

MY NEWS FOR MAY 1, 1999

A MAN QUEERED A CERTAIN EXTERMINATOR THUS:

"I HAVE HEARD IT SAID THAT THERE IS NOTHING ABOUT MAN THAT NEEDS TO BE FIXED, AND AT TIMES, IN AN OVERALL, PHILOSOPHICAL WAY, I CAN SEE THAT AS REGARDS HUMANITY AS A WHOLE, THIS MUST BE SO.... AND YET....

I CONTINUE TO FEEL THAT THERE IS SOMETHING ABOUT ME PERSONALLY THAT IS DEFINITELY WRONG AND IN NEED OF CORRECTION. WHY IS THIS?", AND THE MYSTERIOUS-RAT-CHASER REPLIED:

"THAT INDEED IS A MOST TRICKY AND STICKY SITUATION IN WHICH THOSE FEW WHO PURSUE THE PROFESSION OF EXTERMINATOR EVENTUALLY PERCEIVE THEMSELVES TO HAVE LANDED,

AND IT IS EQUALLY AS ODD AND CHALLENGING TO TRY AND EXPLAIN IN ANY MANNER THAT OFFERS A PRACTICAL SOLUTION, BUT YOU MIGHT CONSIDER THIS:

CAN YOU CONCEIVE OF ANY BASIS ON WHICH A STANDARDLY CONSTRUCTED FAUCET COULD OBJECT TO ITS BEING A FAUCET?.....I DON'T SEE HOW: AND CAN YOU IMAGINE ANY REASON FOR A FAUCET TO FEEL THAT ITS WORTH AND STATUS IS BASED ON ANY CHARACTERISTICS OF THE WATER?...I THINK NOT: BUT PICTURE A FAUCET THAT DOES 'TAKE PERSONALLY' THE TYPE, FREQUENCY, VOLUME AND QUALITY OF THE WATER PASSING THRU IT, AND PRETEND WE ASKED IT THE SAME QUESTIONS I JUST POSED TO YOU, AND IMAGINE THAT WHEN ASKED SUCH DIRECTLY, AND UPON INSTANT REFLECTION THEREON

THAT THE FAUCET AGREES THAT SUCH AN ASSUMED RESPONSIBILITY BY A FAUCET

FOR THE WATER -- FLOWING, INVOLUNTARILY THRU IT -- IS GROUNDLESS AND RIDICULOUS,

THE FAUCET AFTER ALL -- BEING SIMPLY, 'A FAUCET', WOULD BE UNEQUIPPED AND UNABLE TO REMEMBER WHAT HE'D JUST BEEN MADE TO REALIZE.

...IT IS NOT A FAUCET'S JOB TO REMEMBER ANYTHING THAT CONFLICTS WITH THE NATURAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF BEING A FAUCET.....

...AND WHO COULD SANELY EXPECT OTHERWISE?!"

THE EXTERMINATOR PAUSED FOR A MOMENT AS HE EXAMINED THE MAN'S FACE....THEN PICKED UP HIS COMMENTS ONCE AGAIN:

"I FEEL SURE THAT AS YOU STAND THERE LISTENING TO ME AT THIS MOMENT YOU REALIZE HOW FOOLISH IT WOULD BE FOR A FAUCET TO FEEL THAT THE WATER FLOWING THRU IT WAS IN ANY WAY 'PERSONALLY' RELATED, OR PERTINANT TO WHAT IT IS,

BOTH BY CONSTRUCTION AND FUNCTION,

AND I FEEL EQUALLY CERTAIN THAT YOU RECOGNIZE THIS AS A METAPHOR FOR YOU IN MY RESPONSE TO YOUR QUESTION,

BUT IT ONLY SEEMS TO GO SO FAR, RIGHT?!.....

...IT DOESN'T GO FAR ENOUGH TO ACTUALLY ANSWER

WHY IT IS THAT YOU, (NOT A FAUCET),

BUT WHY YOU, (A MAN),

EVEN AFTER HAVING SOME INITIAL RECOGNITION OF HUMANITY'S OVERALL POSITION AS CONCERNS MEN NOT BEING IN NEED OF SOME SORT OF 'REPAIR', WHY YOU STILL INDIVIDUALLY FEEL OTHERWISE.....SO, (ARE YOU READY?):

WHAT IF THE NATURAL CONSTRUCTION OF A FEW, 'MEN-THE-THOUGHTFUL-FAUCETS' IS SUCH THAT THEY INVOLUNTARILY DO -- MUST -- HAVE AN ANOMOLISTIC AWARENESS OF THE MENTAL WATERS FLOWING THRU THEM, AND IT IS SO DAMN-NEAR, ALL EMCOMPASSING THAT ANY QUESTIONS REAGR Ding ANY SPECIFICS OF THE PASSING WATERS IS TOTALLY BESIDE THE POINT.

IN THESE RARE CASES, IT IS NOT ANY ACTUAL OR PERCEIVED, 'CHARACTERISTICS' OF THE 'WATERS-OF-THOUGHT' FORWHICH MAN IS A MEDIUM, TO PEOPLE LIKE YOU,

IT IS ALL THE WATER THAT IS THE ANNOYANCE! --

-- IT IS THE MERE FACT OF WATER FLOWING THRU YOU

THAT IS -- THE PROBLEM!,

BUT WHAT I WANT YOU TO CONSIDER IS THAT THIS FUTILELY SOUNDING SITUATION MIGHT ONLY REMAIN FUTILE & INFINITELY FRUSTRATING IF YOU TAKE WHAT IS YOUR OWN , 'NATURAL SITUATION' TO BE IN NEED OF CHANGE, AN IMPRESSION WHICH, (FOR ONE OF YOUR NON-STANDARD CONSTRUCTION), IS PART & PARCEL OF YOUR, 'NATURAL CONSTRUCTION & OPERATION'."

AND ONCE AGAIN THE EXTERMINATOR CEASED HIS COMMENTARY AND STUDIED THE MAN'S COUNTANACE.....

...AND AFTER A BIT, THE MAN SLOWLY TOOK UP THE CONVERSATION HIMSELF IN A RHETORICALLY QUESTIONING & REFLECTIVING MANNER:

"SO YOU'RE TRYING TO LEAD ME TO SEE MYSELF AND OTHERS LIKE ME AS BEING LIKE FAUCETS -- NATURAL OUTLETS FOR THE FLOW OF THOUGHTS, BUT IN OUR CASE, FAUCETS THAT CAME FROM THE FACTORY WITH A, 'BUILT-IN' RESISTANCE TO BEING MERE FAUCETS?!", (AND THE EXTERMINATOR BROKE INTO A GIGANTIC GRIN, AS THE MAN FELL SILENT AND SEEMED TO STRUGGLE TO CONTINUE):

"UMMMmmmm.....

SO IF I AM SEEING DIRECTLY TO WHERE I BELIEVE YOU'RE POINTING THE SITUATION IS INDEED AS YOU SAID, 'MOST TRICKY & STICKY.....  
...I FIND MYSELF NATURALLY, INVOLUNTARILY -- WANTING TO CHANGE -- EVEN CEASE --

MY BEING A PASSIVE MEDIUM FOR THE WATERS-OF-THOUGHT THAT PASS THRU ME AND EVERY OTHER MAN.....UMMMmmmm.....  
LIKE A FAUCET THAT CAN DO NOTHING OTHER THAN BE A FAUCET, BUT IN MY INSTANCE,

LIKE A FAUCET THAT CAN DO NOTHING OTHER THAN BE A FAUCET THAT IS DISSATISFIED BEING A FAUCET?!",

(AND AS THE MAN PAUSED AGAIN IN HIS OVERT MUSING, THE EXTERMINATOR'S GRIN GREW TO UNIVERSAL PROPORTIONS).

THEN A LONGER PERIOD OF SILENCE PASSED BETWEEN THE TWO, UNTIL SLOWLY, BUT QUITE DISTINCTLY, A WORLD CLASS SMILE BEGAN TO TAKE OVER THE MAN'S FACE, AND HE RETURNED THE EXTERMINATOR'S GAZE, EYE-BALL-TO-EYE-BALL.....  
...AND THERE THE TWO OF THEM STOOD:

RIGHT IN THE CENTER OF REALITY,  
RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF, "NO-WHERE-IN-PARTICULAR",  
BOTH OF THEM GRINNING LIKE POSSUMS ON FIRE.

...YOU KNOW, IT DOES YOUR HEART GOOD TO SEE TWO GROWN MEN MAKE COMPLETE FOOLS OF THEMSELVES, DOESN'T IT?!

EVEN THOUGH EXTERMINATORS DON'T WANT TO SPEAK ABOUT IT IN SPECIFICS,  
DON'T YOU FIGURE THAT ONE OF THE THINGS THEY'VE RID THEMSELVES OF IS  
REACTING-IN-THOUGHT TO WHAT OTHERS DO AND SAY?!

ONE DAY A MAN ENTERED THE SHOP OF AN EXTERMINATOR,  
(WHO ALSO SOME TIMES ACTED AS A PLUMBING CONSULTANT),  
AND ASKED THE PROPRIETOR:

"CAN WATER BE DISINGENUOUS?",

AND THE PEST ERADICATOR REPLIED: "WHAT DO YOU MEAN?",  
AND THE MAN GOT MORE SPECIFIC WITH HIS QUEERY:

"WILL WATER EVER FOOL YOU?! --

LIKE PRETEND TO BE OTHER THAN WHAT IT IS?",

AND THE EXTERMINATOR RESPONDED:

"I CANNOT THINK OF ANY WAY INWHICH THIS MIGHT OCCUR.",

AND THE MAN GREW MORE POINTED:

"DO YOU MEAN THAT YOU CAN NOT THINK OF ANY WAY THAT THIS MIGHT OCCUR,  
OR ANY WAY THAT THIS COULD OCCUR?" ,

"WHAT DIFFERENCE WOULD THAT MAKE?", ASKED THE EXTERMINATOR,

"WELL, NONE, I GUESS.", SAID THE MAN,

"I WAS JUST STALLING FOR TIME WHILE I TRIED TO PULL TOGETHER  
MY REAL QUESTION IN A MORE COHERENT FORM.",

AND THE "ENEMY-OF-ALL-VERMIN" NODDED HIS UNDERSTANDING,

WHICH SEEMED TO SERVE AS AN INVITATION FOR THE MAN TO CONTINUE....

....WHICH HE DID:

"WHAT I'M REALLY TRYING TO ASK IS IF IT IS POSSIBLE FOR SOMETHING AS  
PLAIN, AND NATURAL AND TRANSPARENT AS WATER TO EVER MISLEAD A MAN  
AS TO ITS NATURE AND PROPERTIES?,

TOWHICH I TAKE IT THAT YOU'VE ALREADY INDICATED THAT YOUR ANSWER IS, NO.",

TOWHICH THE INFESTATION-AGGITATOR NODDED HIS AGREEMENT,

AND THE MAN CONTINUED:

"SO, IF WATER CANNOT PRETEND TO BE OTHER THAN WHAT IT IS,

A FAUCET THROUGHTWHICH IT FLOWED COULD NEVER HAVE ANY BASIS FOR  
NO RECOGNIZING IT? -- CORRECT?!", AND THE EXTERMINATOR AGAIN NODDED,

"SO", CONTINUED THE CUSTOMER, "IF SOME FAUCET, SOME WHERE DID HAVE

'FUNNY NOTIONS' ABOUT THE WATER FORWHICH IT WAS AN OUTLET,

THINKING IT TO SOME HOW BE SOMETHING OTHER THAN JUST PLAIN OLD

ORDINARY WATER, INSTANTLY RECOGNIZED AND ACCEPTED AS SUCH

BY ALL OTHER FAUCETS,

WE WOULD HAVE TO SAY THAT THIS MISTAKEN IMPRESSION IS THE SOLE

RESPONSIBILITY OF THAT PARTICULAR FAUCET, AND IN NO WAY WAS CAUSED BY

THE WATER? -- AM I STILL ON THE RIGHT TRACK?", AND THE EXTERMINATOR,

CUM PLUMBING COMMENTATOR CONINUED HIS NODDING WAYS AS THE MAN AGAIN SPOKE.

"SO.", SAID THE MAN AGAIN,

AS HE THOUGHTFULLY RUBBED HIS CHIN:

"SO -- THIS IS ALL YOUR INDIRECT WAY OF TELLING ME THAT EVERYONE WHO WANTS TO RID-THEMSELF IS RUNNING AROUND IN CIRCLES TO BE CONCERNED OVER THE THOUGHTS RUNNING THRU THEM?! -- NO?!", AND THE EXTERMINATOR REPLIED:

"ACTUALLY, MORE THAN THAT:

THEY CHASE AN ILLUSIONARY TAIL ON THEMSELF

TO BE CONCERNED OVER THE MERE FACT THAT THOUGHTS DO FLOW THRU THEM!, NOT CONCERNED ABOUT WHICH TYPE OF THOUGHTS SPECIFICALLY:

NOT CONCERNED WITH THE QUANTITY OR EVEN QUALITY OF THE THOUGHTS:

NOT CONCERNED DIRECTLY OVER THE FREQUENCY WITHWHICH THE THOUGHTS FLOW, OR ABOUT THEIR CHARACTER IN COMPARISON TO OTHER MENS' THOUGHT:

NO, THOSE WHO WANT TO BECOME THEIR OWN EXTERMINATOR & RID-THEMSELF ARE NATURALLY-BORN BOTHERED BY THE MERE NATURAL-BORN CIRCUMSTANCES INWHICH THEY ARE A NATURAL-BORN MEDIUM, OUTLET, AGENCY, AND ALL-AROUND, 'RETAILER' OF THOUGHTS ON LIFE'S BEHALF."

THE MAN-STYLED-CUSTOMER'S EYES BEGAN TO SQUINT IN A DEEPLY STUDIOUS FASHION, BUT THE "PURSUER-OF-THE-UNWANTED' WASN'T THROUGH WITH HIM YET -- AND FURTHER ELABERATED:

"TO TRY AND RID-YOURSELF WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU'RE DOING, THAT IS TO SAY: WITHOUT RECOGNIZING PERCISELY WHAT IT MIGHT BE THAT A MAN MIGHT BE ABLE TO RID HIMSELF OF,

AND REALIZNG EXACTLY WHAT IT IS THAT A MAN CANNOT RID HIMSELF OF:

NOW THAT SOUNDS OBVIOUS ENOUGH AND EASY TO COMPREHEND,

BUT IN ATTEMPTED PRACTICE IT IS, (AS WE SAY IN THE EXTERMINATOR'S TRADE): A BITCH!

WHILE WE STAND HERE TALKING ABOUT THE MATTER,

IT IS EASY ENOUGH TO SAY AND AGREE WITH THE STATEMENT THAT A MAN CANNOT 'RID-HIMSELF', (OR, MAKE 'CHANGES' IN PRESENT CONDITIONS IF YOU PREFER), UNLESS HE KNOWS WHAT THINGS CAN BE CHANGED, AND WHAT THINGS CANNOT BE, BUT THE STICKLER HEREIN IS THAT;

UNCHANGABLE IS THE THING

WANTING CHANGE! --

-- OR PUT EVEN MORE AGGRESSIVELY:

UNCHANGABLE IS THE DESIRE FOR CHANGE IN THE THING THAT IS UNCHANGABLE.",

...AND BY NOW, (TO TURN A PHRASE), THE MAN WAS "SWEATING FRIED POSSUMS", .....

.....

AND THE EXTERMINATOR, APPARENTLY RECOGNIZING THIS,  
PUT HIS ARM AROUND THE MAN'S SHOULDER AS HE GENTLY NUDGED HIM  
TOWARD THE DOOR,  
AND AS THEY SLOWLY WALKED IN THAT DIRECTION,  
"THE SCURGE-OF-SCALES-&-SORES" WHISPERED SOFTLY IN THE MAN'S EAR:  
"LET ME TELL YOU A LITTLE STORY:  
THERE WAS ONCE A FAUCET THAT WAS MANUFACTURED IN THE COLOR RED,  
WHEREAS SUCH FIXTURES ARE NORMALLY NEUTRAL IN COLOR,  
(THAT IS: OF NO DESCERNABLE COLOR....JUST PLAIN & METALIC LOOKING),  
NOW TWO THINGS PARTICULARLY INTERESTING ABOUT THE CIRCUMSTANCES  
INWHICH THIS ALL TOOK PLACE:  
FIRST IS THAT THE RED TINTED FAUCET, HAVING NO MIRROR,  
OR OTHER ABILITY TO SEE ITSELF  
HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF ITS  
ANOMOLISTIC CHARACTERISTIC,  
AND THE OTHER INTRIGUING, PERTINANT ASPECT OF THE TALE IS THAT  
ALL NORMAL, UN-PAINTED FAUCETS,  
NOT BEING EXPECTED TO EVER BEING EXPOSED TO ANY BUT THEIR OWN KIND,  
WERE NOT MANUFACTURED WITH THE CAPACITY TO RECOGNIZE ANY OTHER TINT  
BUT THEIR OWN,  
AND THUS ALL OTHER FAUCETS WERE AS UNAWARE OF THE RED FAUCET'S  
UNUSUAL SHADE AS WAS THE RED FAUCET ITSELF.

...YOU COULD SAY THAT HE WAS:  
"A RARE BREED IN A COMMON HERD,  
WHOSE RARENESS WAS RECOGNIZED BY NONE INVOLVED." -- SO,  
HOW COULD HIS RARENESS BE OF ANY INTEREST?!;  
IF HE WASN'T AWARE OF IT, AND NEITHER WAS ANYONE ELSE,  
WHAT IS TO BE SAID OR THOUGHT ABOUT SUCH A SITUATION  
THAT COULD BE OF ANY SIGNIFICANCE?!",  
AND BY THIS TIME THEY HAD REACHED THE DOOR,  
AND BEFORE THE MAN REALIZED WHAT HAD HAPPENED  
HE WAS OUTSIDE THE EXTERMINATOR'S SHOP,  
AND THE ENTIRE AFFAIR THREATENED TO BECOME A DREAM.

A CONVEYANCE THAT INTERMINGLES ITS CONCEPTION OF ITSELF  
WITH ITS IMPRESSION OF THAT WHICH IT CARRIES  
CANNOT BECOME BUT CONFUSED,  
AND IN BEING SO RADICALLY MISTAKEN AS TO ITS OWN TRUE NATURE  
ANY ATTEMPTS IT MAY UNDERTAKE TO MODIFY ITSELF  
ARE DOOMED FROM THE OUTSET.

EVERYONE ACKNOWLEDGES THAT YOU CAN'T MAKE GABERDINE TROUSERS  
OUT OF POSSUM SKINS.....

.....BUT ANYTHING MORE COMPLEX THAN THAT.....WELL,  
PEOPLE JUST DON'T NORMALLY THINK ABOUT.

AND THERE IS THIS ONE MAN WHO LIVES BY THIS MOTTO:  
" 'TIS BETTER TO CURSE ALL FORMS OF DARKNESS THAN IT IS TO TRY AND LIGHT  
EVEN ONE LITTLE CANDLE  
AMIDST THE UNUSUALLY -- 'WINDY CONDITIONS'  
INWHICH MEN GENERALLY FIND THEMSELVES."

...PERHAPS IT WILL ALL TURN OUT TO BE JUST A DREAM...

...WHO'S TO SAY, "NAY"?! -- CERTAINLY NOT THOSE DREAMING..