

THE OBSERVER'S NOOK

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Richard Rose at a Harvard Lecture in 1975.

IN THIS ISSUE OF THE “NOOK”:

“A Gimble in a Wabe #4” by James Cornie – Jim continues his awe inspired journey down the rabbit hole to the other side, taking us from the rims of the canyons of Arizona to neutron stars 17,000 light years away. His fellow travelers are certain to reach a deeper understanding of projection and Reality.

“Obstacles to Realizations: Attachment to Religion and Spirituality” by Andrew McMaster –Part Three of the perspective on the esoteric philosophies of Pulyan and Richard Rose delves into the religious and spiritual persona. One of the paradoxes to which the reverse vector must be applied, this article points the way.

Excerpts from the Lectures of Richard Rose – From the lecture “Zen and Death,” we present some of the more eloquent analyses of this American Zen master.

A GIMBLE IN A WABE #4

BY JAMES CORNIE

The Hand of God

I follow the intelligent design vs. evolution arguments with great interest. My sympathy and bias lies with the followers of Darwin and Wallace. When I look into the complimentary Dawkins atheism line, I find myself in intellectual agreement for they agree with the theory of evolution, but I am not satisfied, for lack of a better reason, a “gut” reaction. I am emotionally opposed to pure atheism because I am awed, blown away by the beauty of this plane of existence no matter where, which direction, or what level I look and this esthetic is infused within but goes beyond reasoned science. While pure science and engineering is absolutely necessary for the functioning of our society, the atheist view appears to be devoid of emotion or any sense of the profound¹. I am addicted to awe and I do not have to look far for a fix. This is true whether it is in an electron microscopic with an image of the interstices of matter, mentally grappling with quantum physics, outwardly viewing the cosmos through a NASA observatory, standing on the rim of the Grand Canyon or even more recently, cradling my new grandson in my arms shortly after delivery. It is not that God and emotional wonder are by necessity related but cold reason leaves me... cold. When you consider what it is that is reasoning and examine this gelatinous mechanism with molecular memories, that this imperfect bowl of bio-soup is actually thinking and divining order to the universe... it just gives us more cause to wonder at existence itself and to marvel that this vessel for awe is so ill defined and yet so involved in the process of projection and defining this plane of existence. Cold scientific reasoning is necessary but not sufficient. To paraphrase an analogous expression, “...though I cannot define the word spiritual, I know it when I feel it”.

¹ However as a saving grace, the stimulus for doing science is intensely emotional for us practitioners. My motives when I am attempting to develop a new material are drenched with thrill and excitement even though the scientific method is my primary tool.

The dominion of reason and logic in our society was hard won. We need not look far back into history to see where we could have been drawn and quartered for freely holding scientifically liberal attitudes. Four hundred years ago this summer in 1609, Galileo modified and upgraded to higher magnification a Dutch invented spyglass design and pointed his telescope to the heavens. Galileo was blown away by the mountains and craters of the moon, the rings of Saturn and the moons of Jupiter as he calculated their orbits. Galileo looked into the heavens and like Copernicus before him concluded that Aristotle was wrong, the earth is not the center of the universe; rather the earth orbits the sun and not the other way around. For holding such heretical opinions and not repudiating his observations, Galileo was condemned by the friend of his youth (who later became Pope Urban) and the Holy Inquisition to house arrest for the last ten years of his life and his writings were banned (unsuccessfully). It was only last year that the Church forgave and exonerated Galileo and lifted the sanctions on his writings and teachings. I look into a transmission electron microscope and, in addition to order that matches our theory on a nano scale, I see beauty, the working of the hand of God and a vindication of my life as a devout agnostic. Because of the times, unlike my old friend, Galileo, I am in no danger from the inquisition but do take heed, we would not be far from the tender mercies of the fundamentalists if they should gain dominion.

Even the most conservative biotech exec will scoff at the intelligent design concept because they rely on selective evolution, occasional mutations and gene splicing to create useful life forms for their harvest.

Our ancestors, while tending their flocks, had ample time to look into the heavens where they saw their gods and mythological creatures as they filled in between the dots. The early Greeks discovered a relationship between numbers and the physical world and they intuited the hand of God. I recently received an image from NASA of composite x-ray photographs from the Chandra X-Ray Observatory and presented with such evidence, no self respecting Hebrew goat herder would deny the existence of the hand of God.



“A Young Pulsar Shows its Hand”

“A small, dense object only 12 miles in diameter is responsible for this beautiful X-ray nebula that spans 150 light years. At the center of this image made by NASA's Chandra X-ray Observatory is a very young and powerful pulsar, known as PSR B1509-58. The pulsar is a rapidly spinning neutron star which is spewing energy out into the space around it to create complex and intriguing structures, including one that resembles a large cosmic hand... Astronomers think that B1509 is about 1,700 years old and it is located about 17,000 light years away... Neutron stars are created when massive stars run out of fuel and collapse. B1509 is spinning completely around almost 7 times every second and is releasing energy into its environment at a prodigious rate -- presumably because it has an intense magnetic field at its surface, estimated to be 15 trillion times stronger than the Earth's magnetic field.”

http://www.nasa.gov/multimedia/imagegallery/image_feature_1323.html

Mon, 06 Apr 2009 23:00:00 -0500

NASA is in the business of deciphering the universe and they too get caught in and celebrate the beauty of what they see. This is a young feature in our neighborhood (only 17,000 light years away that was only 1,700 years old when the image was sent to us on a packet of x-rays.) At that time, Neanderthals had just become extinct and were replaced by anatomically modern hominids.

But to give the Devil his due, we can project anything we want into the heavens. If you wish to see the hand of God, look carefully below and you may also find, like the “Holy” Inquisitors, three spiny fingers of Satan.

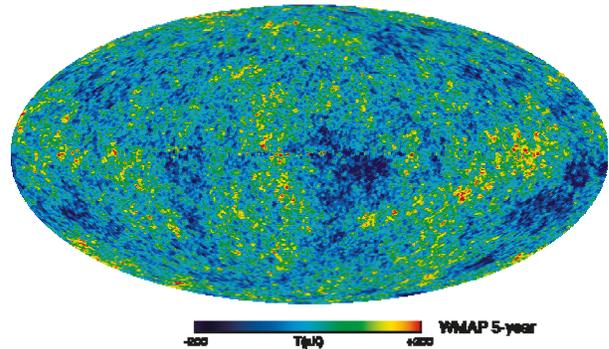


**“Shedding Light on Dark Gamma Ray Bursts
(and the spiny fingers of Satan)”**

Gamma-ray bursts are the universe's biggest explosions, capable of producing so much light that ground-based telescopes easily detect it billions of light-years away. Yet, for more than a decade, astronomers have puzzled over the nature of so-called dark bursts, which produce gamma rays and X-rays but little or no visible light. They make up roughly half of the bursts detected by NASA's Swift satellite since its 2004 launch. Image Credit NASA/Swift/Aurora Simonnet.

Months from the event of the epiphany that I discussed earlier, I find it still working its way through my system and adding dimension and texture. The minor realization I had was grasping, in a view at the US Space and Astronautics museum, the whole panorama of our physical existence from the Big Bang to the snapshot of early microwave radiation 380,000 years after that Great Singularity, to our present position at the leading edge of creation, to our individual participation in this grand creation 13.7 billion years later and finally to where I am projecting my mind right now as I write this to the southeast rim of the Grand Canyon. It is heady stuff and it does not diminish but seems to be continually reinforced simply by the act of living and observing. After all, I now know more surely than I know my name that we are standing at the leading edge of the universe and that we are participants in that creation as future becomes NOW. Being a participant, we can influence the quality of this expansion. Being a participant, we share responsibility for the outcome. Being an active observer, we are

charged with divining its meaning and the definition of Observer.



**“Microwave Image of the Universe, Age
380,000 Years AC²”**

The detailed, all-sky picture of the infant universe from three years of WMAP data. The image reveals 13.7 billion year old temperature fluctuations (shown as color differences) that correspond to the seeds that grew to become the galaxies. The signal from our Galaxy was subtracted using the multi-frequency data. This image shows a temperature range of ± 200 microKelvin.

<http://lambda.gsfc.nasa.gov/product/map/current/mimages.cfm>

In mid June, '09 I found myself delivering papers to back to back conferences, first in Albuquerque, NM and then in Henderson, NV the following week. It was an excellent excuse to take a driving vacation between the two venues. Ruth joined me in Albuquerque after I delivered the first paper and we set out for a trip in a rented car through the Earth's most spectacular scenery. I was educated to the BS level as a geologist before I continued my education to become a metallurgist/materials scientist. It is impossible not to appreciate an area on the earth's surface where its history is so well exposed and developed and amplified by all of the peoples who have passed through and left their enigmatic marks. It is a landscape much loved and sometimes abused by those of us entrusted with it.

² AC= after creation



**Petroglyphs at Canyon De Chelly, June, 2009
“Kokopelli and Friends”**

After visiting images of Kokopelli and examining messages left by the Anasazi, we departed from Canyon De Chelly and drove two hundred and fifty miles to the Southeast rim of the Grand Canyon, arriving the next day. I have been here before but I am now a different person and my experience at the rim reflects that difference.

Without intent or expectation I emptied and opened my mind as we slowly walked along the Permian Kaibab limestone that defines the canyon's rim to an overlook. The structure of the exposed earth slowly unfolded, first around me as if I was floating into a panorama, then opened beneath my feet and I was in awe as I stood at the edge suspended within and a part of the landscape. For a moment or two, I was not aware of any separation or distinction between myself and the panorama that I was experiencing. Tears began to flow and I was weeping at the awesome wonder and beauty of this grand vista. I was not prepared for the emotional impact that this place would have on me.

My experience is not unique. I have heard of similar reactions from the early visitors to more recent ones like myself. The rim of the Grand Canyon qualifies as one of Earth's places of power. A photograph does not do the Grand Canyon justice. One simply has to be there. The impact of that experience/view still resonates within me. I need only to close my eyes and I am there.

I knew in broad terms the geology of the Colorado Plateau. I now go back to my geology

sources for details and note that the Kaibab limestone formation on which we stand formed as an ancient seabed some 250 mm years ago. I look down past the older Redwall Limestone and sandstones to the bottom of the canyon past the 570 mm year old Tonto group to where the Colorado River has exposed Precambrian Vishnu Schist dating to 2,800 mm years ago. In total from edge of the rim, we view formations representing 60% of the age of the earth. My geology sources tell me that this whole sequence of sedimentary formations was uplifted some 4000 to 6000 feet along with the great Rocky Mountains only 5 mm years ago. That is a blink of the cosmological eye. The Colorado River then set to work exposing these great depths to reveal the grandeur that I am now reliving.

I find it ironic that the beauty that we perceive is through a process of erosion, subtraction and not addition. One would need more imagination and inspiration than I now possess to see such grandeur in largely two dimensional Kansas, (which is the epicenter of Creationism and that statement in itself is an example of irony in action). It is no accident that our search for Self is also a stripping away, an attrition process as we subtract from our inner being all that is untrue, leaving only that which is Truth. I have yet to see if that process will yield beauty, but then, we have all been told that Truth is beauty and beauty is Truth. I am addicted to beauty and I suspect that my realization, if it comes, will be accompanied by an awesome, unbearable, terrifying esthetic.

The first serious scientific exploration of depths of the Grand Canyon was by Major John Wesley Powell and a crew with two boats that descended from the Green River in Wyoming down the Colorado River and through the Grand Canyon in 1869. Publications of his journal are great reading and they convey a magnificent adventure story that is reminiscent of the Lewis and Clark Expedition seven decades earlier. Major Powell lost his right arm in the civil war at Shiloh but that did not stop him from brilliantly commanding and describing the features of this new land. It is no accident that the early scholars and explorers were strongly influenced by the New England Transcendentalists who popularized the Upanishads and inspired names like Vishnu for the fundamental schist bedrock of the Grand Canyon and the temple of Shiva for a peak in the canyon landscape that one sees from the South Rim.

In my mind, I look at the layers of rock before me even as I write these words a few weeks from the inspiration. I find geological references to age defining sea shell fossils in any of the limestone and shale formations throughout the canyon. Some of the sandstones are wind-blown dunes and not as bio-prolific but even there an occasional critter gets trapped and preserved. I am amused to find fundamentalist Christian books at the tourist shops on the Rim that point to the creation of the topography within the last 6013³ years, since the creation of earth by the Hebrew/Christian God. I can then tune into the intelligent designer advocates who are a bit embarrassed by their pact with the young Earth fundamentalist and will grant you somewhat more breadth but will insist that all these life forms were created by the hand of God and did not evolve and that the rocks are not really that old and that it was the great biblical flood that created the canyon. I find these people tiresome and they will not go away. Hell, they include my own family of Idaho rednecks that I dearly love.

I am a practitioner of the scientific method. If the facts disagree with my working hypothesis, then there is either something wrong with my working hypothesis or the way I gathered the facts. Outside events can also modify the formulation of the hypothesis. In college, I spent a summer doing geological field work in the foothills of the Pioneer Mountains near Mackay and eastward over the ridge from Sun Valley, Idaho. We mapped abandoned copper mines and nearby geological formations, gathered fossils for later identification and observed the surrounding mountains and valleys for context. We then set a working hypothesis and compared it to the facts on the ground. Back on campus, we compared our findings with the global understanding of the US Geological Survey to see how our facts fit. We did not find anything that would change the overall scheme but we did fill in some blanks.

³ James Ussher (aka Usher) Anglican Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of all Ireland between 1625–1656 calculated the age of Earth based on the Book of Genesis, using the lifetimes of the patriarchs, reigns of kings, etc. He determined that our planet was created 4,004 years before the Birth of Christ, on the 26th of October, at 9 o'clock in the morning. Has anyone proposed a happy birthday to the Universe party on Oct. 26?

However, we were launching Satellites that summer and the years to follow. The early satellite readings of the location of benchmarks in Europe and the North America suggested that they were spreading at rate of few cm per year. What we were hypothesizing as continental drift got renamed Plate Tectonics even before I graduated from college and that explained much of Earth's history and evolution. We are still working it out as the Geological Survey madly reexamined their field data to see how it fit. All scientific theories are tested and compared to newly observed facts. That is the scientific method. However, such events as Mt. St. Helens and Alaskan volcanic eruptions, Tsunamis and earthquakes all fit within the new hypothesis of a dynamic earth. In light of our working hypothesis, a 4000 to 6000 ft. lift of the Colorado Plateau/Great Rocky Mountains 5 mm years ago is now believable and verifiable. Let's do the math. Let the continents bordering the Atlantic Ocean spread 5 cm/year. In 10,000,000 years, the continents will spread approximately 2,500 miles. That would be enough to wrinkle the Rockies and up-fault the Colorado Plateau.

I disagree with creationist theology that is posed as science. I see nothing in their teachings that even resembles science. They start with belief, invent a theory and end with a complex fabrication. However, it appeals to the fundamentalist mind set. The Earth itself is an open textbook for the study of evolution of life forms as well as the evolution of Earth's topography itself.

Even the most conservative biotech exec will scoff at the intelligent design concept because they rely on selective evolution, occasional mutations and gene splicing to create useful life forms for their harvest. The seed merchant will use mutations and gene manipulation to genetically create evolutionary forms of disease resistant or nutrition enhanced grains and the AIDS virus continually mutates to outwit our cures. Entrepreneurial man, working with a tool kit of available genetic material, intelligently designs life forms through selective breeding or active gene splicing with little further help from the hand of God.

Then I sit at the table with the Dawkins and the atheist crew and I find myself equally alienated. Atheism does little to explain the built in wonder and emotional response that I receive when I

view the cavalcade of creation and see the universe being continually created this very instant and physics disappears at the Great Singularity at times less than the Planck time. From the most insignificant spore to a mustard seed to a rat or human embryo, we find ourselves immersed in biological wonder and find that the human embryo is magnificent but no more so than that of a rodent.

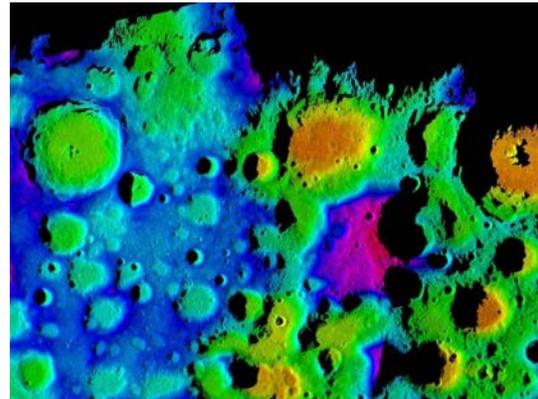
The next day, we proceeded around the north rim and passed through the Painted Desert, Escalante, Vermillion Cliffs and Zion Park where the Kaibab limestone that formed the rim of the Grand Canyon forms the floor of Zion's canyon and I was particularly impressed by the cliffs of frozen Sahara like sand dunes of the 200 million year old Jurassic Navajo sandstone. Zion Park creates its own sense of wonder and exposes the rest of the story of the great Colorado Plateau uplift. I have in mind a future trip to fill in and assimilate the rest of the story of this magnificent geological region of the American southwest.

In our little corner of the universe something aside from the world described by physics took place. Organic molecules in the primordial soup developed a means of reproduction. That small event is just as momentous as the initial act of creation.

It was at an artsy curio shop near Zion that I found my avatar, a four inch high ceramic Trickster Coyote howling at the moon and spreading mischief. He is now on my mantel alongside Ruth's Spirit Bear avatar, who grants her strength and stability. We do not mind incorporating Anasazi, Hopi and Navajo icons into our personal myth structures. I must now rely on the Trickster to keep me from falling into ruts as my age advances and to not take myself so seriously. As the country/western song goes... "I get high on a bottle of rye/ But the little Coyote gets high on the moon./ So who is the biggest damned fool?/ The little Coyote or I."



"My Trickster Coyote with his pal, the Spirit Bear" getting high on the Moon



"The Moon to which My Trickster Coyote Howls": " South Pole of the moon"

This composite image depicts the moon's rugged South Polar Region and is the highest resolution topography map to date of the moon's South Pole. It was generated by scientists at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory; using data collected using the Deep Space Network's Goldstone Solar System Radar located in California's Mojave Desert. This new map provides contiguous topographic detail over a region approximately 311 miles by 249 miles (500 kilometers by 400 kilometers).

One proceeds from Zion to Henderson, NV through Las Vegas and enters a whole new state of mind. One observes huge billboards advertising the availability of assault rifles and sufficient ammo to terrorize a high school to anyone with cash. We pass through a city that has no real reason to exist beyond its service to

the weakness of the human spirit, a city that sucks up most of the precious moisture from the landlocked state of Nevada which, except for the extreme south, has no stream or river exiting to the sea.

At the casino/resort where my conference was held the last two years, I could wander through the sea of slots and gambling machines with hypnotic music and, as in former casino visits, can always find a chain smoking old man or lady in a motorized wheel chair with an oxygen feed to his/her nose, stuffing tokens into the machine as fast as he/she was able. It is a scheme designed to extract wealth from a population of still mobile corpses. It is an industry that tempts our governors and legislators as they look for new sources of revenue to keep our government services funded through this recession, but that is another story and it detracts from the wonder that exists a hundred miles or so to the East.

In our little corner of the universe something aside from the world described by physics took place. Organic molecules in the primordial soup developed a means of reproduction. That small event is just as momentous as the initial act of creation. Carbon based organic molecules in the geothermal caldron developed memory, a way of replicating and passing on its structure so that it can be acted on by the forces of complexity and in great Dawkins-like oversimplification lead to that guy who looks into the heavens through images generated by the Hubble telescope, into a transmission electron microscope to divine the essence of matter or wanders to the rim of the Grand Canyon to marvel at it all.

I see two points for evoking the "Hand of God". The first is in that instant, less than Plank time (the time for a photon to traverse a sub-atomic particle), in which the original Big Bang initiated all existence. The second is the event of matter developing a memory for reproducing itself. "Mystery drenched in wonder" is the most apt description of these two events and I can add little more. The rest of the story I grant to the Dawkins crowd of atheists and allow for physics and random mutations and species survival/evolutional mechanisms to bring us to this point.

This idea can be expanded into volumes. I would recommend a cartoon display at the national museum of natural history in Washington DC where animated molecules randomly merge and divide until something

sticks into a template that starts the process of reproducing itself. It is just a cartoon. I do not know how random events and pairings of a great multitude of molecules can initiate the seed of you or me. But then, I do not know how the universe can be kick started from nothing with all of these laws of physics that keeps it going in the first place. I cannot believe and I cannot disbelieve. I find myself perched on the razor blade of between-ness. I recognize this as another great singularity. I could have watched this cartoon for hours but impatient grandkids need to run and experience their rapture of the relative.

So here I find myself perched between the Dawkins crowd who believe that it is only a matter of time until we find a scientific explanation for existence as well as intelligent life and the fundamentalists who believe that there was the conscious determined hand of a Hebrew/Christian God and he created the universe for us and he created all the critters and he created us as special to have dominion over the earth and all of its life-forms. Oh what a piece of work is Man!



JC, as a young and clueless seeker of life's illusive mysteries

Before we leave this cavalcade of wonders, there was another unfolding event that came to fruition shortly after our return from the southwest. My stepson Ken and his wife Eleni gifted Ruth and I with a new grandson named Wesley James Ryals. (Ruth jokes that he was named after her ex and present husbands). I was handed little WJR about sixteen hours after his emergence from that safe gelatinous space into this hostile oxidizing environment. New beings are a wonder, vastly more so than the South Rim of

the Canyon. For all of my philosophizing about epiphanies and helping to create the new emerging world as we surf the wave of the NOW, this fresh gunkey little being was delivered uncomplaining and trusting into my arms. OK JC! You wax philosophic and poetic about your participation in new creation of the enfolding Universe... Well here is someone to help you shape the future. This little guy and his parents and your wife and his extended family are your partners in creating the new and ever unfolding and evolving NOW...so do not screw it up!



“WJR, the new master of the universe being tempted to depart the embrace of the Absolute for the rapture of the relative” (the relative must win for a while)

As usual, praise and scathe are equally accepted at jcornie@mmccinc.com.

All wonderful articles... All of them. Funny thing is that I (for one) recognize the "symptoms" that the others have gone through... It's like a common thread that binds us all together.

--Philip W.

OBSTACLES TO REALIZATION: ATTACHMENT TO RELIGION AND SPIRITUALITY

BY ANDREW MCMASTER

The Religious and/or Spiritual personas are necessary stops on the return trip up the Vector to the Source. The problem is that most “seekers” believe that this is the end of the trip. The good feelings or peak experiences lead the searcher for Truth to believe that he or she has already arrived, and they stay where they are and bask in the glory. As Nisargadatta Maharaj explains, this is like mistaking the dawn for the noon day sun. These personas are still just that – personas - and so by definition are dualistic and false.

Both personas are maintained by the accumulation of concepts and beliefs. The Religious persona, however, is based on a dualistic belief in a Supreme Being. This being is, for the most part in modern times, a cosmic Santa Claus. This Being is responsible for all that is good or bad and is the source of “magical thinking” in the “minds” of believers. “He” (in most cases this Being is male – again a dualistic notion), like Santa Claus, keeps a list of who is naughty or nice and appropriately rewards or punishes the believers. This persona is based in the attachment to body and mind. The mind or ego wants to live forever. The magical being can provide this longevity.

According to Mr. Pulyan (see the first article in this series for information on Alfred Pulyan and his correspondence with Mister Rose), when the believer becomes dissatisfied with his or her religion, or even just life in general, seeking for “something else” begins. When this happens the Spiritual Persona is born. The seeker begins the search for the Divine or the Truth. He or she is no longer bound by belief in a magical being. Here the ego or mind has to be creative to stay in charge. Ego₂ is born.

Mister Pulyan called the spiritual persona, Ego₂. Ego₂ is personified in the statement, “I am spiritual.” As we already know, any time there is a direct object or adjective after the statement, “I

Am” duality and delusion are present. The spiritual “teacher’ and systems have their own dualistic concepts. Wearing robes, shaved heads, burning incense, wearing beads, vegetarianism, and the list goes on, are prescribed by the so-called spiritual teacher as means for obtaining the Truth. These practices in and of themselves are not bad. Only when they are prescribed as a means of obtaining that which cannot be obtained do they become delusive.

The Religious and Spiritual personas are also dualistic in that they generate the illegitimate child of dualism – hierarchy. There are teachers and preachers as opposed to students or congregants. A feeling of superiority is generated by strict adherence to the dogma and rites. This feeling of superiority leads to the dogmatic super Christian or super Buddhist or super Meditation student, etc. All these are manifestations of Ego₂.

Mister Pulyan wrote to Mister Rose: **“The process is to UNLEARN not to “learn” & finally you finish up ‘knowing’ nothing.”** This is perhaps his most important statement. Mister Rose taught us to discard all that is false, to be exceedingly faithful to the true, and with a little bit of grace we might become the Truth. The return up the Vector cannot be accomplished by the accumulation of more concepts and beliefs, or the delusive defense of false personas. Be wary of “teachers” who are more concerned with money, authority, dogma, rites, and the addition of concepts. These charlatans sell bottled water by the river. The Infinite cannot be conceptualized or taught. It cannot be grasped by the mind. It can only be pointed to by those who have Realized. The Realized seek nothing, need nothing, and want nothing for they are Everything and Nothing.

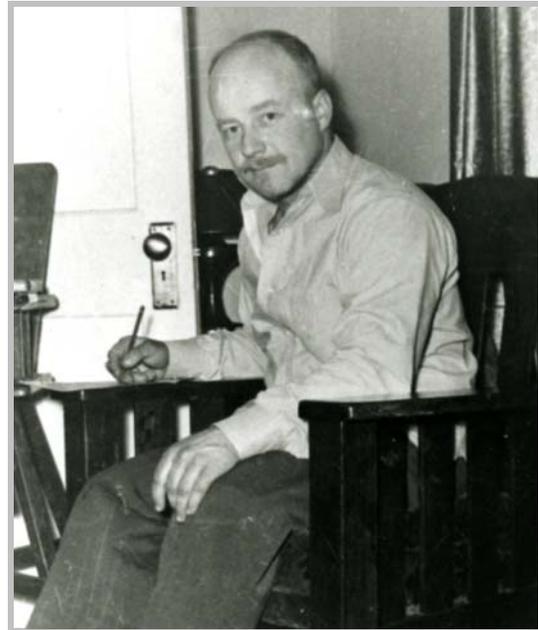
Follow and contemplate the pointers of the truly Realized and then discard even them, for when the destination is reached, the road map is no longer needed.

The next article will describe explore some more useful “pointers”.

Mac is meeting with several fellow seekers in the St. Louis area. For further information you may write to him directly at tsaochi333@sbcglobal.net

Thanks for your e-mail. I'm very happy I learned about Mr. Rose's teachings, and that I found your web site. I already ordered a number of Mr. Rose's books, so I thought I'd branch out and get a few by others that he recommended.

*Sincerely,
Ken J.*



EXCERPTS FROM THE LECTURES OF RICHARD ROSE

The following selected excerpts are taken from a lecture given in Washington, D.C. in September of 1977 entitled “Zen and Death.” The lecture, in its entirety, is available as a double CD from Rose Publications.

“....**T**he spiritual evolvment of peoples requires a large base of people who are not evolved. So that for every person who reaches the maximum spiritual experience, there are probably a million people who are in what we call the instinctive stages yet. For every millionaire there are a million people who never

make it, down in the working class so to speak. Whenever human effort is involved, there's a pyramid, there's a triangular effect.

...So we picked up the name Pyramid Zen from the Kent group, and for the sake of printing materials we unified the name, to make it the same for all the universities....Then along came the pyramids – the people who were sharpening razor blades and preserving bits of meat and this sort of thing, and people came to lectures thinking that we had a new form of Zen whereby you probably meditated and got Satori in a pyramid. I don't know what they expected, but there were a lot of disappointed people....I have been seriously thinking of advising all of the groups to drop the name, and just call it an Esoteric Study Group. Because Zen is not the only door to realization. Every man has his own door, if he can find it. Sometimes he can be stimulated by a philosophy or an esoteric religion, but every man can find his God within him if he wants to really dig hard enough.

The talk tonight is on Zen and its relation to death and the after-death experiences. Of course, the first thing we should start off with is the idea of what is Zen. I think there's a lot of misunderstanding about what Zen really was, when you get to digging into some of the old writings of some of the old masters....I don't think it was ever intended to be something with a formula that you could get out of a book, and all you had to do was ring little bells or practice koans. I think there has been a lot of emphasis put upon setting something up that is easy and yet impossible. Anybody can get a koan and play with it for years, and in that respect it's impossible to find a solution to it, unless the solution is saying, 'Well I'm through with it, it's just nonsense,' and then the master says, 'Now you've got it!'

...I wonder if we all have the same conception of what death is. I think some people believe that there's nothing but a cellular death. This is the materialistic medical viewpoint, that that's all there is, and it's also the materialistic psychological definition. That when the cell dies you're dead – three flat readings on the EEG.

And is there an existence beyond this? This is the big question that every entity, human or animal, wants to know. Even the animals are afraid of dying. They seem to show by their actions that what's happening to them that could

kill them is not good, so they must be a little apprehensive about it. And yet we have a lot of either folklore or literature that signifies that something does happen to us after death.

...Zen doesn't start out to get into the business of death, whereas many other movements do....The accent was really put on what I consider the basic fear, where Zen doesn't take into account the fear. We'll get into that later, when we realize that true Zen thinking discounts fear. It has to do away with fear because that is a thought-deterrent. You have to rid yourself of it before you can find any real truth. So whenever you're engaged in a religious movement in which the fear of death is the cause of your search, you have to give that up, because it's going to color your thinking.

...So how do we bring about a rationalization, then, that Zen does something for the after-death experience? It does so in the regard that if you find out the answer, then the after-death experience is part of the answer, that's all.

...Zen is basically self-definition. Because with the knowledge of the self you will also understand the origin and the limits of the self - the destiny, that is, of the self.

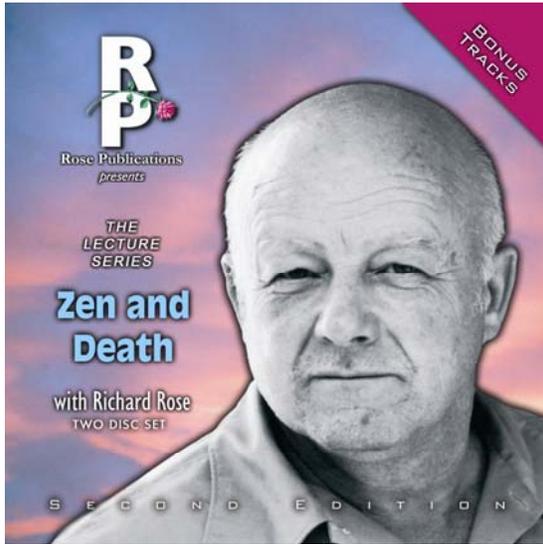
...Now, I've got a little system and you may be interested in taking a note of it, on the province of religion or religious philosophy: how you can check the different movements for their ability to successfully answer the questions of man. Meaning that if they can answer the questions, they must have done some successful research; they must know something, before they started preaching.

The reason I'm doing this is not to rap somebody else because everything is in its proper place. Every religion is necessary or it wouldn't be there...I just presume there's a percentage of people who are always interested in maybe one other step. And for the people on certain steps I hold all respect; that step is necessary and it's there.

But let's evaluate a little bit. What do the different religions do for us? What do we want? In this business of answering questions we want to know: Who are we? (the nature of man); Why are we here?; (Is there) Life after Death?; (What is) The relation of Man to Nature and the visible universe?; (What is) The Relation of Man to the

Absolute....Basically the whole problem of theology boils down to three major points: Who are you? Where did you come from? Where are you going?

(To be continued)



“Zen and Death”, plus bonus tracks, is available on CD at:
http://www.richardroseteachings.com/products_audio.html

I just had to tell you what a great pleasure it is for me to re-read Richard Rose's book --I have been seeking for over 65 years now and I don't know if I am any closer than when I started--what I do know for sure is what a great man he was--he really is what it is all about --his writings keep me headed in the right direction--thank you for keeping alive what he was trying to convey--warmest regards

—Fred C.

I appreciate receiving your newsletters. I especially found Al's piece in the January edition to be, for lack of a better way to put it, comforting.

Thanks again!

--Brian H.

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Also, we welcome your submissions to the Newsletter.

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