

ONE MAN SEEMED ONLY HAPPY WHEN HE WASN'T AT HOME -- (THAT IS TO SAY),  
HE SEEMED MOST SATISFIED, (BASED ON FREQUENCY OF OCCURANCE),  
WHEN HIS MIND, THOUGHTS AND ATTENTION WERE SOME WHERE OTHER THAN  
PRESENT AT THE INSTANT MOMENT.

HE WAS NOT UNAWARE OF THE SITUATION, AND IN FACT, FOUND IT DISTURBING.  
AND THE MORE DISTURBING HE FOUND IT,  
THE MORE AWARE HE WAS OF ITS PROVEN DANGERS ..... AND YET ....  
....HE COULD SEEM TO FIND NO WAY TO STOP, REVERSE, OR IN SOME OTHER MANNER,  
PERMANENTLY CHANGE THE SITUATION.

THERE WAS ONCE A MAN WHO LOST A GOLD COIN,  
AND DID EVERY THING HE COULD THINK OF TO DO TO FIND IT,  
....HE NEVER FOUND IT.....AND YOU WANNA KNOW WHY? --

-- 'CAUSE HE NEVER HAD ONE TO BEGIN WITH! --

...AND IF YOU DON'T LIKE THAT, THEN:

OKAY, MAYBE HE HAD ONE, BUT IF HE DID --  
HE NEVER LOST IT IN THE FIRST PLACE.

TAKE NOTE: SUCH STORIES CAN MAKE YOU FEEL MOMENTARILY FLUSHED --  
-- PERHAPS SOMEHOW, EVEN -- ENCOURAGED!...OR RELIEVED,  
BUT GET PAST THAT EPHEMERAL AND MORE DEEPLY FEEL AND GRASP  
THE GREATER USEFUL SIGNIFICANCE IN REALIZING THAT YOU HAVE BEEN  
"SERIOUSLY INVOLVED" IN A "SPURIOUS SEARCH". (HEY! - MAYBE?!)

A MAN ASKED AN ORACLE:

"IS THERE ANY USEFULNESS WITHIN THE CONCEPT OF, 'MAYBE'?",

"MAYBE.", HE REPLIED.

ACCORDING TO THE MOST ANCIENT OF EARLTHY LEGENDS:  
LONG BEFORE THERE WERE ANY RELIGIONS, PHILOSOPHIES,  
OR OTHER COMPLEX THEORIES ON HOW MAN SHOULD LIVE,  
THERE WAS A SINGLE DIRECTIVE POSTED WHICH SIMPLY SAID: "WATCH YOUR STEP."

DURING A NOW, LONG-FORGOTTEN WAR,  
CAPTAINS OF BATTLESHIPS WHOSE TACTICS SEEMED UNSOUND,  
WERE BLINDFOLDED, TIED AND GAGGED  
AS TO INCREASE THE CHANCES FOR SUCCESS,

THERE WAS ONCE A KING WHO WAGED A CAMPAIGN, NOT OF OVERT HOSTILITIES,  
BUT ONE OF PROPOGANDA --  
BUT PROPOGANDA ON A SCALE YOU WOULD NOT BELEIVE  
WERE I TO TELL YOU OF IT -- AND THE REASON I KNOW THIS IS THAT  
IT'S STILL GOING ON TODAY AND YOU'RE STILL FALLING FOR IT.

AND THE SIGN SIMPLY SAID: "WATCH YOUR STEP."

FLIGHT TIME

A DISTRACTED PILOT CAN MAKE LIFE HELL FOR THE REST OF THE CREW.

FLIGHT TIME II

IT'S THE REST OF THE CREW WHO MAKE THE PLANE FLY.

FLIGHT TIME WRAP

WAKE UP!, UP FRONT.

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IN ANOTHER GALAXY WAS ONCE A PLANET WHICH STARTED OUT WITH CREATURES  
WHO HAD WHAT WE NOW REFER TO AS, "MENTAL CAPACITIES",  
BUT THE NAME OF THE WORLD TURNED OUT TO BE,  
"S.O.S.W.D.T.A. - SING ONE SONG WHILE DANCING TO ANOTHER".

AT FIRST, EVERYONE WILL SAY THEY'VE NEVER HEARD OF THE PLACE --  
....THEN A FEW, AFTER FURTHER REFLECTION, FIND IT TO SOUND FAMILIAR.

IN ANOTHER REALITY, A MAN ONCE IMPLANTED A PARROT'S BRAIN INTO A LEOPARD.  
...ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF A NEWS STORY ABOUTWHICH  
NO ADDITIONAL COMMENT SEEMS NEEDED.....IF INDEED, POSSIBLE.

GHOSTS CREATE THEN POPULATE THE MIND'S REALITY.

THERE WAS ONCE A MAN WHO WANTED TO BE IN SHOW BIZ,  
SO HE PUT TOGETHER A VENTRILOQUIST ACT  
WHEREIN HE MAKE A WOODEN DUMMY APPEAR TO CONVERSE WITH HIM AND THE AUDIENCE --  
AND HE THEREWITH ACHIEVED A DEGREE OF FAME AND FORTUNE --  
BUT SOON GREW WEARY OF IT.

HE THEN BECAME A MAGICIAN, AND MADE SMALL OBJECTS APPEAR & DISAPPEAR,  
AND THIS TOO BROUGHT HIM AN ACCEPTABLE AMOUNT OF SUCCESS,  
BUT IT ALSO SOON LOST ITS APPEAL, AND HE BECAME A STAGE HYPNOTIST,  
MAKING PEOPLE FALL IN AND OUT OF A TRANCE --  
AND ALTHOUGH HE BECAME QUITE WELL KNOWN IN THIS AREA,  
HE EVENTUALLY LOST INTEREST IN IT ALSO.

AFTER CONSIDERING SEVERAL POSSIBILITIES, HE DECIDED TO BECOME AN AGENT --  
AN AGENT, REPRESENTING ONLY HIMSELF.....A MAN WHO NO LONGER HAD AN ACT.  
....GET IT?!

MAN'S REALITY IS REAL REALITY PUT IN GRAMMATICAL FORM  
WITH ALL THE PROPER PUNCTION -- ESPECIALLY, PERIODS AND CONJUNCTIONS.



ONE MAN HIRED AN OUT OF WORK ORACLE TO TRAVEL AROUND WITH HIM,  
AND CONSTANTLY SAY TO HIM THAT HE HAD AN INVISIBLE, TWIN",  
LIVING INSIDE OF HIM.

AFTER SOME TIME SO EMPLOYED,  
THE ORACLE, (TO HIS COMPLETE SUPRISE),  
HAD HIS OWN AWAKENING, AND BECAME A LANDSCAPER.

WEED TIP: EVERYONE WITH ANY SENSE BY NOW SHOULD REALIZE THAT -- ABOVE ALL --  
-- YOU MUST HIRE YOURSELF TO DO THAT WHICH MUST BE DONE.

ADVANCED FUNGUS ALERT: EVENTUALLY THE SENSIBLE RECOGNIZE THAT THERE IS --  
- NOTHING TO BE DONE, AND CAN THUS --  
-- "LET THEMSELF GO", AND SAVE, (BY GOD),  
A BUNDLE ON WASTED SALARY.

ONE MAN WAS FORCED TO ULTIMATELY QUEERY HIMSELF REGARDING THIS MATTER:  
"WHAT AM I TO MAKE OF THE FACT THAT MY NORMAL STATE OF CONSCIOUSNESS  
DOESN'T BOTHER ME UNTIL I MAKE IT BOTHER ME?!"

YOU TURN A MIRROR SLIGHTLY,  
AND GET A DIFFERENT VIEW,  
YOUR EYES BECOME ACCUSTOMED,  
IT MUST BE TURNED ANEW.

HOW LONG WILL YOU STILL TURN IT,  
TO HAVE A NEW VIEW FLEE,  
BEFORE YOUR ONE DESIRE BECOMES -  
- TO SOME HOW BREAK THE MIRROR?!

\* \* \*

AT FIRST ONE MAN ENJOYED THE MUSIC COMING FROM EVERYONE'S RADIOS --  
THEN HE STARTED BECOMING SELECTIVE AND SOON ONLY ENJOYED THE SOUNDS  
COMING FROM HIS OWN -- FINDING THE ONES COMING FROM OTHERS, ANNOYING.  
THEN WE WENT OFF OUT OF TOWN ON A LENGTHY JOURNEY,  
(OR ELSE HOLED UP IN HIS HOUSE ALONE FOR A FEW YEARS, I FORGET WHICH,  
BUT AT ANY RATE),  
AFTER DOING "SOMETHING-OR-OTHER" FOR A WHILE  
HE BECAME IRRITATED AT THE MUSIC COMING FROM EVERYONE'S RADIO, INCLUDING HIS,  
AND THAT'S MORE OR LESS WHERE THE SITUATION STANDS TODAY,  
(BASED ON THE LATEST REPORT HE'S MADE AVAILABLE TO US,  
....[I GUESS YOU CAN STAYED TUNED TO SEE IF ANYTHING FURTHER DEVELOPES  
IN THIS STORY]?!)

IF YOU DID NOT LISTEN TO AND WATCH THOUGHTS PROP UP OLD GHOSTS,  
WHAT WOULD KEEP YOU FROM THE EARLIER, CAREFREE JOYS OF CHILDHOOD?

A TRAVELER STOOD BETWEEN A REVINE AND A MOUNTAIN --  
LOOKED FIRST IN ONE DIRECTION -- THEN THE OTHER,  
AND THOUGHT TO HIMSELF HOW ALL OF THE GREAT, ENLIGHTENED MEN  
EITHER LIVED IN TIMES PAST,  
OR HAVE YET TO SEE BIRTH .....AND THERE HE STOOD.....  
....PONDERING, (WHAT PROVED TO BE TO HIM), THIS PERTURBING POSSIBILITY.  
HE WAS SO SWEEPED UP IN HIS REFLECTIONS ON THIS AFFAIR  
THAT HE STOOD IN PLACE FOR MANY DAYS, MOTIONLESS  
AS PICTURE AFTER PICTURE  
FLOWED THROUGH HIS MIND --

AND THEN ON THE SIXTH DAY OF HIS STANDING, IMMOBILE MEDITATION,  
A HORSEMAN RODE UP AND BROKE UP HIS REVERIE BY SAYING:  
"I HAVE OBSERVED YOU STANDING HERE, LONG LOST IN DEEP, ABSORBING THOUGHT,  
AND DECIDED THE TIME HAD COME FOR ME TO APPROACH YOU AND ASK IF YOU'D LIKE TO  
BUY SOME REALLY NICE SKIN LOTION & MOISTURIZER I'M DISTRIBUTING IN THIS AREA?",  
AND THE AROUSED MAN WAS OUTRAGED! -- AND CRIED OUT TO THE PEDDLER,  
"HOW DARE YOU INTERRUPT MY TRANSCENDENT COMTEMPLATION  
FOR THE SAKE OF  
COMMERCIAL CONSIDERATION.", TOWHICH THE TAKEN-ABACK TRADESMAN REPLIED:  
"WELL....STILL-AND-ALL -- BEING OUT HERE FOR SO LONG IN THE DIRECT SUN LIGHT  
CAN PLAY ABSOLUTE HAVOC ON A PERSON'S COMPLEXION,  
AND NO MATTER HOW ENLIGHTENED YOU MAY BECOME,  
YOU'RE STILL GONNA HAVE A COMPLEXION.", AND THE PREVIOUSLY UPSET MAN REALIZED  
THE VALIDITY OF WHAT THE DRUMMER SAID & PURCHASED SEVERAL TUBES OF THE OINTMENT.

AND A VIEWER WRITES:

"NOW THAT'S MORE LIKE IT! --

SEE!, IT'S NOT THAT DIFFICULT --

WHY CAN'T YOU HAVE MORE OF YOUR LITTLE STORIES WRAP UP WITH  
ENDINGS THAT MAKE SENSE?!

SINCERELY -- YOURS FOR MORE LOGIC AND LESS AMBIGUITY."

THERE WAS ONCE A MAN WHO LIVED IN TWO DIFFERENT KINGDOMS,  
AND WHILE BOTH OF THEM OFFERED THEIR OWN JOYS, AND PROBLEMS,  
ONE OF THEM, MUCH MORE SO THAN THE OTHER -- IN FACT, SINGULARLY SO --  
WAS T-R-O-U-B-L-E PERSONIFIED, TO THINK ABOUT.

THINK ABOUT IT --- LEARN FROM IT. --  
- LEARN WHAT IT'S WORTHWHILE TO THINK ABOUT.



AT FIRST, (AND FOR A LONG TIME), A MAN BELIEVED THAT HE WAS GETTING SOME WHERE;  
THEN HE BEGAN TO BELIEVE THAT HIS SENSE OF PROGRESS WAS UNJUSTIFIED;  
THEN HE BEGAN TO SEARCH FOR NEW WAYS TO MOVE FORWARD,  
ONLY TO EVENTUALLY SUSPECT THAT THEY WERE ALL ABOUT THE SAME,  
AND THAT NO ONE METHOD WOULD GIVE ANY BETTER OBJECTIVE RESULTS THAN ANOTHER.

SO! --

AFTER GOING THROUGH ALL OF THIS --

-- AND AFTER GIVING IT ALL HIS BEST STUDY AND REFLECTION,

HE TOOK THE ONLY NEXT STEP THAT HE SAW AVAILABLE AND PROFITABLE --

-- HE KILLED HIMSELF.

....(HE SAID HE ALWAYS SUSPECTED IT WOULD COME TO THIS.)

TO SOME -- "ENLIGHTENMENT" IS FIRST, A SHOT-IN-THE-HEAD TO DARKNESS --

-- THEN TO ENLIGHTENMENT.

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ONE GUY DECIDED:

"THE REASON MEDITATION'S SO FASCINATING  
IS BECAUSE IT'S SO CLOSE TO OUR EVER'DAY CONDITION -- YOU KNOW, KINDA,  
BLEARY EYED AND STARIN' OFF INTO SPACE - 'BOUT HALF OUT OF IT."  
....(DOES ANYONE CARE TO RESPOND OR COMMENT ON THAT?!....)

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

ONE MAN STAYED SO BUSY TRYING TO AWAKEN  
THAT HE DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO.

IN PRIVATE, (JUST TO HIMSELF),  
 ONE MAN DIDN'T KNOW WHETHER TO BE MORE ASHAMED OF HIMSELF, OR ANGRY WITH HIMSELF --  
 THEN THE DAY CAME WHEN HE BEGAN TO SEE EITHER AS  
 INSUFFICIENT, IRRELEVANT AND IMPRACTICAL --  
 FOR NO MATTER HOW OFTEN -- OR TO WHAT INTENSITY HE HEAPED UPON HIMSELF --  
 -- SHAME AND CONDEMNATION --  
 AND IN FACT NO MATTER HOW WELL DESERVED EITHER APPEARED TO BE --  
 NOTHING WAS EVER PERMANENTLY ACCOMPLISHED BY SUCH ACTS.  
 THIS THEN, LEFT HIM WITH A INTRIGUING QUESTION:  
 IF HE WAS DESIROUS OF CHANGE -- AND,  
 WHENEVER HE CAUGHT HIMSELF BACK IN HIS ORIGINAL CONDITION,  
 IF NEITHER FEELING ASHAMED, NOR ANGRY ABOUT IT MADE ANY DIFFERENCE --  
 WHAT IN THE WORLD ELSE WAS LEFT FOR HIM TO POSSIBLY DO TO  
 ENCOURAGE HIMSELF ONWARD?!

THERE WAS ONCE A RACE OF CREATURES WHO HAD A MORAL WITHOUT A SET-UP STORY,  
 (WHICH WAS): "WHEN THE QUESTION DOESN'T MAKE SENSE, NEITHER WILL ANY RESPONSE."  
 ... (ONCE EVERY FOURTEEN YEARS, THEY ADOPTED A VARIATION OF THIS  
 FOR A TWO WEEK PERIOD IN THE MIDDLE OF JULY, WHICH WENT:  
 "BEATING WILD DOGS YOU'VE CAPTURED  
 WILL TAME THEM NO BETTER THAN  
 SETTING THEM FREE."

WHAT SHOULD BE YOUR FINAL WORD REGARDING FAIRNESS & FAULT FINDING

THERE ARE NO ILLS OR INJUSTICES IN THE WORLD --

-- ONLY INDIVIDUAL MENS' APPARENT SELF-INTERESTS.

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ONE MAN BELIEVED THAT HE AT SOME TIME HAD SWALLOWED SOMETHING THAT NOW  
DISAGREED WITH HIM NOTICABLE,

BUT TRY AS HE MIGHT, HE NEVER FELT SURE THAT HE'D CORRECTLY IDENTIFIED  
EXACTLY WHAT IT WAS --

SO HE TRIED TO COUGH UP EVERYTHING HE COULD COUGH UP,  
BUT THIS STILL GAVE NO RELIEF.

THEN ONE DAY HE RAN INTO A KIND OF DOCTOR WHO HE TOLD OF HIS PROBLEM,  
AND WHO SUGGESTED TO THE MAN THAT HE REEXAMINE AND RECONSIDER HIS ORIGINAL  
DIGESTIVE DIAGNOSIS.

THE MAN DID SO,  
AND WAS PLEASANTLY SURPRISED AT WHAT HE NOW FOUND,  
(OR, IF NOT ACTUALLY "FOUND",  
AT HOW HE NOW PERCEIVED THE SITUATION.)

YOUR CHART:

THE PROPER DIAGNOSIS OF "HUMAN" PROBLEMS ARE IN FACT, THEIR SOLUTION.

YOU MUST BE ABLE TO "THINK" TO BE ABLE TO THINK THAT YOU'RE ILL.

YOU'LL NEVER BE FREED FROM MORTAL CAPTIVITY AS LONG AS  
YOU CONTINUE TO HOLD TO YOUR CHAINS.

OR LASTLY:

YOU'LL NEVER SPIT IT UP 'TIL YOU WANT TO SPIT IT UP.

AFTER YEARS OF MEDITATION IN A HERMITICAL MONASTERY,  
ONE MAN WITHDREW UPON REALIING THAT HE ALREADY LIVED SUCH A LIFE INSIDE HIMSELF.

ONE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A REAL MYSTIC AND A PLAY-TIMER IS THAT  
A REAL ONE, AT LEAST, WON'T PAY FOR THE PRIVELEGE OF  
SUSTAINING HIS STUPIDITY.



THERE'S A STRANGE LAND WITH BUT A SINGLE STRANGE TRAIN TO TAKE YOU THERE,  
AND STRANGE ALSO IS THE FACT THAT THE TRAIN ONLY RUNS ON TWO TYPES OF FUEL:  
STARK DESPERATION -- AND -- ABSOLUTE EXASPERATION.

....(BY THE WAY: THERE IS ANOTHER MEANS OF PROPELLANT TO THAT PLACE,  
BUT NO ONE WHO TALKS, KNOWS WHAT IT IS --  
-- BUT LET ME ASSURE YOU, THERE IS ANOTHER ONE!)

"OKAY.", SAID ONE MAN,

"LET'S TRY ONE MORE TIME AND SEE IF I'VE GOT THIS STRAIGHT:

FIRST YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING, BUT DON'T KNOW THAT YOU KNOW --

THEN YOU THINK YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING, BUT YOU DON'T,

AND THEN YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING AGAIN EXCEPT THIS TIME YOU KNOW THAT YOU KNOW.

NOW IS THAT ABOUT ONCE-AND-FOR-ALL IT?!"

TO WORK OUTSIDE THE HOME IS IDIOCY.

...NOT JUST TOO COST INTENSIVE, BUT -- COST IDIOCY.

IT WAS A STRANGE TIME:

AT THE SAME INSTANT THE HANGMAN ACHIEVED ENLIGHTENMENT  
THE CONDEMNED MAN RECEIVED A REPRIVE,

THE JOURNEY 'CROSS THE DESERT

---

YOU CAN STARE AT YOUR FEET,  
YOU CAN STARE AT YOUR HANDS,  
YOU CAN STARE AT THINGS CLOSE,  
OR OFF IN THE DISTANCE;

BUT WHEN ALL'S SAID AND PLOTTED,  
AND THE CARAVAN STARTS TO MOVE,  
THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS, "ACCEPTABLE STARING".

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YOU CAN STUDY ALL YOU LIKE --  
THINK ALL YOU WANT --  
PICTURE THINGS AS THIS OR THAT --  
IMAGINE HOW YOU'LL GET THERE.

BUT THERE IS NO "WAY" TO GET THERE --  
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BUT THERE IS NO "WAY" TO GET THERE --  
BUT THERE IS NO "WAY" TO GET THERE,

THERE WAS ONCE A MAN WHO WENT IN SEARCH OF AN EMPTY BOX,  
BUT WHO DID SO WHILE CARRYING WITH HIM A STUFFED ONE.