND PERUSE HIS OWN IDEAS -- PLUS THE FACT THAT
THE BOOK IMPLIED THAT THE AUTHOR HAD HIMSELF, ALREADY ESCAPED FROM THE TRAP.

WELL, THE AUTHOR PATIENTLY HEARD THE MAN OUT,
AND NODDED AS IF TO SAY THAT HE FULLY UNDERSTOOD THE MAN'S PUZZLEMENT,
THEN RESPONDED TO ALL OF HIS QUESTIONS AND CONFUSION WITH THESE WORDS:

"YOU CAN ESCAPE FROM A BOX TO FIND YOURSELF IN A CELL --
YOU CAN ESCAPE FROM A CELL TO FIND YOURSELF IN A PRISON --
YOU CAN ESCAPE FROM A PRISON TO FIND YOURSELF IN A VILLAGE --
YOU CAN ESCAPE FROM A VILLAGE TO FIND YOURSELF IN A KINGDOM --
AND YOU CAN ESCAPE FROM A KINGDOM ONLY TO FIND YOURSELF - ON A CONTINENT,
ON A PLANET -- IN A GALAXY -- IN A..." AND THE MAN IN THE TRAP
SUDDENLY GOT IT

WHAT SHOULD BE, AN ALERT MAN'S FINAL WORD ON THE SUBJECT OF: HOME CONSTRUCTION

THE MORE YOU THINK, THE MORE YOU BUILD A THINK WORLD;
THE MORE YOU THINK, THE MORE YOU BUILD A FEELING WORLD;
A MAN WHO CATCHES ON, (TO WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND THESE PARTS),
WILL SOON BE IN THE MARKET FOR SOME DYNAMITE AND BLASTING CAPS.

THERE WAS A MAN WHO COULD MAKE-UP REALLY NEAT AND NIFTY STUFF,
AND WHO'D WRITE DOWN FOR OTHERS TO READ AND THINK ABOUT,
AND HE REACHED A POINT OF SO IMPRESSING HIMSELF, EVEN,
THAT HE STARTED TYPING OUT ALL HIS ORIGINAL, NEAT AND NIFTY IDEAS
WHILE SITTING IN TOTAL DARKNESSAND!,
HE DID NOT KNOW THE TOUCH TYPING SYSTEM,
AND SO COULD NOT REALLY BE SURE WHAT HE WAS A'WRITIN'
WHEN HE WAS A'WRITIN'.

TURNS OUT, FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS, THAT HIS OUTPUT REMAINED ORIGINAL
EVEN UNDER THESE IMPOSSIBLE CONDITIONS, AND HE LOST BUT A SMALL PORTION OF
READERS WHO'D PREVIOUSLY FOUND HIS WORK ENJOYABLE.

THIS MAN, MY FRIENDS, THIS MAN AND HIS TYPING-IN-THE-DARK
ARE YOU AND YOUR THOUGHTS BUT YOU'D ALREADY CAUGHT ON - RIGHT?!.....

JUST, (I GUESS), TO TORMENT HIMSELF EVEN WORSETER,
ONE GUY AXED HIMSELF:
"WHICH IS WORSE: TO NOT KNOW WHAT TO DO,
OR TO KNOW WHAT TO DO AND NOT BE ABLE TO DO IT?!",
AND INDEED, HE WAS SOMEHOW, MOMENTARILY PLEASED
TO FIND HE FELT EVEN WORSETER....JUST FOR A MOMENT.

REMEMBER THIS: OVER THE COURSE OF YOUR FULL LIFE TIME,
IT WILL NOT COST YOU ONE CENT MORE TO BE MISERABLE, OR STUPID.

THINK ABOUT THAT! --

-- NOT EVEN A SINGLE CENT MORE!

....WHY, HITS A'MAZIN' WHAT MODERN SCIENCE KIN DO!

AND ONE MAN HUFFED,
"HUH!, I'M GLAD I DIDN'T LIVE IN THE SEVENTEEN HUNDREDS!",
"WHY?", HE WAS ASKED,
"CAUSE I KNOW WHAT CAME AFTERWARDS!"

THERE WAS ONCE A COUPLE OF GREEN GROCERS WHO DID BUSINESS UNDER THE NAME OF,
CAUSE & EFFECT, BUT WERE FORCED OUT BY THE EXORBITANT PROTECTION RACKET RATES
THEN BEING CHARGED BY THE HOLE IN YOUR HISTORY GANG. YES, YOU TOO CAN FEEL WORSETER

A MAN WAS SITTING IN HIS SUN ROOM, READING A MAGAZINE, AND PERIODICALLY TALKING TO HIS DOG, WHEN THE FOLLOWING SCENE TOOK PLACE:

HE LOOKED UP FROM THE PAGES AND SAID TO THE DOG:

"IT SAYS HERE THAT ONE MAN SAID HE SOMETIMES WISHES THAT HE'D BE TOLD THAT HE HAS AN INCUREABLE DISEASE THAT WILL EVENTUALLY CAUSE HIS DEATH FOR THEN, HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO FINALLY 'TURN LOOSE' AND BEGIN TO TRULY LIVE.

THE IDEA IS NOT WITHOUT INTRIQUE, IN SOME STRANGE WAY, WOULDN'T YOU SAY, EMERSON?!" AND THE DOG MUSED:

"BUT SUCH A THING IS ALREADY EXTANT IN ALL MENS' LIVES -- BUT RATHER THAN IT BEING CALLED AN, 'INCUREABLE DISEASE', YOU GUYS THINK OF IT AS YOUR MIND,"

AND THE MAN SUDDENLY BENT DOWN CLOSE AND CURIOUS TO THE CANNINE:

"DID YOU JUST SAY SOMETHING?!"

AH - SUCH A PLEASANT DAY --

THE WARMTH OF THE SUN ROOM,

THE STIMULATION OF THE READING,

THE COMPANIONSHIP OF A GOOD -- QUIET -- FRIEND,

--- THE DOG, YOU NINNIE -- NOT THE MIND!

IN A FAR AWAY GALAXY WAS ONCE A PLANET ONWHICH WERE CREATURES WHO BELIEVED THAT THEIR FEET COULD OPERATE IN WAYS NOT IN THEIR OWN BEST SELF-INTEREST. JEEZE!
-- WHAT A BUNCH OF IDIOTS!

THERE WAS ONCE A MAN WHO DEARLY LONGED FOR
THAT MUCH LAUDED STATE OF,
"EXTRAORDINARY, ENLIGHTENED CONSCIOUSNESS",
BUT WHO COULDN'T EVER GET OVER BEING DISTRACTINGLY ANNOYED OVER THE SOUND OF
A RADIO THAT PLAYED PERMANENTLY IN THE NEXT ROOM.

IF IT AIN'T GONNA BE ONE THING
IT'S GONNA BE SOMETHING ELSE,
AND YOU CAN GO TO THE BANK WITH THAT.

* * *

A POEM

"THERE WAS ONCE A CROW
 WHO SWALLOWED A POT OF GLUE,
 AND AFTER DOING THIS,
 HE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO;
 CAUSE NOW HE COULDN'T TALK,
 OR GET FREE OF THE GLUE,
 OH, HE STILL TALKED TO HIMSELF,
 BUT NOW HE COULDN'T IGNORE IT,
 WHEN HE WANTED TO."

AND A SERIOUS LOOKING GENTLEMAN WRITES TO THE POETRY OVERSEER
 DEMANDING TO KNOW WHEN MORE STRINGENT LINES WILL BE DRAWN AND ENFORCED
 DETERMINING JUST WHAT IS, AND WHAT IS NOT, TRUE POETRY --
(BUT IN THEIR HASTE TO FILL OUT THEIR UNIFORMS PROPERLY
 THE POSTAL AUTHORITIES, [ALONG WITH THE LOCAL BOMB SQUAD],
 EXPLODED THE GENTLEMAN'S LETTER OUT IN THE PARKING LOT BEHIND THE MAIN BUILDING,
 AND SO THE OVERSEER NEVER GOT TO SEE IT OVER,
 AND I GUESS THE GUIDE LINES FOR QUALIFYING LEGITIMATE POETRY FROM THE SPURIOUS
 REMAINS CLOUDY. SO! --

"THERE WAS ONCE A CROW
 WHO SWALLOWED A POT OF GLUE...."

.....

THERE WAS ONCE A MAN WHO TOOK SERIOUS SOUNDING MATTERS TO BE SERIOUS IN FACT --
-- THIS MAN WAS SERIOUSLY -- MISTAKEN! --
....BUT --
THAT'S HOW IT GOES IF YOU TAKE ANYTHING TO BE ANYTHING ELSE
IN PAR-TIC-U-LAR.

- - -

ONE MAN'S PERSONAL MOTTO IS: "I MAY WELL BE AN IDIOT --
BUT AT LEAST I'VE FORGOTTEN ABOUT IT!"

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ONE MAN FOUND HIMSELF SURROUNDED BY PEOPLE WHO WERE ALWAYS ASKING THEMSELVES,
AND EACH OTHER: "CAN WORRISOME THOUGHTS MAKE YOU PHYSICALLY ILL?" --

-- DAY AFTER DAY!,

WEEK AFTER WEEK,

HOUR AFTER HOUR,

MINUTE BY MINUTE THEY KEP' A'ASKIN':

"CAN WORRISOME THOUGHTS MAKE YOU PHYSICALLY ILL.",

UNTIL, BY GOD!, HE HAD ENOUGH OF IT!.....(BY GOD!).....

.....

.....

.....WELL?!.....NO NEED TO KEEP HANGIN' 'ROUND,
THAT'S THE END OF THE STORY.

...WAIT! - HOLD UP A SEC --
YOU DON'T LOOK SO GOOD.....

ANY TIME YOU FEEL TEMPTED TO WRITE YOUR BIOGRAPHY,
OR TO TELL WHAT YOU MAY OR MAY NOT DO,
REMEMBER THIS:

LIFE THINKS JUST AS HIGHLY OF EVERYONE ELSE AS IT DOES YOU.

ONE MAN SAID: "I'M ONE-OF-A-KIND.",
AND THE NEXT MAN SAID: "WE'RE ALL -- ONE-OF-A-KIND.",
AND THE MAN AFTER HIM SAID: "WE'RE ALL NONE-OF-A-KIND,
SAVE HE, NOT TALKING --
...WHO TURNS OUT TO BE LIFE ITSELF."

YOU CAN THINK HIGHLY OF YOURSELF,
OR YOU CAN THINK LOWLY OF YOURSELF,
BUT IF YOU THINK OF YOURSELF -- YOU'RE A FOOL, AND HALF OF WHAT A MAN COULD BE.

...AND ONE MAN'S BICEP SUDDENLY SAID: "MAY I BE ALLOWED TO SAY SOMETHING
ABOUT ALL THIS?", THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY, OLD CHUM, I THINK THEY'VE GOT IT.

THERE WAS ONCE THIS REALLY BIG GUY
THAT THE SMALLER GUYS STARTED CALLING, GOD,
(BUT WHICH WASN'T HIS REAL NAME),
AND IT TURNS OUT THAT THEY DIDN'T DO THIS, BASED ON HIS SIZE ALONE --
THEY ALSO LABELED HIM, GOD BECAUSE OF THE FACT THAT
HE'D AT ONE TIME SWALLOWED ALL OF THEM
AND THEY'D BECOME LODGED IN HIS BRAIN,
HEY! -- HOW ELSE COULD YOU THINK ABOUT A SITUATION LIKE THAT?!,
OR WHAT ELSE, CALL A CAT LIKE THAT?!

LEGEND TELLS OF A RACE OF CREATURES ONCE PRESENT ON EARTH
WHO UNDERTOOK TO SWALLOW THEMSELVES - MORE COMPLETELY, I SHOULD ADD --
HAVING REALIZED THAT THEY HAD ALREADY HAD THEMSELVES IN THEIR MOUTHS,
AND AFTER GIVING IT THE BEST GULP THEN POSSIBLE,
HAD BECOME LODGED IN THEIR OWN MINDS,
AND NOW WISHED TO PUSH ON PAST THE POINT WHEREAT GOD GOT STUCK.

AND ALL THE CHILDREN SANG: "EVERYBODY'S STUCK,
EVERYBODY'S STUCK,
THERE AIN'T NO WAY TO MOVE LIFE OUTTA TOWN."
.....(THANK YOU, CHILDREN.)

THE PRISON SYSTEM ON ONE PLANET IS SUCH THAT
PRISONERS ARE ALLOWED, IN THEIR CELLS TO HAVE EITHER:
TAPES TO LISTEN TO,
OR ELSE HAVE MATERIALS WITHWHICH TO MAKE THEIR OWN TAPES.
THEY ARE ALSO PERMITTED TO EITHER:
ENJOY THEIR STAY -- OR NOT.
AND FURTHERMORE:
PRISONERS THERE ARE GIVEN THE FREEDOM TO EITHER ESCAPE OR NOT.
....SOME PRISON, HUH?!

(BACK HERE ON EARTH): THERE WAS ONCE A MAN WHO'D BEEN BLIND SINCE BIRTH,
UNTIL ONE DAY SOMEONE TOLD HIM TO OPEN HIS EYES AND -
BINGO! -- HE COULD SEE.

"I SAY -- WHAT'S THAT YOU HAVE CRAMED IN YOUR EAR?"

"WHAT?!.....HUH?!....." -- OKAY, OKAY -- WE GET IT.

-- (SOME PRISON, HUH?!) --

THE NATURALLY PRODUCED MIND CAN DAMN NEAR MAKE A POTENTIALLY ALERT MAN SO CONTINUALLY DISTRACTED AND HYPNOTIZED AS TO CAUSE HIM TO DISPAIR OF EVER ACHIEVING HIS GOAL -- AND YET.....

....AND YET WITHOUT THE DAMN THING,

HE'D A'NEVER EVEN THOUGHT OF THE GOAL TO BEGIN WITH!

....SO - WHAT'ARE GONNA DO?!.....I SAID -- WHAT'RE GONNA DO?!?!?!?

FROM HIS SUPINE POSITION ON THE PAVEMENT

THE MAN LOOKED UP AND SAID TO THE ATTENDING TRAFFIC COP:

"I'M NOT SURE OF THE MAKE,

AND I COULDN'T SEE ITS LICENSE PLATE,

BUT I CAN TELL YOU THIS --

-- THE THING THAT HIT ME WAS ABSOLUTELY COVERED IN MODIFIERS OF ALL KINDS."

THE PATROLMAN THEN SAID TO HIS PARTNER, STILL SEATED IN THE SQUAD CAR:

"WRITE ALL THAT DOWN CAREFULLY -- THEN RUN OVER 'IM --

BUT BE SURE TO LEAVE NO RHETORICAL TRACKS OR LINGUISTIC PRINTS.",

AND AS HIS COHORT CRANKED UP THE BIG CRUISER HE CHUCKLED,

"AIN'T YOU ALWAYS, 'MISTER METICULOUS'." AND THE LIGHT ON THE CORNER

FLASHED OUT OUR MORAL: YOU NEVER KNOW WHERE YOU'RE GOING 'TIL YOU GET THERE.

- HEY! - WHAT'RE GONNA DO?! -

AFTER TOURING A FACTORY WHERE MYSTICS WERE ASSEMBLED, ONE MAN SNORTED TO HIMSELF:

"HUMP!, IT'S EASY NOT TO CARE,
IF YOU'RE NOT --
GOING ANY WHERE."

....(PLUS -- HE'S EXPECTIN' SAMPLES!)

ONE MAN STARTED OUT THINKING:

"IF I COULD GET MY HANDS ON IT I COULD TURN IT OFF.",
AND AFTER MANY FUTILE YEARS SO ATTEMPTING,
BEGAN TO BELIEVE THERE HAD TO BE SOME SECRET TRICK
THAT WOULD PERMIT A MAN TO GET HIS HANDS ON IT;

SO THEN, FOR QUITE A WHILE, HE THOUGHT:

"IF I CAN JUST FIND THE TRICK TO IT
I CAN GET MY HANDS ON IT AND TURN THE DAMN THING OFF."

AND FOR A CONSIDERABLE TIME HE SOUGHT FOR SAID TRICK,
BUT WITH NO SUCCESS -- SO!,

HE RETURNED TO THE BEGINNING OF HIS EFFORTS

AND REEXAMINED HIS INITIAL PREMISE, THAT IF --

HE COULD GET HIS HANDS ON IT HE COULD TURN IT OFF --

AND STARTED TO ROLL AROUND IN HIS MIND

THE POSSIBILITY THAT IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES,
TO EVER TURN THE THING ACTUALLY "OFF",

AND AS TROUBLESOME AS THIS POTENTIAL STRUCK HIM INITIALLY,

HE WAS FORCED TO FACE THE FACT THAT IT COULD NOT BE IGNORED.

WHEN EVERYBODY STRIKES OUT ON VACATION,

THEY EXPECT TO GO SOME PLACE PLEASANT AND REFRESHING,

AND HAVE THEIR OWN PERSONAL IDEAS AS TO HOW TO GET THERE --

-- THERE IS HOW EVER, ONE PARTICULAR SOJOURN, REGARDING WHICH,

THIS NORMAL APPROACH IS ILL-FOUNDED AND ULTIMATELY IMPERTINENT. COUNT ON IT.

ONE MAN WOULD FUSS AND CUSS HIS BAGS OF GARBAGE FOR TIPPIN' OVER,
AND BUSTIN' OPEN AND STUFF,
BUT TO THEMSELVES THE BAGS JUST THOUGHT:
"YOUR ANGER AND THREATS DON'T IMPRESS ME! --
-- WHAT WORSE ARE YOU GONNA DO TO ME THAN'S ALREADY ON THE AGENDA?!",
...(AND THE MAN WAS REALLY GLAD THAT HE COULDN'T READ GABAGE BAGS' THOUGHTS!)

EVERY WHERE HE'D LOOK, ONE MAN WOULD DIRECT THE INQUIRY:
"SO, WHAT'S THE POINT? -- WHAT'S THE POINT?!"

A FATHER SO SAID TO HIS CHILD,

"YOU CAN EITHER WRITE BOOKS -- OR READ BOOKS,
YOU CAN EITHER THINK THOUGHTS -- OR LISTEN TO THOUGHTS OTHERS HAVE THOUGHT,
AND LASTLY, BUT BY NO MEANS OF ANY IMPORTANCE WHATSOEVER IS THE FACT THAT
A MAN HAS NO CHOICES IN LIFE AND WHILE SOME AGREE WITH THIS AND SOME DO NOT,
YOU MUST DECIDE, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, WITH WHICH SIDE YOU WILL ALIGN YOURSELF."

AND THE CHILD WAS SO SWEEPED AWAY WITH THE COSMIC MAGNITUDE,
AND INTELLECTUAL PROFUNDITY OF WHAT HIS FATHER HAD SAID
THAT HE IMMEDIATELY ASKED IF HE COULD TRANSFER TO SOME OTHER FAMILY

REGARDING THE LACK OF CONTEMPORANEOUSNESS IN CERTAIN OF HUMAN AFFAIRS

ALL COMPLAINTS -- NOT CONCERNING PHYSICAL DISCOMFORT --
ARE REFERENCES TO THE PAST.

RELATED NOTATION

BE ASSURED:

VOICES-OF-CHOICE,
(NOT OF LIFE OR DEATH),
ARE ALWAYS FROM THE MIND.

POTENTIAL CONCLUSION, NOT UNWARRANTED TO BE DRAWN

THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A "PRESENT MIND",
AND THUS, THAT WHICH NORMALLY PASSES ITSELF OFF AS SUCH
HAS NOT AS A PROPER FUNCTION, THE EXERCISE OF MEANINGFUL PREFERENCES.

WHAT SHOULD BE, AN ALERT MAN'S FINAL WORD ON THE SUBJECT OF: TIME

A MAN WITH TIME ON HIS MIND HAS TROUBLE ON HIS HANDS.

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TAKE YOUR CHOICE: TWO WAYS YOU CAN ALWAYS DETERMINE FOR A CERTAINTY THAT YOU ARE STILL ASLEEP, CAPTIVE AND IN THE DARK . . . IS BY THE FACT THAT YOU ARE EITHER:
THINKING SOMETHING THAT YOU'VE THOUGHT BEFORE, OR
YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT SOMETHING THAT YOU'VE HEARD
OTHER PEOPLE TALKING ABOUT.

ONE MAN OWNED A RACE HORSE AND JOCKEY --
THE HORSE HADN'T A CARE IN THE WORLD,
BUT THE JOCKEY WAS ALWAYS WORRIED ABOUT SOMETHING.
THE OWNER LIKED THE HORSE MORE THAN HE DID THE JOCKEY,
AND BEGAN PLOTTING TO DITCH THE RIDER AND KEEP ONLY THE STEED.
.....HE'S STILL PLOTTING.

ANOTHER SCENE -- NOT UNLIKE SCENES THAT WE HAVE SEEN BEFORE,
AND PERHAPS WILL SEE AGAIN & AGAIN, IF NOT CERTAIN THINGS WHICH
ARE PLAIN & OBVIOUS ARE NOT FINALLY ACCEPTED & DIGESTED:

THE SPEAKER SPOKE,

"ONLY IGNORANT MEN TELL ONE ANOTHER HOW THEY SHOULD LIVE.",

AND FROM THE CROWD A VOICE ASKED,

"IS THAT UNCONDITIONAL?"

"TRULY SO.", HE SPEAKER REPLIED,

AND THE QUESTIONER QUESTIONED ONWARD,

"THAT IS DIFFICULT FOR ME TO ACCEPT,

FOR IF WISE AND REASONABLE MEN DID NOT ADVISE ONE ANOTHER AS TO THE MOST
SUITABLE CONDUCTING OF THEIR AFFAIRS

HOW WOULD ANY OF US KNOW HOW TO PROPERLY LIVE OUT OUR LIVES?!",

AND THE SPEAKER REPLIED,

"ONLY IGNORANT MEN WILL LISTEN TO SOMEONE ELSE TELL THEM HOW THEY SHOULD LIVE -
- ONLY IGNORANT MEN NEED SUCH ADVICE AND ONLY EQUALLY IGNORANT MEN WILL GIVE IT,

I DO NOT SEE WHY THIS IS SO HARD TO GRASP --

I UNDERSTAND WHY YOU DO NOT HAVE THE NATURAL, IMMEDIATE DESIRE TO GRASP IT,
BUT THAT SHOULD NOT STOP YOU, AFTER A BIT OF REFLECTION ON THE MATTER,
FROM SEEING QUITE UNAMBIGUOUSLY, THE SIMPLE FACT TOWHICH I POINT.

ONLY IGNORANT MEN GIVE AND ACCEPT DIRECTIONS ON HOW THEY SHOULD LIVE THEIR LIVES

THAT IS ALL THAT I CAME TO SAY --

-- I HAVE SAID IT, AND I AM FINISHED.",

AND WITH THAT, THE SPEAKER DISAPPEARED,

...BUT THE CROWD SEEMED TO WANT TO LINGER, AND FADED IN AND OUT OF EXISTANCE,
AS A VOICE HERE & THERE WOULD PERIODICALLY APPEAR, TRYING AGAIN TO DEBATE
THE MATTER THAT THE SPEAKER HAD ALREADY CONCLUDED. QUICK! - DON'T MOVE!!

AFTER MANY YEARS OF STRUGGLE
ONE MAN FINALLY OBTAINED THE POSITION HE'D SO DREAMED OF --
-- CONDUCTOR OF HIS OWN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA.

BUT UPON TAKING CHARGE AND MOUNTING THE PODIUM BEFORE THEM,
INSTEAD OF WIELDING A BATON, HE WAVED AT THEM, A LOADED .38

THIS CONCLUDES TONIGHT'S REPORT FROM OUR NEUROLOGY DEPARTMENT.

IF YOU BELIEVE THAT "SOMETHING" IS HOLDING YOU BACK -- YOU'RE NORMAL;
IF YOU BELIEVE THAT YOU KNOW WHAT IT IS -- AND IT IS OUTSIDE OF YOU,
YOU'RE STILL NORMAL, (BUT I FEEL OBLIGED TO POINT OUT THAT),
FEELING HELD BACK IS HOW YOU'LL REMAIN.

SOME MEN THINK THEMSELVES SHARP BY SAYING THAT
WE ARE PRISONERS OF OUR BODIES,
WHILE OTHERS SEE THEMSELVES AS CLEVER BY CLAIMING THAT
WE ARE PRISONERS OF OUR MINDS,
BUT THE ONES AMONG US, TRULY INSIGHTFUL AND THUS FREE,
ARE THOSE WITH NO OPINION OR COMMENT ON THE MATTER.

BARBED WIRE AND NEURAL CONNECTIONS ARE NOT THE ONLY THINGS THAT
KEEP A MAN CONFINED,
BUT THEY'RE THE ONLY ONES NEEDED TO GET THE JOB DONE ON THIS LITTLE PLANET!

"Now son, how many times do I have to tell you not to touch that thing!"
...(AND FOR YOUR INFORMATION, THE CONVERSATION
HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH MATTERS, SEXUAL, [THANK YOU],)

ANOTHER PROGRESSION PROJECTION

THINKING ABOUT IT'S FUN,
 TALKING ABOUT IT'S FUN --
 THEN --
 THINKING AND TALKING ABOUT IT BECOMES LESS FUN --
 THEN --
 THINKING AND TALKING ABOUT IT BECOMES A WHOLE LOT LESS FUN
 UNTIL!.....UNTIL THE TIME FINALLY COMES WHEN --
 WHEN! --
 (WELL, YOU KNOW WHAT, AFTER THEN.)

A BLIND MAN CAN ENJOY HIMSELF.....AS LONG AS HE KEEPS HIS EYES CLOSED.

AND:

A HOUSE WITH A SHORT IN THE WIRING SYSTEMS WILL NOT BURN DOWN AS LONG AS SOMEONE,
 (PREFERABLY YOU!), IS WATCHING & WORRYING ABOUT IT.

...AND, GEE! - AIN'T THIS FUN?!

THERE IS A CERTAIN ILLNESS, THE ATTEMPTED TREATMENT OF WHICH CAUSES IT TO LINGER
WHAT OTHER HEALTH INFORMATION DOES A REAL MAN NEED?!

QUESTION: WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A "REAL MAN" AND AN ORDINARY ONE?
ANSWER IS THAT AN ORDINARY MAN WILL CLAIM TO BE A REAL MAN,
WHEREAS A TRUE REAL ONE WILL SAY NOTHING ON THE SUBJECT.

THERE IS A CERTAIN ILLNESS, THE ATTEMPTED TREATMENT OF WHICH CAUSES IT TO LINGER.

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LEGEND TELLS OF A PAST MYSTICAL ORDER WHO FOLLOWED CERTAIN MENTAL, DIETARY LAWS;
THEY CONSIDERED IT KOSHER TO THINK ANY THOUGHTS OTHER THAN --
ANY ABOUT YOURSELF!

...YOU KNOW --

HAD THEY BEEN ABLE TO SURVIVE, THEY HAD RIGHT THERE, THE BASIS FOR A NEW RELION --
IN THAT THEY COULD HAVE PROMOTED THE NOTION OF FAITH,
INASMUCH AS IF SOMEONE DID JUST BLINDLY FOLLOW THE NOTED DICTUM
THEY WOULD, INEVITABLY AND MECHANICALLY
EVENTUALLY UNDERGO A TRANSFORMATION.

...THEY COULD'AVE HAD THE WORLD'S ONLY RELIGION THAT COULD HAVE OFFERED A
MONEY BACK GUARANTEE.

YOU CAN BE SLATED FOR EXECUTION,
BUT IF YOU KEEP YOURSELF IN A MILD, DREAM-LIKE STATE,
YOU CAN SURVIVE.

.....(IF YOU CALL THAT, SURVIVIN'.)

REGAL TERMINATION REMINDER

THE KING'LL DO EVERYBODY IN.....BUT HIMSELF!

....(AND DON'T YOU FORGET WHO THE REGAL IS!)

* * *

QUESTION: WHAT DO MYSTICS AND EVERYBODY ELSE DO WHEN THEY
GET TO A PLACE WHERE THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT?
THEY START TALKING ABOUT THE THEORIES, HISTORY, AND EXEMPLARY LIVES OF
OTHERS WHO'VE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE AREA OF THEIR DISCUSSION.

ONE ADVANTAGE TO BINARY INTELLIGENCE IS THAT IT CAN NEVER BE MISLEAD.
.....(OR NEVER EFFECTED AT ALL, FOR THAT MATTER.)

THE CHASE: HOW IT GOES

IF YOU'VE GOT A PIECE OF IT FOR SURE -- YOU'RE SURE TO GET THE REST.

CHASE, CATCH, CHEW, SWALLOW,
CHASE, CATCH, CHEW, SWALLOW --
THAT'S HOW IT GOES,
. . . . UNTIL CHASE AND SWALLOW CATCH UP TO ONE ANOTHER
AND BECOME SUDDENLY, ONE.

* * *

JUST AS WITH THE TAX CODE: THERE ARE LONG FORM MYSTICS,
 AND THERE ARE SHORT FORM ONES;
 EITHER WILL GET THE SAME JOB DONE,
 IT'S SIMPLY A MATTER OF YOUR PRESENT,
 PERSONAL CIRCUMSTANCES -- OR,
 (WHEN YOU GET MORE FAMILIAR WITH THE AFFAIR),
 A MATTER OF PRESENT, PERSONAL PREFERENCE.

ALL IMPORTANT FOOTNOTE: THERE ARE NO MYSTICS OTHER THAN YOURSELF.
 ...THE ONES YOU THINK YOU SEE ARE JUST BLANK FORMS
 THAT YOU MUST FILL OUT.

AND A MAN IN LINE SAYS: "OH! - NOW I BEGIN TO 'GET IT'!",
 AND JUST HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN BEGINING TO, "GET IT"?,
 "OH", SAYS THE MAN, "I GUESS ABOUT TEN OR FIFTEEN YEARS, NOW."

I DON'T MEAN TO GIVE ANYONE THE BLUES, BUT EVEN TAX OFFICES KEEP BUSINESS HOURS,
 AND CLOSE, SOME TIMES, SO I SUGGEST THE THING TO DO IS TO BE TRYING TO FILL OUT
 YOUR FORM EVEN BEFORE YOU GET TO THE HEAD OF THE LINE.

-- WHAT ELSE YOU GOT TO DO WHILE WAITIN'?! --

UPON ENTERING AN ELEVATOR AND HEARING THE OPERATER SAY,
"PLEASE STEP TO THE CENTER OF THE CAR.",
A MAN SUDDENLY EXPERIENCED AN EXTRAORDINARY STATE OF AWARENESS,
AND WAS ONLY LATER THAT DAY THAT HE REALIZED HE HAD APPLIED THE WORDS TO
HIS OWN INTERNAL POSITION WITHIN HIMSELF.

RAILINGS AROUND THE EDGES ON THE TOPS OF TALL BUILDINGS
ARE NOT THE ONLY THINGS THAT IT IS DANGEROUS TO -- STAND TOO CLOSE TO.

....CONSIDER: IN WHAT AREA OF YOUR HEAD DO THOUGHTS SEEM TO MOST CONGREGATE?

"STEP TO THE CENTER OF THE CAR."

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WHAT SHOULD BE, AN ALERT MAN'S FINAL WORD ON THE MATTER OF: LYING

IF YOU TALK -- YOU LIE.

...YEAH, YEAH! - I KNOW YOU GUYS AIN'T CHILDREN ANY MORE -- OKAY:
IGNORE WHAT I JUST SAID ABOUT LYING --
SO YOU GUYS ARE FAR ENOUGH ALONG TO KNOW WHAT IT'S MEANINGLESS,
BUT, HEY!, I'M NOT ALWAYS SURE WHO'S LISTENING IN ON ALL THIS
SO WE TRY TO HAVE A LITTLE SOMETHING FOR EVERYBODY --
....(IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.....
....AND YOU DON'T FORGET THAT I'M BULL SHITTIN' YA.

So! -- AGAIN! -- I'VE PROVED MY OWN CASE:
IF YOU TALK -- YOU LIE. CASE CLOSED, THANK YOU, YOUR HONOR.

ONE MAN TOLD HIMSELF:

"BASED ON WHAT YOU KNOW AND WHAT YOU'VE EXPERIENCED
YOU SHOULD BE ASHAMED TO NOT BE ANY MORE AWAKE THAN YOU ARE.",
"I AM.", HE REPLIED, "BUT APPARENTLY NOT SUFFICIENTLY SO."

A MAN HAD A PARROT AND A VOICE THAT TALKED,
AND THE MAN, FOR A LONG TIME, BELIEVED THAT THE VOICE WAS COMING FROM THE PARROT.-
AND -- DAMN! --
YOU SHOULD'AVE BEEN THERE THE DAY HE REALIZED THAT IT WASN'T!

ONE MAN STARTED OUT WANTING TO BE SMARTER THAN EVERYBODY ELSE --
-- THEN AFTER MANY YEARS STRUGGLING TOWARD THIS END, HE CHANGED THE GOAL--
-- HE NOW WANTS TO BE SMARTER THAN HE IS.

ONE MAN SAID: "OKAY, LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT:
FIRST WE DON'T TRY --
THEN WE TRY,
AND THEN WE DON'T TRY AGAIN (?!?)"

UPON READING A STATEMENT THAT SAID:

"STILLNESS IS THE MIND'S NATURAL STATE."

ONE MAN IMMEDIATELY EXPLODED! --

-- SPLATTERING HIMSELF ALL OVER THE BOOK!,

(WHICH OF COURSE MADE THE BOOK REGRET IT HAD EVER MENTIONED THE MATTER.)

ONE MAN SAYS THAT HE WOULDN'T MIND THE WEATHER AS MUCH
IF IT JUST WASN'T SO DOGGONE NOISY.