

AFTER THE BOY HAD ONCE AGAIN OFFERED UP COMPLAINTS REGARDING THE MIND,
HIS FATHER ATTEMPTED A MORE UP BEAT VIEW:

"JUST LOOK AT SOME OF THE ADVANTAGES OF THE MIND, (FOR INSTANCE):
IT LET'S YOU BE A 'WITNESS TO YOUR OWN LIFE'." , BUT THE LAD QUICKLY COUNTERED:
"BUT I DON'T WANT TO BE A 'WITNESS TO MY LIFE' --
I JUST WANT TO 'LIVE-MY-LIFE' WITHOUT THE USELESS NOISE OF MY MIND."

(AND TO HIMSELF, THE OLD MAN MUSED:

"YOU KNOW, THE BOY'S GETTIN' TO BE A BIGGER STICK-IN-THE-EYE THAN I AM.")

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IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT: "NOT SEEING, AND NOT KNOWING,
ARE THE SUPREME 'SEEING & KNOWING'."

WHICH MAKES USEFUL SENSE IF YOU APPLY IT TO THE NATURE OF A MAN,
AND NOT HIS MENTAL ACTIVITY.

THAT WHICH "IS" IS NOT SEEN, NOR IS IT KNOWN:

IT HAS NO NEED TO BE SEEN: IT HAS NO SEED TO BE KNOWN.

JUST BY THE FACT OF IT SIMPLY "BEING"

IT TRANSCENDS ALL SEEING AND KNOWING,

WHICH ARE BUT LOW LEVEL ASPECTS OF MEN MENTALLY, WITNESSING THEIR LIVES
AS OPPOSED TO DIRECTLY LIVING THEM.

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ONE MAN'S CAUTION: "BEWARE OF -- 'BOGUS INFORMATION"!AND
.....AND NOTE: ALL INFO IS -- BOGUS."

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WHEN YOU FIRST HEAR ABOUT THE "STRUGGLE TO AWAKEN" -- IT'S A "BIG DEAL":
THEN YOU FIRST EXPERIENCE THE STATE OF AWAKENING -- IT'S A REALLY "BIG DEAL":
THEN WHEN YOU'RE BACK TO NORMAL AND STRUGGLING TO REGAIN THE STATE -- THAT'S A
REALLY, REALLY "BIG DEAL.

THEN WHEN YOU BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND WHAT AWAKENING IS -- THAT'S A DIFFERENT DEAL.

FIRST YOU ARE: "NO HEADED":
 THEN YOU BECOME: "BUSY HEADED",
 AND THE DESIRE TO "AWAKEN" IS THE HUNGER TO BE: "CLEAR HEADED"

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FOOD FOR "SOMETHING-OR-OTHER"...(CERTAINLY NOT - THOUGHT!)

A CAN CRAMMED FULL OF BEANS HAS NO ROOM FOR PORK.
 PORK IS THE CLEAR HEADEDNESS OF ENLIGHTENMENT.

...(AND JUST FOR A MOMENT, THE BOY WAS ABOUT TO ASK HIS DAD FOR REASSURANCE THAT THIS WAS METAPHORICAL, BUT THEN THEY SILENTLY PASSED KNOWING GLANCES BETWEEN IN RECOGNITION THEREOF, EVEN IF THE METAPHOR WAS NOT TOTALLY KOSHER.) .

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ALTHOUGH IN THE MOST BASIC, TANGIBLE SENSE,
 A PERSON MUST NATURALLY BE "INTELLIGENT"
 TO HEAR OF THE IDEA OF ANOTHER STATE OF CONSCIOUSNESS,
 AND CONCLUDE IT BOTH POSSIBLE AND DESIRABLE,
 AS INCONGRUOUS AS IT SOUNDS, (VIS-A-VIS, "BEING INTELLIGENT"),
 THE REALITY OF THE STATE IS ONE OF GREAT -- "UN-KNOWING"

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(PUT INTO WORDS), PERHAPS THE TRICKIEST AND STICKIEST PROPERTY OF THE DREAMS THAT PASS THRU MENS' HEADS IS THEIR ABILITY TO PRESENT THEMSELVES AS: "KNOWLEDGE".....AND I MEAN AS: USEFUL, REALITY-BASED, "KNOWLEDGE".

WHAT A DISTORTION...WHAT A DECEPTION...
 ...WHAT A DISTRACTING "STICK-IN-THE-EYE"
 WE INFLICT ON OURSELVES.

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A BOY SAID TO HIS FATHER: "NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES YOU REPEAT IT, I STILL DON'T GET IT WHEN YOU SAY THAT THERE IS NOTHING IN THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE THAT HAS ANYTHING WHATSOEVER TO DO WITH, 'AWAKENING'." , AND THE ELDER GAVE IT TO HIM THIS WAY "OKAY, TRY IT LIKE THIS: 'THERE IS NOTHING IN THE ENTIRETY OF WHAT A MAN CAN; 'THINK ABOUT' -- THAT HAS ANYTHING WHATSOEVER TO DO WITH 'AWAKENING'." ,
 ...("AHHHH", THE BOY THEN MUSED TO HIMSELF.)

FROM ORDINARY, DESCRIBABLE VIEWS: PEOPLE WHO "STRUGGLE" TO ACHIEVE ANYTHING THAT SEEMS LAUDIBLE, (SUCH AS TO BE A TRUE, JEW, CHRISTIAN, MUSLIM, ETC: OR TO BE A BETTER PARENT, HUSBAND, WIFE, CITIZEN -- CITIZEN OF THE WORLD: OR TO "BETTER THEIR MIND" VIA EDUCATION & INSTRUCTION), SUCH PEOPLE ARE PROCLAIMED BY THE MAJORITY OF MAN-THE-COLLECTIVE TO BE ENGAGED IN PURSUITS, MOST ADMIRABLE, BUT FROM THE NON-STANDARD SLANT NATURAL TO THE FEW, (WELL, ULTIMATELY NATURAL) THE STRUGGLE TO ACHIEVE ANYTHING -- INCLUDING SO-CALLED, "ENLIGHTENMENT" -- FALLS OUTSIDE A TRUE UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT IS WORTHY OF ADMIRATION, (MUCH LESS, PARTICIPATION).

(AND IN THIS INSTANCE, THE LAD COULD NOT CONTAIN HIMSELF, AND DID ASK HIS DAD: "WHAT WAS JUST SAID -- WAS AN METAPHOR FOR SOMETHING ELSE -- RIGHT?!", BUT THIS TIME THE OLD MAN HAD TO DISAPPOINT HIM.)

AND SINCE WE'RE ALREADY IN THIS NEIGHBORHOOD, I GUESS I SHOULD GO AHEAD AND LAY THE WORST CASE ON YOU TOO: ONE OF THOSE: "PERHAPS -- FACTS":

THAT WHICH YOU FIND PLEASURABLE IN ALLEGORY, IS LIKELY TO PROVE LESS SO IN REALITY.

(BUT LET ME ALSO BE QUICK TO ASSURE YOU THAT ANY "DISCOMFORT" IS STRICTLY TEMPORARY.....

...THAT IS, ASSUMING YOU DON'T STOP YOUR JOURNEY THERE.

...AND WHY WOULD ANYONE

WITH

ANY TASTE-OF

THAT EXTRAORDINARY BRAIN EXPERIENCE

EVER STOP -- ANY WHERE?!?!)

I REST YOUR CASE...IF NOT YOUR BAGGAGE.

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THE FIRST STEP IS FOR YOU TO REALIZE FOR YOURSELF THAT, AT THE MOST BASIC LEVEL, LIFE IS RELATIVELY "MOTIONLESS" -- AFTER THAT, THE NEXT STEP IS FOR YOU TO DISCOVER FOR YOURSELF THE NEED, THE BENEFIT, OF REDNERING THE INSIDE OF YOUR OWN HEAD -- LIKEWISE.

CARROUSELS APPEAR TO SPIN MORE THAN THEY ACTUALLY DO -- IF YOU, ARE RUNNING AROUND ALONG SIDE THEM.

MORE IMPORTANT THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW REGARDING THE STRUGGLE TO AWAKEN:
YOU CAN "SHOOT A MAN IN THE HEAD", OR:
YOU CAN "SHOOT A MAN IN THE KNEE", BUT,
BEFORE YOU RUN THE RISK OF SERIOUS INJURY,
YOU SHOULD CHECK WITH YOUR COUNTY AGENT.

UPON HEARING THIS, A CERTAIN BOY ASKED HIS FATHER:
"WHAT IN THE WORLD DOES, 'CHECKING-WITH-YOUR-COUNTY-AGENT'
HAVE TO DO WITH EITHER: SHOOTING A MAN IN THE HEAD OR IN THE KNEE?!",
AND THE OLDER ONE REPLIED:
"WELL WHAT THE HELL DOES SHOOTING A MAN IN ANY SPOT HAVE TO DO WITH;
AWAKENING?!",
(AND BEING PRESENTED WITH THAT QUESTION,
THE LAD KEPT QUIETLY TO HIS OWN COUNSEL,
LETTING THE MATTER, "VERBALLY DROP" -- FELLED BY ITS OWN -- USELESS WEIGHT.)
...AM I CORRECT,
WHEN I SUSPECT,
THAT WE ARE ONCE AGAIN LOOKING AT THE MATTER OF:
"MIS-APPLIED EFFORT
TO ACHIEVE ENLIGHTENMENT"?!)

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THERE WAS ONCE A MAN WHO DEEPLY WISHED TO GO TO INSTANBUL,
AND FROM HIS INITIAL SPOT IN PARIS, HE STUDIED ALL OF THE ACCEPTED MAPS
WHICH GAVE THE SPECIFIC LOCATION OF THE TURKISH CITY, VIS A VIS THE EXACT
LONGITUDE, AND LATITUDE OF THE FRENCH CAPTIAL
SO -- THE MAN WAS THEN OFF AND CORRECTLY ON HIS WAY -- NO !?!.....
...(YOU PROVIDE YOUR OWN PERTINENT PUNCH LINE TO THE STORY THIS TIME,
FOR IN SO DOING, THAT YOU MIGHT GET A BETTER, "MOMENTARY SENSATION" OF
WHERE YOU ACTUALLY ARE -- HAVE ALWAYS BEEN -- AND FOREVER WILL BE.
...(WELL, FOR AT LEAST UNTIL THEY HOOK UP THE OLD FORMALDEHYDE MACHINE.)

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ONE MAN LIVED ON A BOAT THAT HE CONSIDERED, "UN-RELIABLE",
 SO HE HIRED SOMEONE TO STAY PERMANENTLY UP IN THE CROW'S NEST TO "LOOK OUT" AND
 TO ADVISE HIM OF THE OUTSIDE CONDITIONS , AND TO RECOMMEND THE COURSE TO PLOW.

NOW ALL OF THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN QUITE FEASIBLE,
 AND CERTAINLY IN NO WAY PERNICIOUS -- IF --
 -- IF HE HAD ACTUALLY BEEN "LIVING ON A SHIP",
 BUT SUCH WAS NOT THE CASE:
 HE WAS THE SHIP!

...(KINDA SHIFTS THE STORY AROUND A BIT, HUH?!

....["WHAT DA'MEAN - 'KINDA'?!,

OH, 'MASKED-ONE' WITH-THE-SILVER-SHELLS-AIMED-DIRECTLY-AT-MY-EYE?!"

...A TECHNOLOGICAL IMPROVEMENT, I ASSUME,
 OVER THE CRUDE "STICK" POISED-OVER-THE-PUPIL.

AFTER ALL, (IF YOU WANT TO), YOU CAN LOOK AT IT LIKE THIS:

IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE ASLEEP ANYWAY

WHY NOT DO IT IN A MANNER AS, "UP-TO-DATE" AS POSSIBLE?!

...WHY DO THINK PEOPLE KEEP COMING UP WITH, (I'M SORRY: KEEP "DISCOVERING"),
 "BRAND NEW & IMPROVED WAYS TO: ACHIEVE ENLIGHTENMENT"?!

...(NOW IF ONLY SOMEONE WOULD DEVISE A TOTALLY RELIABLE METHOD WHEREBY
 YOU COULD PERMANENTLY ABANDON THE DELUSION OF THERE BEING SOMETHING
TO "ACHIEVE".

..."WELL, I MUST SAY,

OH, FEATHERED-ONE WITH-QUILLS-ON-YOUR-BACK,

THAT'S A LOT TO ASK OF

ONE LIFE TIME.",

...AND AN EAVES-DROPPING KID SAID TO HIMSELF:

"WELL THAT'S THE WHOLE FUN OF --

-- HAVING ONLY -- 'NOW'!",

..[WHICH IS SURELY THE LAD'S WAY OF REMINDING US ONCE AGAIN THAT:
 NONE OF THE OUTRAGES & MIS-FORTUNES OF "BEING ASLEEP" CAN AT ALL TOUCH YOU
 IN THE EVER-PRESENT-INSTANCE-OF:
THIS-VERY-INSTANT.])