

THERE ARE TWO TYPES OF "SUCCESSSES & FAILURES" AVAILABLE TO MAN:
INTERNAL ONES, AND EXTERNAL ONES:

THE INTERNAL ONES ARE ALL OF THE "SURVIVAL" VARIETY, & PRE-PROGRAMMED:
(E.G.: SATISFYING HUNGER IS A SUCCESS: HAVING NO FOOD IS A FAILURE),
BUT THE EXTERNAL FORMS OF "SUCCESS & FAILURE" ARE NOT SO PRE-DETERMINED,
AND ARE IN FACT, TOTALLY DEPENDENT, (APPARENTLY), ON, "CIRCUMSTANCES",
(E.G.: YOU ARE "FAMOUS" AS LONG AS A SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF OTHER PEOPLE SAY YOU ARE
WHILE YOU LOSE IT WHEN THE CROWD NO LONGER ON YOU, SO BESTOWS).

AND NOTE, (OBVIOUSLY): WHILE THE INTERNAL MATTER OF "SUCCESS OR FAILURE"
IS ESSENTIAL TO ACTUAL SURVIVAL,
THE EXTERNAL MANIFESTATIONS OF ACCEPTED FORMS OF "SUCCESS & FAILURE"
ARE NOT, "EXISTANCE-ESSENTIAL" .

THUS IT SHOULD ALOS, "OBVIOUSLY BE" THAT:
TO BE CLEAR-HEADED YOU MUST TREAT EXTERNAL FORMS OF SUCCESS & FAILURE
WITH THE ATTENTION & SERIOUSNESS THEY DESERVE...WHICH EVEN MORE OBVIOUSLY
SHOULD BE -- NADA.

...BUT -- NOW!:
THOSE AIMING FOR ENLIGHTENMENT & CLEAR-HEADEDNESS ARE IN A PECULIAR SITUATION
INTHAT THEY ARE ENTANGLED IN A FORM OF INTERNAL "SUCCESS OR FAILURE"
WHICH IS NOT "SURVIVAL BASED" AND THUS, PHYSICALLY "ESSENTIAL",
SO THERE ARISES A REAL PROBLEM AS TO HOW THE STRUGGLE FOR ENLIGHTENMENT,
IN ANY MEANINGFUL WAY, CAN BE JUDGED AS TO, "SUCCESS OR FAILURE",
(IF YOU SEE WHAT I AM POINTING TO !?!. WHICH IF YOU DO:
PRESENTS THE MIND WITH A "MIND-BLOWING" CONUMDRUM WHEREIN
JUST MOMENTS BEFORE I ARTICULATED IT -- NO SUCH QUESTION EXISTED.

I ASSURE YOU: IT IS MOST REFRESHING, ON YOUR JOURNEY, [SOME PLACE BETWEEN
PARIS & ISTANBUL], TO REALIZE PLAINLY & SIMPLY
THAT YOU DO NOT ACTUALL "KNOW" WHERE PARIS IS,
AND HAVE NO EARTHLY IDEA WHERE TO FIND ISTANBUL.

THIS RE-ENVIGORATING DISCOVERY ALONG THE WAY IS KNOWN AS:
"THE GREAT RELIEF OF -- REALITY.")

NOTE: ALWAYS "WELCOME" -- AND, "EMBRACE" -- DOUBT.

NOW SIT BACK....RELAX....AND -- ENJOY.

IN RELATIONSHIP TO THE "SPECIAL CONCENTRATION" NEEDED FOR AWAKENING,
 REFLECT BACK ON THE ANCIENT IDEAS OF DEVELOPING SUCH ABILITY THRU, "MEDITATION",
 WHICH WAS INITIALLY CALLED: "WALL MEDIATION", IN THAT
 IN THAT ITS FIRST KNOWN EXPONENT SUPPOSEDLY DESCRIBED THE METHOD AS:
 "SITTING STILL AND QUIETLY, FACING A BLANK WALL."
 BUT LET ME PROPOSE TO YOU THIS POSSIBILITY
 THAT RATHER THAN ANY USEFUL FORM OF MEDIATION CONSISTING OF:
 "SITTING AND STARING AT A WALL",
 THE NOTION WAS INTENDED TO DIRECT A MAN TO BE LIKE A WALL:
 SILENT, IMPASSIONATE, IMMOVABLE.

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LET'S GO BACK AND CONSIDER ANOTHER PARTICULAR ASPECT OF TONIGHT'S OPENING ITEM
 THAT SPOKE OF, "INTERNAL & EXTERNAL FORMS OF: SUCCESS & FAILURE",
 BUT THIS TIME FOCUSING SOLELY ON THE FRONT END OF THE TOPIC:

TRUTH IS: ALL IDEAS OF THERE BEING AN "INTERNAL LIFE OF MAN" THAT IS SEPERATE
 FROM THE WORLD EXTERNAL TO HIM, IS PATENT FOOLISHNESS:

THEY ARE BOTH A PART OF A SEAMLESS REALITY.

WE SENSE SUCH A SEPERATION DUE TO WHAT?....

ONE RESPONSE IS TO SAY THAT THE PHYSICAL OUTER BOUNDREIS OF OUR BODIES
 GIVES A FEELING OF BEING SEPERATED FROM THE CONDITIONS OUTSIDE OF OUR SKIN;
 BUT OF WHAT, (TO THE FEW), IS OF MORE PRESSING SIGNIFICANCE IS THAT
 OUR THOUGHTS - THE NORMAL ACTIVITY OF THE VERBAL AREA OF THE BRAIN --
 NATURALLY PRODUCES THE NON-PHYSICALLY BASED SENSATION THAT "WE",
 (OUR PRIVATE, INTERNALY BASED FEELING OF AN INDIVIDUAL "SELF"),
 IS SEPERATE TRULY, FROM THE REST OF THE PHYSICAL UNIVERSE.

IT IS, (AS MUST BE OBVIOUS TO YOU BY NOW), A MOST COMPELLING SENSATION,
 AND ONE THAT DOES NO HARM TO THE MANY,
 BUT WHICH IS THE MOTHER-LODE OF DISTORTIONS & DISTRACTIONS
 FOR THE FEW SEEKING TO CLEAR OUT THEIR FOGGY, MENTAL INNARDS.

LET'S TRY ANOTHER TAKE ON STILL ANOTHER ITEM WE'VE NOTED BEFORE:
 A DOCTOR TELLS A MAN THAT HE IS DYING,
 BUT THE PATIENT IS EXPERIENCING NO DISTRESSFUL SYMPTOMS, AND SAYS TO HIMSELF:
 "IT'S HARD TO REMEMBER THAT YOU'RE DYING WHEN YOU'RE NOT -- HURTING."
 ...AND I ASK YOU AGAIN: "WHAT'S THE POSSIBLE USE OF THIS STORY?....."

...WELL - HOW ABOUT LOOKING AT IT FROM THIS ANGLE:
 IT'S HARD TO REMEMBER THAT YOU'RE ASLEEP
 WHEN YOU'RE NOT MAKING ANY EFFORTS TO AWAKEN.".....HUMM?! -- BUT HOLD ON! --
 LET'S REALLY MAKE IT INTERESTING: QUICK!, TRY ON THIS OTHER VERSION OF IT:
 "IT'S HARD TO REMEMBER TO MAKE EFFORTS TO AWAKEN
 DURING TIMES WHEN YOU'RE NOT EXPERIENCING ANY 'NEGATIVE ASPECTS"-- ANY, 'PAINS'
 CAUSED BY, 'BEING ASLEEP'."

OKAY: WHICH OF THE TWO VERSIONS DO YOU MOST DISTRUST?..... AND, WHY?!.....
 AND ALSO: WHY DO THE WORDS & IDEAS EXPRESSED IN THE ABOVE
 AUTOMATICALLY STRIKE IN YOU, SUCH A DISTASTFUL & DISTURBING NOTE?
 ...(DON'T FORGET TO KEEP THE WELCOME MAT OUT AND BRUSHED CLEAN FOR -- DOUBTS !!)

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WHY NOT LOOK BACK OVER OUR "HISTORICAL SHOULDERS" AGAIN AND CHEW UP THIS ONE:
 I PROPOSE TO YOU THAT THE REAL PURPOSE BEHIND THE TIME HONORED, ANCIENT
 BELIEF IN THE NEED TO: "KNOW YOURSELF", IS NOT REFLECTED IN THE,
 "BASS-ACKWARD" INTERPRETATION COMMONLY GIVEN IT,
 NO -- I SAY: "TO KNOW YOURSELF" IN THE SENSE, USEFUL TO AWAKENING
 IS IN HAVING NO PARTICULAR "FEEL" FOR YOURSELF AS BEING A
 DISTINCT, DEFINABLE "PERSONALITY" OR "SELF":

WHICH IS OF ULTIMATE APPROPRIATENESS
 ONCE YOU'VE FULLY REALIZED & ACCEPTED THE PLAIN & SIMPLE FACT THAT THERE
 IS NO ACTUAL, DISTINCT, DEFINABLE, SPERATE, "STAND-ALONE" PERSONAL "SELF"
 ANY WHERE IN YOU.

SO!--- BASED-ON-THAT -- AND: AFTER THAT:
 "WHAT'S THERE TO - 'KNOW' ABOUT THIS 'SELF' THAT'S NOT EVEN THERE'?!"

...THE "RETURN", (I MIGHT SUGGEST), OF: "THE GREAT RELIEF".

WHEN HE WAS YOUNG: ONE MAN BELIEVED THAT EVERYTHING WOULD NATURALLY, "GO HIS WAY":
THEN AS HE GOT OLDER, HE BELIEVED JUST THE OPPOSITE.

AFTER HE DIED, HE DIDN'T "BELIEVE" -- ANYTHING.

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SINCE WE'RE ON AN "HISTOROTICAL-ROLL" -- WHY STOP NOW?!,
WHY NOT LOOK AFRESH AT YET ANOTHER VENERABLE, MYSTICAL IDEA
THAT MAY STILL HOLD UNREALIZED PROMISE:

THE IDEA I HAVE IN MIND IS THE AGED DIRECTIVE THAT TO EVER ACHIEVE
FULL ENLIGHTENMENT YOU MUST BE: "FREE OF ALL CRAVINGS.",
WHICH IS USUALLY TAKEN TO MEAN THAT A MAN SHOULD NOT HAVE ANY DESIRE FOR ANY
PARTICULAT SUBSTANCE OR ACTIVITY,

BUT TOWHICH I URGE YOUR MOMENTARY ATTENTION,
WITH ITS INNER PURPOSE, I TRANSLATE TO MEAN THAT:

"TO EVER REALIZE THE REALITY OF ENLIGHTENMENT YOU MUST HAVE NO CRAVINGS - INTHAT,
-- YOU SHOULD BE PAST THE ROUTINE POSITION OF WISHING THAT EXTERNAL CIRCUMSTANCES
BE OTHER THAN THEY ALWAYS, UNSTABLELY, ARE."

...I SAY TO YOU THAT THIS IS THE IMMEDIATE, PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF THIS IDEA.

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AND NOW THAT FAVORITE FEATURE ENTITLED: "YOU SHOULD BY NOW":

YOU SHOULD BY NOW:

NO LONGER BE DEALING IN SUCH TERMS AS: "I THINK, (SUCH & SUCH,)",
BUT RATHER: "I AM A PASSIVE OBSERVER OF WHAT PASSES THRU MY HEAD."

(IF YOU'RE NOT COMMITTED TO "EXACTNES, AND TRUTHFULNESS"

AS CONCERNS YOUR OWN MOST PERSONAL, & APPARENTLY, SIGNIFICANT, INNER ACTIVITIES,
THEN IN WHAT WAY WITH YOU EVER PROVE HONORABLE AND DISTINGUISHED?!)

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AND NOW A STORY -- RIPPED RIGHT FROM TODAY'S HEADLINES!...(OR FROM WHAT COULD HAVE POTENTIALLY BEEN YOUR <u>OWN</u> , "INNER HEADLINES": A MA

AND NOW A STORY -- "RIPPED RIGHT FROM TODAY'S HEADLINES"... (OR FROM WHAT COULD HAVE POTENTIALLY BEEN YOUR OWN -- "INNER HEADLINES":

FROM THE PLACE OF RESIDENCE,

A MAN'S VOICE CRIED OUT:

"I'M HOLED-UP IN HERE -- I HAVE HOSTAGES -- AND I AM -- 'DANGEROUS'!"

AND UPON HEARING OF THIS SCENE,

ONE MAN DID NOT KNOW WHETHER TO TAKE IT AS HAVING PHYSICALLY OCCURED -- OR, TO HEAR IT AS A VEILED DETAILING OF MAN'S INTERNAL CIRCUMSTANCE

VIS A VIS HIS BELIEF THAT SOME WHERE IN HIM

IS A "HE" WHO SEEMS TO HAVE "UNRULY COUNTERPARTS" WHO CAN:

ARBITRAILY, "HOLE-UP" IN THERE: WHO CAN: ISSUE THREATS:

WHO INDEED HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO BE, "DANGEROUS,

AND WHO CAN SOMEHOW, "HOLD HIM HOSTAGE".

SO -- MAY I SUGGEST THIS:

NEXT TIME YOU INTERNALLY, "GLANCE UP",

RATHER THAN SEEING WHAT'S GOING ON IN YOUR HEAD VIA WHATEVER, MIXED-UP, CONFUSED, UNCERTAIN, HULLABALOOED-FRAMEWORK MIGHT BE YOUR PRESENT PARADIGM,

TRY THIS: JUST PICTURE THAT THE ACTIVITY IN YOUR HEAD

IS CONTAINED & EXPLAINED ENTIRELY IN THIS SCENE:

FROM YOUR "UPSTAIRS RESIDENCE", A MAN'S VOICE IS HEARD, CRYING OUT:

"I'M HOLED-UP IN HERE -- I HAVE HOSTAGES -- AND I AM -- 'DANGEROUS'."

(OR FOR YOUR EXACTNESS FANATICS, YOU CAN SUBSTITUTE THE FINAL WORDS:

"...AND I AM -- MEANINGLESS!"

...JUST IMAGINE WHAT A BLESSED RELIEF IT WILL BE TO

FINALLY STOP BEING -- "HOLED-UP" IN THERE.

WOW!! -- WHAT SMELL CAN BEGIN TO MATCH

THAT OF SWEET REALITY ?!