

MY NEWS FOR MAY 28, 1999

THERE WAS ONCE A MAN WHO FOUND HIMSELF STOKING THE ENGINE OF A SHIP, AND FOR MANY YEARS HE DID NOT LEAVE THE BOWELS OF THE VESSEL, AND THUS HAD NO NOTIONS OF WHERE IT MIGHT BE HEADED, ALL HE KNEW FOR CERTAIN WAS THAT IT WAS MOVING.

HE COULD HEAR THE VOICES OF PASSENGERS ABOVE AND FROM THEIR WORDS SURMISED THAT THEY DID INDEED HAVE A DESTINATION, (ALTHOUGH IT SEEMED VAGUE AND OPEN TO CONFLICTING OPINIONS).

HE ALSO GAINED THE IMPRESSION THAT THERE WAS A CAPTAIN, PLOTTING THEIR COURSE, ALTHOUGH THE PASSENGERS HAD NEVER SEEN ONE, AND SOME OF THEM BEGAN TO IMAGINE THAT A SUPERNATURAL HAND WAS ON THE WHEEL, WHILE THE REST OF THEM MOSTLY FORGOT ABOUT THE MATTER AND JUST ENJOYED THE VOYAGE:

AND ALTHOUGH THE STOKER WAS ALSO IN THE DARK REGARDING WHERE THEY WERE GOING AND WHO WAS IN CHARGE, HE WOULD DAYDREAM ABOUT EXOTIC PORTS, AND IMAGINE HOW HIS EFFORTS WERE DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE DIRECTION AND SPEED THAT THE UNSEEN CAPTAIN DESIRED.

FINALLY ONE DAY, THE STOKER LEFT HIS POST AND WENT TOP SIDE WHERE HE DISCOVERED THAT NOT ONLY WAS THERE NO CAPTAIN TO BE SEEN, BUT THAT THE PASSENGERS THEMSELVES HAD NOT THE LEAST IDEA WHERE THEY WERE GOING.

AFTER WALKING ABOUT A WHILE, TRYING TO UNDERSTAND WHAT HE HAD FOUND, HE RETURNED TO HIS DUTIES BELOW AND NEVER AGAIN DREAMED ABOUT THE PASSENGERS AND THEIR DREAMS OF WHERE THEY WERE HEADED, NOR DID HE ANY LONGER PAST-THE-TIME IN IMAGINING HOW HIS EFFORTS MIGHT BE RELATED TO THE SHIP'S ACTUAL DESTINATION.

HE BECAME CONTENT JUST DOING WHAT HE WAS BORN TO DO, AND NO LONGER TROUBLED HIMSELF BY THINKING ABOUT "WHAT IT ALL MEANT", AND WHERE IT WAS ALL HEADED IN THAT HE NOW KNEW FOR HIMSELF THAT NO ONE ABOARD KNEW.....AND ...YET, THE SHIP STEAMED SAFELY ONWARD.

ONE MYSTIC LEPT FROM BED ONE MORNING -- IMMEDIATELY TRIPPED AND
 TRUNED HIS ANKLE,
 THEN CUT HIMSELF WHILE SHAVING,
 THEN SPILLED HOT COFFEE ON HIMSELF,
 ALL IN A FRANTIC RUSH TO SIT DOWN AND BEGIN READING THE LATEST
 BOOK HE'D GOTTEN ON ACHIEVING THE AWAKED STATE.

(HE ALSO HAD A CAT NAMED, "ERRONEOUS"
 DUE TO HIS MISGUIDED ATTEMPT TO TURN THE NOUN, "IRONY" INTO AN ADJECTIVE.)

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TO AVOID LOSS: EXPAND YOUR UNDERSTANDING SO AS TO REALIZE
 THE TRIVIALITY OF EVERYTHING.....IN THE RELAM OF THOUGHT:

TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT & EMBARRASSMENT: EXTEND YOUR VISION SUFFICIENT
 TO COMPREHEND THE PETTINESS OF ALL THINGS.....THAT YOU CAN THINK ABOUT.

WHY DO YOU STRUGGLE SO TO ACHIEVE THE END YOU SEEK? --

THE FIELDS ARE ALWAYS FULL OF NECTAR FOR THE BEES
 WITHOUT THEM EXTERING ANY EFFORT,

AND SO TOO IS THE SITUATION WHEREIN A MAN BELIEVES THAT HE
STRUGGLES-FOR ANOTHER STATE OF MIND.

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IF EVEN A MYSTIC STOPS TO THINK ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT HE'S
 SATISFIED WITH HIMSELF,
 HE'LL FIND THAT HE'S NOT..

X X X

THERE WAS ONCE A MAN WHO AT NIGHT WOULD DREAM THAT HE WRESTLED A BEAR,
A FIGHT THAT HE ALWAYS LOST,
AND EVERY MORNING AFTER HE'D AWAKEN, HE'D STILL REMEMBER THE DREAM,
AND HIS DEFEAT BY THE BEAR.

THIS LACK OF SUCCESS IN HIS DREAMED-OF TUSSLE WITH THE BEAST
BEGAN TO TROUBLE HIS MIND, EVEN DURING THE DAY TIME,
AND BECAME SUCH AN ANNOYANCE THAT HE WOULD PLAN,
BEFORE GOING TO BED AT NIGHT,
TO FINALLY DEFEAT THE BEAR IN HIS UPCOMING DREAM,
BUT TO NO AVAIL.

SO THEN HE TRIED THE NEXT OBVIOUS APPROACH: HE ATTEMPTED TO STOP
HAVING THE DREAM -- STILL NO LUCK.

THEN HE TRIED TO JUST STOP REMEMBERING THE DREAM AFTER HE AWOKE,
BUT AGAIN WITHOUT SUCCESS.

IT BECAME A MUCH VEXING PROBLEM TO HIM --

___ BUT HE ULTIMATELY DISCOVERED THE SOLUTION:
HE CHANGED WHAT HE ATE BEFORE BED.

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ONE MAN KEPT LOOKING FOR HIS THOUGHTS TO ENLIGHTENED HIM,
WHEN ALL ALONG HE SHOULD HAVE HAD HIS ATTENTION ELSEWHERE.

BUT THE MAN RETORTED: "BUT HEY, IT'S MY ANKLE THAT TURNED ON ME --
-- NOT MY THOUGHTS....."

WHERE WITHIN ME ARE YOU INSINUATING I SHOULD BE PLACING MY TRUST?!

AND THEN ANOTHER MAN NOTED: "THE MORE WINSOME, METAPHYSICAL POETRY
I WRITE, THE MORE OFTEN DO I TRIP AND BUMP INTO THINGS.",

AND YET ANOTHER MAN SURMISED: "GOD MUST TRULY BE TAKEN BY THOSE
WHO TRY TO ACHIEVE ANOTHER STATE OF MIND
SINCE HE LETS THEM BE SO CUTE AND CLUMSY,
AND PLANTS THAT ----- FAR-AWAY-LOOK IN THEIR EYES."

...AND STILL ANOTHER CHAP NAMED HIS PERSONAL DEMON, "DESTRUCTION",
....THEN SPENT THE NEXT TWENTY YEARS TRYING TO IDENTIFY
PERCISELY "WHAT" WITHIN HIM WAS BEING DISTRACTED.

IF A PERSON'S "SELF", (AS COMMONLY THOUGHT OF),
DOESN'T ACTUALLY EXISTS,
THEN PONDER THIS FOOLISH SIGHT:

A "NOTHING" BEING TAKEN IN BY A NOTHING.

TO AVOID SEVERE HUMILIATION: TURN YOUR EYES TO SEE THAT ALL IS VOID....
....IN THE WORLD OF YOUR DREAMS.

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THE SUPREME SNARE IS THAT EVEN IF YOU DON'T ADOPT SOMEONE ELSE'S
METHOD OF AWAKENING,
YOU'LL DEVELOPE YOUR OWN.

ALL THOUGHT AND TALK REGARDING, "WAKING UP" IS THE METHADONE-TO
THE HEROIN-OF
WANTING TO.

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AFTER A CERTAIN STAGE IN HIS PRIVATE, METAPHYSICAL-EROTIC LIFE,
WHENEVER THIS ONE MAN WOULD LOOK DEEPLY INTO HIS OWN EYES,
AND WHISPER SWEET NOTHINGS REGARDING HIS "WAKING UP",
HE BEGAN TO RESPOND BY SAYING: "LOWER, LOWER.",
APPARENTLY REFERING TO WHERE HE SHOULD BE LOOKING AT HIMSELF. (?!?)

A MAN SAID TO A MYSTIC: "WHENEVER I HEAR YOU SPEAK, I GET CONFUSED:
JUST WHAT IS IT THAT YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT?", AND THE MYSTIC REPLIED:
"NO MATTER WHAT I SAY, I AM ALWAYS APPARENTLY TALKING ABOUT THE MIND --
....WHICH IN POINT OF FACT IS NOT POSSIBLE, SINCE THE MIND CANNOT
TALK ABOUT ITSELF."

ONE MAN SAYS: "LOOKING BACK, BASED ON WHAT I NOW UNDERSTAND,
I AM NOT AT ALL SURE THAT MY INVOLVEMENT IN WANTING TO
CHANGE MY STATE OF MIND BEGAN WHEN I DISCOVERED WRITINGS ABOUT
SUCH THINGS,
BECAUSE FOR AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER I HAVE BEEN DEEPLY DISSATISFIED,
WITH A HIGH DEGREE OF CEASELESS MENTAL AGGITATION,
AND A

.....

BUT I DID NOT FIND THE INJECTION OF A SUPERNATURAL POWER NECESSARY
NOR HELPFUL, BUT I COULD NOT LOCATE ANY OTHER RECORDS OF MEN
WHO PERCEIVED THEMSELVES TO BE IN MY PRESENT STATE OF UNDERSTANDING
AND WITH THE DESIRE TO WORK ON THEIR FEELINGS DIRECTLY
WITHOUT THE UNNEEDED, DISTRACTING INCLUSION OF AN
EXTRASYSTEMIC, DIVINE FORCE.

SO....WHAT WAS I TO DO?!.....

...OBVIOUSLY I WAS LEFT TO PAVE MY OWN WAY.

AND THUS, (I THOUGHT): BEGINS MY GREAT NEW ADVENTURE --

-- WITHIN MY ALREADY ESTABLISHED ONE."