

THE OBSERVER'S NOOK

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RESPONSE FROM A READER

Welcome to the Richard Rose Teachings Newsletter

LAST YEAR IN JERUSALEM

BY PHILIP WINESTONE

From the first there is nothing. –Hui Neng

Leshana habah b’yerushalayim! For about two thousand years, each Passover our ancestors have uttered this sentence. It means “Next year in Jerusalem!” and it signifies the importance of this city to the Jews from the time, not only of King David, but of the first Patriarch himself: Abraham. So last year became our next year.

It was with great excitement and anticipation that we entered the “greater Jerusalem area” in our tour bus. It’s a city not unlike any other; outskirts, houses, schools, hospitals, hotels – all the usual city stuff. We arrived at the hotel in the evening and decided to stay put until the following morning when the tour would start....

The bus took us to the edge of what’s called “the Old City” – a smallish walled-in area densely packed with

every conceivable type of building: churches, mosques, etc. It’s also called The City of David, for it was King David who conquered it around 1000BC and made it the centre of Judaism. It was his son Solomon who built the first temple there some years later; the temple which enshrined the legendary Ark of the Covenant, recaptured from the Philistines by David, and which had been built by Moses during the period in the Wilderness after the Exodus, around 1500BC.

One thing about Israel in general, and Jerusalem in particular: history abounds. There are literally layers of historical buildings buried everywhere, and since around 1962 many of them have been unearthed and researched by a variety of archeological teams. So we were able to see, during our stay, the constructs of Herod (during the Roman times) as well as some of the less grand constructs (which were also interesting). And there’s lots more lying well below the surface. You see, apparently Abraham himself headed for the city – which wasn’t called Jerusalem at that time – after he left his father’s household in Mesopotamia. So it seems that for whatever reason, the city was something of a magnet, small as it was before the time of David and Solomon.

Of course no discussion of Jerusalem would be complete without reference to the (second) Temple, whose ruins are now accessible to the world. When one stands in the Temple area, one is literally “at the centre” of Judaism. There are no “fairy stories” surrounding the Temple; it was, it has been said, one of the three fundamentals of Judaism: God, the Torah, and the Temple. Three times a year, the people living afar were instructed to travel to Jerusalem to visit and pray at the Temple. These festivals were called the three “Pilgrim Festivals,” one of which was Passover.

So much for history and my obviously scant knowledge of it; this writer is by no means a historian, although I must admit that much of what remains unpublished about the land, including Jerusalem is often both very interesting and very surprising....

So where does this leave us? Well, naturally it leaves us with the above quote from Hui Neng. During our entire episode in Jerusalem, a “background sound” was always in my mind; if this is a “dream,” and if, as Hui Neng says, it is nothing - never has been - why has it all taken such a strong hold. I have visions of today’s self-proclaimed keepers of the Temple area – the “Haredim” – highly orthodox men dressed in rather odd black garb who stridently assume that theirs is the only “way”. Way to what? Well I don’t really know. And truth be told, I’m not sure they themselves really know. They have set up little enclaves in different areas of the Temple grounds, including the cavern-like areas surrounding the main Temple area. There one can see bookcases packed with the various commentaries on the Torah: the Talmud, the Mishna....All stuff whose names I remember from my boyhood, when my very sincere and devout teacher attempted to pump me full of just a mere fraction of the content of these books.

What does this content consist of, you ask? Well, it’s essentially an enormous treatise on how to live one’s life in a moral – almost spiritual – way. I say “almost” spiritual, because as many of us reading this page understand, the word “spiritual” in its truest sense is not easily defined. Back to Hui Neng as usual.

But first to the history books. Jerusalem ended up being utterly destroyed by the Romans. A short time before, the best fighters in the land assembled in the city ready to fight the occupying Romans, and ultimately spent their time killing each other. I’m not sure why, but it seems likely that it was because of

“religious differences”. At any rate, by the time the formidable Roman legions arrived, the city was primed for destruction, as there were considerably less high caliber fighters available to take them on. After the destruction, the Romans banished the remaining Jews from that area, and renamed it “Palestrina,” after the Jews’ mortal enemy, the Philistines from whom David captured the land, including the city. A little Roman salt added to the wound.

Then there were centuries – about 18 of them - of neglect, punctuated by other religiously motivated bloodbaths, as the city gradually buried itself, as neglected cities do, and ended up being a giant archeological dig.

So with all this sad history, much of the death and destruction having been caused by “religious differences,” it was difficult to view the city, from my own standpoint, with the emotional breathlessness that overcomes some – in fact, many – of my fellow Jews. Not that there’s anything wrong with being emotional, considering that the city has always been viewed as the source of one’s people’s overall inspiration, but when one considers that what we see is a giant illusion – a giant dream if you like – then one can only stand back and view it as... well what? I don’t have a nice, compact answer. In fact, I don’t have any answer....

What I do know is that my part in this dream is to have been born a Jew, or a Hebrew, or an Israelite, and that for this reason I must – according to the “script” of this dream - appear to buy into all the feelings that a loyal member of such a people must buy into. In the Bhagavad Gita, Arjuna, the Pandava prince, surveyed the upcoming battle scenario at the field of Kurukshetra, and pleaded with Krishna to be able to avoid killing his greatest spiritual mentors who were fighting against him; fighting for the Kauravas – the “bad guys”. In other words, these men, full of wisdom, were simply being loyal to their earthly rulers; this was their “dharma” – their earthly duty. Of course Krishna saw through it all and assured Arjuna that it was essentially none of his business; that these great people were “already dead”. Just another part of the Dream.

This “dharma” – one’s role in life, is always difficult to fulfill; it’s never an easy path, and in its ultimate fulfillment, it is sometimes a self-sacrificial role: The child being saved from death or injury by its mother; the father battling those who would harm his family; the cousin offering moral support to his fellow-cousin, even if he has done wrong. Difficult stuff.

And more often than not, the viewing of this role by others – those who knowingly or unknowingly have their own dharmas to fulfill - is the target of ill-informed and superficial judgments. We all do it.

So Jerusalem signifies, in a manner of speaking, part of my own dharma. As does Israel itself.

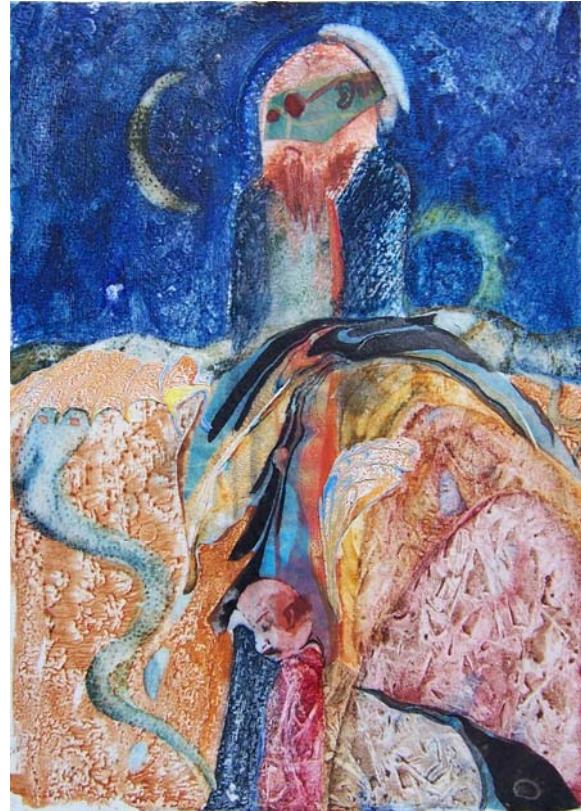
As I stand in the sun-drenched vastness of the great square which is what remains of the temple, my thoughts move from the particular, Jerusalem, to the general, Judaism itself.... What is its significance to Judaism? What does it all mean? It is said that Abraham travelled to Mount Moriah in Jerusalem to do God's bidding: to sacrifice his only son Isaac.... Later, King David built his sanctuary there, after which his father built the first Temple.

What was it about Abraham, the originator of it all? Here was a man – just an ordinary man – who apparently had a quality far different from those around him, including all the others in his father's household. His act of leaving this household must have been quite revolutionary in those days, but this he did at the command of God, and from what we read, he remained just an ordinary guy until his death; no miracles, no tablets of stone....Nothing special.

Which of course, leads me to Richard Rose; just an “ordinary guy”. It was this apparent ordinariness that strongly attracted me to him and his teachings when I first discovered him; no long robes, no vast claims, no miracles.... And of course since discovering him, I have discovered a few others with that same very unusual characteristic: ordinariness.

I understand that we humans love the extraordinary: parting the Red Sea, making wine from water, healing the sick, making the earth open up to swallow evil people.... All great stuff; the stuff of stories, myths, and movies. But after these events, what next? I mean it always seems to result in people trying to convince others that “their guy” definitely out-miracled all the previous miracle-makers.... Competitive miracle-making.

But let someone (somehow) go on TV and proclaim, “I am nothing; I have done nothing; I will always do nothing. I have no claim to any form of spiritual knowledge.... But you may want to stick around to hear what I have to say about the beauty of all this nothing stuff....” What do you think will happen?



“Search for Meaning,” mixed media watercolor/collage by Cecy Rose.

Next morning there will be a rush of people buying replacements for their TV remote controls. Wanted to get away from this guy as quickly as possible; pushed the channel buttons a little too violently....

It is said that God resides (or resided) in the Temple in Jerusalem. In fact there used to be a certain covered area – the “Holy of Holies” – wherein the Ark of the Covenant resided, and that is said to have been the exact spot.

And yet He spoke to Abraham without such trappings....

As I stood at the centre of it all, I saw lots of “ordinary people” walking up to the main wall to pray... or just to stand and reflect....

“Miraculous deeds and acts of wonder,

I carry water, I gather kindling.” [Ho Koji]

A GIMBLE IN A WABE

THE ORIGIN OF CONSCIOUSNESS: SOME HISTORICAL SPECULATIONS AND CURRENT CONSEQUENCES

BY JAMES CORNIE

In the beginning....

I have no idea of where or when consciousness first arose but we get some glimmer of its depth of perception from the Chauvet Cave¹ in southern France where some school of souls, possessing deep sensitivity to the animals that co-inhabited their sub-glacial environment, created magnificent cave drawings. These drawings date to some 32,000 years ago, 25,000 years prior to the first pictographic writing and 29,000 years before the *Iliad*. These cave drawings, a small sample shown here, were taken from Werner Herzog's excellent documentary "Cave of Forgotten Dreams". They show a deep connection to their fellow animals, on whose existence they depended. There is evident consciousness here but we have no idea how to describe it. We can only document and record their results and gasp at the beauty and mystery of their creations. A contemporary artist could do no better.

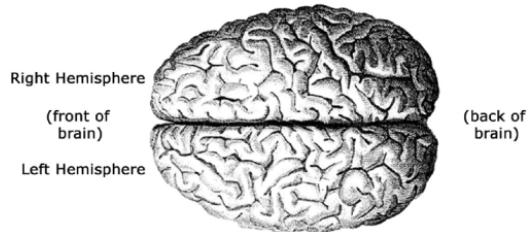


This article is an exploration into human self-consciousness, how it arose and its current

¹The cave was first explored on December 18, 1994 by a group of three speleologists: Eliette Brunel-Deschamps, Christian Hillaire, and Jean-Marie Chauvet, for whom it was named.

manifestations. This article is also an extension of my earlier discussion of Jill Taylor's experience² in an earlier edition of this series. In that article, I discussed how her left brain stroke forced her to retreat into the creative "God hemisphere of the right" while she reassembled and healed and perhaps experienced Nirvana. This was a profound experience for her and was shared in her book and web site video referenced below³. Dr. Taylor gives an excellent description of the anatomy and function of each hemisphere of the human brain. Her experience was a catalyst for driving me deeper into an exploration of consciousness, first back to the *Psychology of the Observer* and then to Julian Jaynes' book on the origin of consciousness. In this chapter of *A Gimble in a Wabe*, I share my personal and idiosyncratic search for how we came to think the way we do. While doing so, I will be musing on the formation and development of the western monotheistic religions group-think, talking points, and dog whistle nature of our current public discourse as related to Julian Jaynes' bicameral mind hypothesis⁴.

WHOLE HUMAN BRAIN CEREBRAL CORTEX



I first read Jaynes' book, *Origin of Consciousness in the Breakdown of the Bicameral Mind*, back in the late 70's when it was freshly published but I was unable to give it the attention it deserved at that time. I have just finished a more in-depth study of this book. This article is an attempt to explore Jaynes' theory of self-consciousness, how it arose in history, what thought patterns it replaced and how remnants of pre-self-conscious bicameral thought patterns persist to this day.

Jaynes tells us what self-consciousness **is not:**

- *It is not to be confused with reactivity*

²Jill B. Taylor; My Stroke of Insight: A Brain Scientist's Personal Journey, 2006. Illustration is from her book.

³http://www.ted.com/talks/jill_bolte_taylor_s_powerful_stroke_of_insight.html. Please review this video for her description of her experience and the functioning of each hemisphere of the bicameral mind.

⁴ Julian Jaynes; The Origin of Consciousness in the Breakdown of the Bicameral Mind, 1976, Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston.

- *It is not involved in hosts of perceptual phenomena*
- *It is not in the performance of skills and often hinders their execution. (Such as sports or playing an instrument)*
- *It need not be involved in speaking, writing, listening, or reading*
- *It does not copy down experience, as most people think*
- *Consciousness is not at all involved in signal learning, and need not be involved in the learning of skills or solutions, which can go on without any consciousness whatsoever*
- *It is not necessary for making judgments or in simple thinking*
- *It is not the seat of reason, and indeed some of the most difficult instances of creative reasoning go on without any attending consciousness.*
- *And...it has no (somatic) location except an imaginary one!*

In other words, you do not need self-consciousness to exist in civilized society. Hence, consciousness and thought seems to be not needed for the sustainment of the bio-machine. Rather, self consciousness is a meta-property of the physical being, of the somatic mind. However, it is something that we can be much more aware of than our internal bodily functions. Jaynes shows that we can develop a civilization and even a written language for accounting, bookkeeping and inventory without necessarily possessing introspective self-consciousness.⁵

Jaynes was fully aware of the twin nature of the human brain and did extensive study of the hallucinations of schizophrenic patients who speak in voices apparently not their own. I quote from neural anatomy and psychiatric literature: “*Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) brain scans during episodes of hallucinations show that the right hemisphere is highly active. The right hemisphere is associated with emotions and connections among the set of perceptions brought in through the sensory organs. It is thought to “make sense” of the surroundings by interpreting multiple sensory input. It is thought that during an episode, the schizophrenic individual may be trying to interpret and process what is being said by the voice in his head.”*⁶

⁵However, a written language aids in the development of self-consciousness.

⁶S. S. Shergill, M. J. Brammer, S. C. R. Williams, R. M. Murray, P. K. McGuire, Arch. Gen. Psychiatry 57, 1033-1038 (2000).

Jaynes studied historical writings and noted a change in style between the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey* as well as between the books of Amos and Ecclesiastes that reflected a profound change in consciousness that became recognizable from his psychological studies of patients suffering from schizophrenia and their hallucinations. Julian Jaynes’ book is a scholarly/academic, well researched and referenced body of work that encompasses the entire breadth of recorded history. Indeed, it is his life’s work and signal achievement. Jaynes posits that before the second millennium BCE, the right hemisphere of our brain gave a continuous stream of audible messages and instructions as from what our ancestors perceived to be from the gods. He posited that the general bicameral paradigm had four aspects: 1) Collective cognitive imperative, 2) Induction, 3) Trance, 4) Archaic authorization. To put it simply -- man, as he was developing an orderly civilization, was directed by hallucinations emanating from the right hemisphere of an individual or some person of authority, (i.e. priest, oracle, seer, god-king). Others who did not have the clarity of vision would either share in the vision or give authority to the high priest or god king and obey the instructions from on high. Many of the instructions from the visions were mundane; when to plant, when to harvest, where to store, who to mate with, how much taxes to pay, etc. Others might involve war or sacrifice.

This bicameral emanation was from the right hemisphere and articulated through the left. This is the same hemisphere that Jill Taylor retreated into after her language and thought centers in her left hemisphere were damaged by a stroke. The right hemisphere operates in the moment but as any creative individual will testify, carries an authority that seems to come from outside of one’s self. The right hemisphere deals with feelings, associations, atmospherics, pattern recognition, facial expressions, the big picture and meaning as operative in this moment. It is the integrator of all sensory input. By contrast, the left hemisphere has a sense of time, sequence of events, language and is good at narrative, inventory, accounting, mathematics, and on the surface, rational self-conscious thought. In early civilization, right hemisphere activities took the form of hallucinated and mostly audible messages, either from a personal source or from an authority in the form of the head hallucinatory priest, king, oracle or prophet from the communal god(s). In most early cultures, the hallucinations were projected onto icons, statues or embalmed bodies of deceased kings (or even a burning bush). In the beginning, they were shared hallucinations among the group, tribe or city state. This concept will change forever the way you

view the ancient Egyptian writings and tomb artifacts that have survived for our scrutiny. This concept seems compatible with the iconography of early civilizations and the many gods of the early Greeks, each specializing in a particular aspect of life.⁷

Jaynes relies heavily on the different language expressed in the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*. The former displaying almost no hint of self-consciousness, the latter derived from an inner awareness of self as distinguished from the god-voice of the right hemisphere. I can do no better than to quote Wikipedia: “...Jaynes uses the *Iliad* as major supporting evidence for his theory of Bicameralism, which posits that until about the time described in the *Iliad*, humans had a much different mentality than they have now, essentially lacking in what we call self-consciousness. He suggests that humans heard and obeyed commands from what they identified as gods, until the change in human mentality that incorporated the motivating force into the conscious self. He points out that almost every action in the *Iliad* is directed, caused, or influenced by a god, and that earlier translations show an astonishing lack of words suggesting thought, planning, or introspection. Those that do appear, he argues, are misinterpretations made by translators imposing a modern mentality on the characters....”

Homer probably did not write the *Iliad*. He may have had a hand in compiling it from the aoidoi:⁸ priest and transmitters of the oral tradition. The aoidoi singers of the trials and feats of the gods were probably the incubators of theater. Much was changed over the generations from Troy to Homer’s transcriptions of the songs of the aoidoi. Never-the-less, it was eventually recorded on stone, embossed in clay tablets, inscribed on hides and eventually on papyrus. I offer a few lines of the earlier (bicameral) *Iliad* and the later nascent self-conscious Odysseus as he starts his ten year mythical retreat from Troy (i.e. the *Odyssey*) to his home in Ithaca (~1180 BCE). His return is a rending of the heart with much impedance and little guidance from the gods. Odysseus had to rely on his inner resources which are emblematic of the breakdown. Note that Odysseus still gives credit and blame to the gods. His self-consciousness is indeed at that point of transition from bicameral.

Iliad example:

“Anger be now your song, immortal one,
Akhilleus⁹ anger, doomed and ruinous,
that caused the Akhaians loss on bitter loss
and crowded brave souls into the under gloom,
leaving so many dead men--carrion
for dogs and birds; and the will of Zeus was
done.
Begin it when the two men first contending
broke with one another--
the Lord Marshal Agamémnon, Atreus' son, and
Prince Akhilleus.

Among the gods, who brought this quarrel on?
The son of Zeus by Léto. Agamémnon
angered him, so he made a burning wind
of plague rise in the army: rank and file
sickened and died for the ill their chief had done
in despising a man of prayer....”

Odyssey example:

“Sing to me of the man, Muse, the man of twists
and turns
driven time and again off course, once he had
plundered
the hallowed heights of Troy.
Many cities of men he saw and learned their
minds,
many pains he suffered, heartsick on the open
sea,
fighting to save his life and bring his comrades
home.
But he could not save them from disaster, hard as
he strove--
the recklessness of their own ways destroyed
them all,
the blind fools, they devoured the cattle of the
Sun
and the Sun god blotted out the day of their
return.
Launch out on his story, Muse, daughter of Zeus,
start from where you will--sing for our time too.”

Jaynes also directs us to the book of Amos and in contrast, to the book of Ecclesiastes. The former is a rant full of the wrath of god as delivered by the Hebrew prophet and the latter is perhaps the most self-aware and beautiful language in the bible, perhaps in all of literature. Examples of each are as follows:

Amos (circa ~ 600-800 BCE):

*Amos 2:4, "This is what the LORD says: 'For
three sins of Judah, even for four, I will not turn*

⁷ Zeus over power, Mars over war, Poseidon over the sea, Apollo over reason, Dionysius over ecstasy, wine, feasting and partying, Aphrodite over sexual love and Demeter over fertility.

⁸ Aoidoi: Ancient Greek for Bards, Poets and Masters of song, transmitters of stories and early history

⁹ i.e. "Achilles"

back [my wrath]. Because they have rejected the law of the LORD and have not kept his decrees, because they have been led astray by false gods, the gods their ancestors followed."

Amos 3:7, "Surely the Sovereign LORD does nothing without revealing His plan to His servants the prophets."

Amos 9:14, "I will bring back my exiled people Israel; they will rebuild the ruined cities and live in them. They will plant vineyards and drink their wine; they will make gardens and eat their fruit."

Ecclesiastes.(Circa~200 BCE):

All Is Vanity

The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem. Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all is vanity. What profit hath a man of all his labor which he taketh under the sun? One generation passeth away, and another generation cometh: but the earth abideth for ever. The sun also ariseth, and the sun goeth down, and hasteth to his place where he arose. The wind goeth toward the south, and turneth about unto the north; it whirleth about continually, and the wind returneth again according to his circuits. All the rivers run into the sea; yet the sea is not full: unto the place from whence the rivers come, thither they return again. All things are full of labor; man cannot utter it: the eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing. The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun. Is there anything whereof it may be said, See, this is new? It hath been already of old time, which was before us. There is no remembrance of former things; neither shall there be any remembrance of things that are to come with those that shall come after.

The Experience of the Preacher

I the Preacher was king over Israel in Jerusalem. And I gave my heart to seek and search out by wisdom concerning all things that are done under heaven: this sore travail hath God given to the sons of man to be exercised therewith. I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and, behold, all is vanity and vexation of spirit. That which is crooked cannot be made straight: and that which is wanting cannot be numbered. I communed with mine own heart, saying, Lo, I am come to great estate, and have gotten more wisdom than all

they that have been before me in Jerusalem: yea, my heart had great experience of wisdom and knowledge. And I gave my heart to know wisdom, and to know madness and folly: I perceived that this also is vexation of spirit. For in much wisdom is much grief: and he that increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrow.

The difference in tone between the prophetic rant of Amos and the soulful lament of the son of David is profound and is part of the case Jaynes makes for a breakdown of the bicameral mind between the two. (However, I have heard the tone of Amos repeated by evangelical itinerate preachers and holy rollers from my youth.)

Crises from outside as a cause of the breakdown of the bicameral mind:



Jaynes states that between the two modes of consciousness, i.e. god consciousness and self-consciousness was an upheaval, a civilization-wide disaster. For the Eastern Mediterranean, Mesopotamian and Egypt, that event was a volcanic eruption and explosion at Santorini, aka Thera to the ancient Greeks, just north of Crete sometime between 1600 and 1650 BCE. Accompanying the volcanic explosion was an extensive climate changing ash plume (14 cubic miles, several times greater than Krakatau and the greatest eruption in the last 10,000 years) and a gigantic tsunami greater than the Japanese Tsunami that we recently witnessed via television reporting (perhaps as high as 200 ft on the surrounding eastern Mediterranean coastline). The combination of tsunami and ash severely disrupted or wiped out all Aegean and Eastern Mediterranean trading and coastal settlements.

Ruth and I visited Santorini (*Thera to the ancient Greeks*) last fall. Evidence of the eruption is obvious



even to the untrained eye.¹⁰ This geo-tectonic event essentially wiped out organized civilization in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Aegean. This eruption, to some accounts, gives body to the legend of the lost continent of Atlantis.¹¹ The civilizations and communities that were ruled by the god hallucinations of their selves or god kings were disrupted and individuals were forced to fend for themselves. This displacement of the comforting god consciousness and forced individual innovation is then the start of the transition to modern consciousness. The Thera eruption nucleated the beginning of the breakdown of god consciousness through the displacement of peoples and the subsequent wars as they moved onto the territory of more settled and less innovative people who were, in turn forced to on-the-spot innovation in resisting the pressure of invaders.



It is easy to imagine a domino effect. The displacement of the bicameral kingdoms would take a few hundred years for local civilizations disrupted by

¹⁰The Bicameral mind is much in evidence in the art and treasures of the museums of Thera/Santorini. Reading Jaynes gives it a new context for me as I project myself back to the view of those artifacts and works of art on display.

¹¹Recent findings in the West Mediterranean indicate another potential candidate site for Atlantis off the coast of Spain.

invasions to succumb to the creativity, greed, coveting and the forced innovation that accompanies self-consciousness.¹² The Trojan War could have been one of the consequences of this cataclysmic disruption of civilization.

There were other bicameral civilizations. The ancient Hebrew writings document the same transition in that culture a little later as we saw from the Amos and Ecclesiastes samples above. We also see a more recent breakdown in the clash of civilizations between the bicameral Central and South American Indians as they met with the unquenchable gold lust of the Spanish conquistadores. In my own readings of North American Indians, I find that the mystics or sensitive oracle prone individuals who were also prone to hallucinations were regarded as holy men; their council was honored within their community. Native American literature is filled with vision quests by individuals that were taken seriously when they returned from their isolation and fasting in the wilderness.



Socrates:

Conscious thought as we now recognize it was developed by the mind of man. We recognize it in an early but fully developed form in Socrates. To quote Karl Jaspers¹³ "...some image of Socrates is indispensable to our philosophical thinking. Perhaps...no philosophical thought is possible unless Socrates is present.... The way in which a man

¹²It should be noted that somewhere along the line, the ancient Jews opted for (or evolved) a single all powerful, existence creating God, who is beyond comprehension and indescribable, even beyond description as the "one". The Greeks had room for many gods. These were transformed into angels when the early Christians introduced them to the all powerful Hebrew God. That is another story worthy of further study or perhaps future gimble.

¹³Karl Jaspers, "Socrates, Buddha, Confucius, Jesus, 1957, English 1962, Harcourt Brace & Company

experiences Socrates is fundamental to his thinking. ... Liberated thought became its own great question. ... Since thought, in its process of self-clarification, has differentiated and clarified the methods of cognition and the operations of logic, made them available...and has vastly enhanced its own possibilities. But thought still needs its encompassing source, without which it becomes mere logical understanding, a technique, a meaningless bundle of undirected skills. Thought cannot be exhausted by a perfected thinking about thinking.

This approach to thought and consciousness arrived with and perhaps from Socrates by mid-way through the fourth century BCE. Western civilization would not have been the same without it.

Muhammad and Jesus:

I recently read Deepak Chopra's novels on Muhammad and on Jesus. Muhammad's creation of the Koran struck me, based on Jaynes' model, as classic projections of Muhammad's inner voice from the right hemisphere. The Arab culture was chaotic and self-destructive. They worshiped idols and had tribal deities and were not chastised for destructive acts against the "other", i.e. other tribes or nationalities. Muhammad was surely aware of the chaotic nature of his Arab culture. Unlettered Muhammad was visited by the Arch Angel Gabriel who ordered him to recite and recite he did for another 12 years. In doing so the scribes attracted to him converted his recitations into what is now called the Koran. From Chopra's book, we see Muhammad going "*into a trance state that deprived him of his own will. His face became flushed, he sweated profusely. The messages he received were dire.*" He was a conduit for teachings that delivered the Arab tribes from chaos and replaced it with discipline and order. You take a people and relieve them of chaos and disorder and proscribe submission to the one and only God Allah five times a day through a song/chant from a minaret that all can hear, and further proscribe a prayer position, that in the end has the body fully prone and pointed in the direction of Mecca and you will have created a mighty and focused force that once organized could be used to conquer the world.

Muhammad is considered by those of the Islamic faith to be the last and greatest prophet. They also recognize the Nazarene (Jesus) to be the next to the last prophet and they recognized the line of prophets starting from Abraham. However, once receiving the truth of the Koran and educated to the way of Allah, Jews and Christians were expected to convert or die. This last bit of mischief was never consistently implemented. Moderates, in the interest of free trade tone down this aspect of Jihad and Sufis bring poetry,

beauty and peaceful reinterpretations of the "True" meaning of the word "Jihad" as internal struggle. It is paradoxically interesting that Muslim conquest of the Middle East, North India, Indonesia and North Africa and in Europe all the way to the Pyrenees (with the Iberian capital at Cordoba) within 500 years of its founding was characterized more by harmony and tolerance of both Jews and Christians than by extermination of the "other" once the battle was done and the wars were won. Based upon the hypothesis of Jaynes, we can look at the initiation of this religion as the functioning of our bicameral mind promoted by a rather forceful and charismatic individual that commanded authority and respect as his messages were continually delivered. However, Islam has just as much basis for legitimacy as Christianity and Judaism. Until recent times, Islam has perhaps a better claim on tolerance than Christianity. As a civilization, we will have to deal with the conflict between these two aspects of Islam as well as between Islam and alternative approaches to that same God.¹⁴(We also have to deal with the divergence of the actual practice of Christianity and the sweet teachings of the historical Jesus.)

However, from this icon and idol hating faith come a devotion to poetry and abstraction in design and beauty in art and architecture. It was the followers of Muhammad that invented algebra and gave us the mathematics needed to sustain the renaissance and the scientific revolution. The first great university in Europe was in the Iberian city of Cordoba, not Oxford. This university attracted Jewish, Christian as well as Islamic scholars and their writings are part of world literature, philosophy and culture to this day. It was the followers of Muhammad that preserved classic Greek literature and philosophy for transmission to the West. The Inquisition was an invention of the Church of Rome and was initiated in Spain after the defeat of Islam in the Iberian Peninsula in 1492. It was then that the Jews were seriously persecuted in Spain and subjected to the inquisition.

I tried to apply a Jaynsian analysis to the Nazarene but could not construe Jesus to be a bicameral type. I see him as a true seeker who struggled in the wilderness and eventually achieved Enlightenment in union with God. His basic message to his flock of followers was:

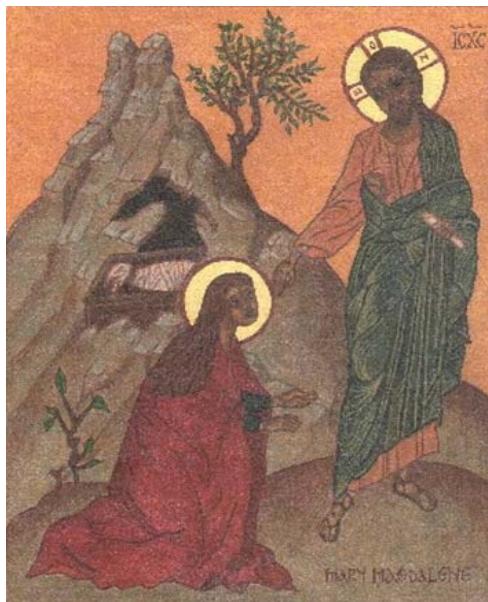
- Unconditional love of God,

¹⁴ For a deep understanding of the interactions between and origins of Judaism, Christianity and Islam from Abraham to the modern day conflicts in the so called "Holy" lands, I refer you to an excellent book by James Carroll: "Jerusalem, Jerusalem", Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt, Boston-New York, 2011

- Unconditional love of your fellow man,
- Love thy enemy,
- Feed my sheep,¹⁵
- The Kingdom of Heaven is within you
- He also taught to “seek and ye shall find” as the truth lies within¹⁶

During those perhaps three years of preaching, Jesus developed a small but devoted following around the thought that the kingdom of heaven was at hand, the end of days was near¹⁷ and give no thought for tomorrow for tomorrow will take care of itself. It was a doctrine of unconditional love of God and unjudgmental and unconditional love of your fellow man.

Jaspers states that Christianity did not start with the life of Jesus; rather, it did start with his horrible death by crucifixion. If I am allowed to extend Jaynes' dissertation to this matter, I could postulate that Jesus' closest followers had vivid right brain originated hallucinations of Jesus' resurrection from crucifixion (as apparently happened to Mary of



¹⁵ This sounds socialistic today and perhaps the economic conservatives would say, “if you feed the sheep, they just become lazy grazers” and proceed to discuss the “mystical wisdom and invisible hand of the free market” which I suggest with tongue in cheek as a bicameral emanation of certain economists that has now become groupthink among fiscal conservatives. During the upcoming presidential primaries, we are about to be re-inflicted with the Ayn Rand “greed is good” social philosophy.

¹⁶ Which is close to what spiritual teachers have taught over the ages and that part of the Nasarene that I find most compatible to my way of thinking.

¹⁷ Near indeed! The Roman solution to the “Jewish Problem” was not much different from the Nazi's.

Magdalena). This then is “documentation” or at least a rational explanation of the resurrection. The problem with Jesus is that his followers and followers of his followers organized a dogma and religion around his basic teachings, invented supernatural virgin birth and hallucinated a resurrection, created an image of heaven where converted souls must in the end reside and ended it with a bicameral section on Revelations where the chosen are called into rapture¹⁸. Christianity would not have survived without this layering of dogma, regardless of the personal fact that it is the layering of dogma that most offends this seeker.

This sweet Jesus body of teaching has been much perverted in uncivilized Europe and twisted into something unrecognizable in the so-called Holy Wars and the crusades. Conscious thought was not necessarily noble and still leads to much egocentric mischief. Such egocentric thought spiced with a little Teutonic mythology and cultural group-think, colored by widely shared prejudice/ignorance that the Jews were Christ killers lead directly to the Nazi holocaust.

An original holocaust befell the Jews at the hands of the Romans and initiated the second Diaspora. The *Book of Revelations* is perhaps a historical though mystical account of this true apocalypse. During the first century AD, perhaps 700,000 to 2,000,000 Jews were exterminated by the Romans¹⁹. The second branch of the Jewish culture was the followers of Jesus. Since they were heavily into converting the gentiles and their Jewish roots were diluted and dispersed, they were spared most of the extermination. James Carroll posits that the *Revelations* was a mystical history of the near extinction of the Jews at the hands of first century Romans. Unfortunately, persecution of the Jews continued with organized and dogmatized Christianity. Consequences of early Christian persecution of the Jews as well as persecution/extermination of other Christians of variant dogma persisted until very recent times, (the Albigensians²⁰ being an example). The Christian community is just beginning to deal with its part in

¹⁸ For a humorous treatment of the rapture, check out the movie “A day without a Mexican”. Also catch Garrison Keillor’s recent riff on the rapture where the only righteous to be chosen were the Unitarians. They were called to the kingdom of Heaven to the dismay of the Pentecostals.

¹⁹ Personal communication with James Carroll and referenced in *Jerusalem-Jerusalem*.

²⁰ The Albigensians of Languedoc were exterminated during the inquisition for the sin of heresy.

enabling of the second Jewish holocaust at the hands of the Nazis.

Bicameralism and submission to authority today:

The bicameral mode has never really disappeared. It is present in modern schizophrenics and is present in most of us as a longing for external authority and delivery from individual responsibility. Certain passages of some of my own poems seem to have “written themselves” as if somehow I was divinely inspired to transmit God’s doggerel. If I project myself to earlier times, without the point of reference of scientific literature and psychiatric theories and observations, I may have felt that God was communicating with me. Many musicians and artists describe a similar feeling and you can watch an “inspired” performance and just know that they are performing from the right hemisphere. Every artist that I know is thrilled by such right brain creations as we feel it as a gift from the gods. Much of my scientific work is a direct result of what I now know to be right brain inspirations and “off-line” problem solving that does not involve self-consciousness. Modern schizophrenics are somewhat of a throwback. I propose that Joan d’ Arc and Muhammad were bicameral throwbacks. I also suspect that Joseph Smith of the LDS faith²¹ and the prophets of Baha’i were similarly inspired. I suspect that tribal witch doctors, healers and the bible thumping holy rolling preachers of America over the last couple of centuries would have been right at home during the days of the *Iliad*. As in early evangelical churches, those who did not have the visions and visitations of the god spirit gave authority to those who did. All societies and cultures have their “visionaries” and the followers of those visions. Today, schizophrenics with visions are drugged and institutionalized. In the past, depending on their degree of charisma, they were god-kings, oracles and seers, commanded congregations, led in battle or created religions. The constant in all of this is a core of true believers and followers of visions of trusted or revered oracles.

The inner fears and longing:

Some of us in modern times fear that inner voice, perhaps suspecting it as a sign of psychotic breakdown. I once met a Japanese artist in Paris at an aerospace business reception, of all places, who told me of her fears and struggles with her inner

²¹ Joseph Smith was a treasure hunter by profession and avocation. He was visited by the Angel Maroni, who helped him find the golden tablets and helped him translate them into the Book of Mormon. I suspect right brain bicameral phenomena (if I may be a bit blasphemous regarding the religion of the family of my first wife and many of my childhood friends back in southern Idaho).

muse in sufficient detail to cause me to write the following:

A SONG TO THE LOTUS MOON²²

She creates universes from a phrase
Dropped casually by a muse.
New order pours from brush and pen
But she unfurls a protective veil.

Inward
Where we sense our being
Inward
At the core
Inward
Where we create
Inward ---
She feels a dark inferno
And shuddering fears the tempest's stir.

O spring delights
And moonlit nights of the lotus bloom ---
O bee-sting cries and fireflies
A summer's rain and autumn's blaze,
Winter's first snow
And February's fiercest blow ---
Finds canvas from her secret abyss.

This darkness drenched in fear
Is blessed
Scared
Dear.

8/30/80 (Paris)

We look into ourselves and find a longing for authority and assuredness that we are being guided by the will of God and perhaps a comfort in not always having to take responsibility for ourselves. I think that that is fundamental to the basic psyche of those who seek the comfort and authority in organized religion. Since I see a form of this longing in myself, I no longer feel so critical of organized religion. I have personally transmuted this longing into my search for Self. However, the joy of the black church choir still stirs my spirit despite my proclaimed religious status as a “devout agnostic”. I see this comfort to be of value to my fellow humans who are here for this while and feel the pain and fear of the ever closing termination of our existence. After reading Jaynes, I have more understanding and empathy for the holy rollers and speakers in tongues at the revival meetings of my youth and now understand that their followers are puppets trying to retie their strings to God much as I might desire to realize the Absolute. They are answering to their internal longing and tying it into a belief system.

²² To Mihara whose artist soul briefly touched mine.

As I read Jaynes and the commentaries on Jaynes²³, I am reminded that we have basically the same physical brain structure as that of Achilles, Agamemnon, Odysseus, Amos, the Son of David and the later Socrates, Muhammad and Jesus for that matter (*and perhaps the painters of Chauvet Cave 32,000 years ago*). We have been exiled from that comfortable authority of our (or our recognized authority's) self-created god(s). We have been loosened to make our way with our own wits and gift of innovation to develop (or perhaps invent) an inner sense of self. Shy of full Enlightenment, at our best we are Socrates. At our most soulful and artistic, we are the Ecclesiastical son of David. At our worst, we give control to our appetites and built in instincts for survival, to the social Darwinist doctrine that "Greed is Good", with little self-consciousness and little overriding authority²⁴.

When thinking about such things, I am continually drawn to the *Psychology of the Observer* and I observe my own futile attempts to become the Observer beyond the process observer. Richard Rose never admonished me for my lack of progress, yet he is present in my dreams with a wagging finger. I realize that my dreams of Rose are workings of my sub-consciousness and have no external source beyond my own creations and attempts at self-correction. I could create an external authority from such visions but, in fact, I know that they are self-generated. However, I can understand how Jesus got resurrected by the mind of man (or Mary of Magdalena) and how the beauty, mystery and mischief of a great world religion got started.

This internal longing is the driver for our urge to connect with God. We now see that God and the gods originated as bicameral projections that we would have shared in that time and place. But we still have this longing that we must transmute into the search for our Unity with the cosmos, our One-ness, our ultimate search for Self. We start with this somatic vehicle with a right brain and a left brain. They have different functions and different styles of communication with our Observer. We are still bicameral to an extent but we are now more self-conscious of our somatic nature. We strive to move into the role of the Observer. We know of the voices from our appetites and voices projected into us from the expectations of others. We must continually

question these voices and, like Jill Taylor, refrain from feeding those destructive aspects of our being. We must simply and continually subtract un-truth from our being.

We might ask, "What was Richard Rose"? Was he a Bicameral like what I postulate Muhammad to be? Or was he a Soul that transcended his bicameral nature like the Nazarene and Gautama before him? These questions have no answers except in the soul and practice of the Observer. Rose taught us to question everything, and that includes Richard Rose. Rose hardly sounds like a Muhammad or a Joseph Smith. His writings (and lectures) are exponentially above those of the *Iliad*, or the *Koran* for that matter. His poems, "The Three Books of the Absolute", place him in a very much different light. I consider his body of writings to be scientific and based upon empirical observation. I do know this: Richard Rose is my friend at the very deepest level of that word. After a reading and re-reading "The Three Books of the Absolute", I have to conclude that if he is not a Lightman, then none can exist. In the end, I must find my own Self-definition before I will ever be able to tell you if the Nazarene, if Gautama, or if Richard Rose was enlightened.

I once wrote a poem published in an earlier edition called "Lightman" which I repeat here. A friend from my earlier adulthood had a hand in igniting my interest in Zen. He claimed to be enlightened. I wanted to believe him. In the end after observing his behavior, I withdrew that mantel though I still place wild flowers on his grave near the edge of the redwoods every chance I get to visit Russian River country in Northern California. My initial draft of "Lightman" was written prior to my introduction to Richard Rose. I also include a second poem written when I was beginning to doubt my friend's self-proclaimed "Buddhahood".

LIGHTMAN

You tell me of wise things
Of matters beyond my ken
Of truths most profound
And of the brotherhood of light.

But I ask ---
Who are you?
Are you too a Lightman?
(for I sense your glow)
And you answer ---
"What do you think?"
I reel backward
Into the agony of unknowing.

²³ Reflections On The Dawn Of Consciousness: Julean Jaynes's bicameral Mind Theory Revisited, ed. Marcel Klijsten, 2006, Julean Jaynes Society, Henderson, NV.

²⁴ Or perhaps, we give control to some malevolent bottom feeding entity.

Are you or are you not?
Is your brotherhood with Plotinus
A metaphor or a kinship of realization?
Was Eckhart, Gautama, Was the Nazarene?
Indeed, can such a condition exist?

The heavens move.
Must they have a mover?
An electron and positron meet
With mutual destruction
And the creation of energetic photons.
Matter is a condensation of energy ---
Waves of probability undulating into nothingness
My universe is filled with molasses.

You enter my view.
You appear real
But on close examination I see a binary code
From eye to occipital brain.
Combine this precept with memory
And I create you.
You exist only in my mind

This absurd drama ---
This universe of molasses---
Those undulations and you
Have no meaning
Unless there is awareness ---
Something that views the play.

The history of man is a drama without plot
Played by a cast of fools
But a drama dedicated by a few
To de-conditioning, to removing filters
To allowing awareness to be aware.

Struggling, stripping, sidestepping
The eye peering into the mind
The mind trying to conceive God
And only grasping fog
And revealing the ignorance
Of the filtered being.

All the confidence born in vain
Of this new season of my fourth decade
Is gone with the revelation
Of my abysmal ignorance.
Years of study are as ashes
Distilled of essence
And wasted with the wind.

And yet --- something remains.
The Absolute is
Though it eludes my efforts.
I cannot see God.
My mind is composed of crude stuff.
A transmutation is required
An alchemy of the soul.

I am a fragment of you
Seeking to be what I am.

SONOMA HILLS

I sit on the mountain
Buddha at my side.
The grazers below repay the mountain
With their dead and droppings.
December grass, accepting the offering
Grows green, luxuriant.
Turkey vultures spiral, waiting turn
Whilst kin-flock pick a wooly repast.

The Pacific fog penetrates
Groves of redwood and cypress
To the live oak above the meadow.
A lone hawk spirals with purpose
And senses our presence.

The valley stirs.
The early winter sun burns the fog
And reveals the valley depths.
The Buddha laughs, tells jokes.
We talk of being, of is-ness
Of old girls and young girls
And of the mysteries of femininity.

I am loosened.
Boundaries between hawk and me
Live oak and me
Buddha and me
Become indistinct, arbitrary.
I pick a wild flower for us to behold
The Buddha smiles.



Present day reversion to bicameralism sans God hallucinations:

I cannot end this without some speculation on our present day. We watch only those cable news

programs or listen to those talk shows spouting opinions for which we are already in agreement. Our leaders like to preach to the converted. Our leaders employ corporate sponsored “think

tanks" to come up with daily talking points that if repeated enough, lead to a group think/agreement. Truth is not necessary as we receive the high frequency inaudible dog whistle messages that fire our base fears and prejudice. In bicameral times, not all heard the voices clearly but they gave authority and dominion to those that seemed to be more dynamic and reliable oracles and leaders in the orders for action and the projection of a fabricated reality. Today's sheep still stay close and listen for the bell of the lead ram. We must ask the question: "Who or what zeitgeist leads the ram?"

Late breaking current events:

We all remember the recent senseless political murders in Tucson, AZ this winter where Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords was shot through and through the left hemisphere of her brain. Since then, she has been heroically struggling to regain function. As I wrote this, she was preparing to view the launch of her astronaut husband as he commanded the final space shuttle mission of the Endeavor vehicle. I read that she can now walk with the help of a pushcart and is learning to write with her left hand (controlled by her right hemisphere). She can talk with difficulty but that function is growing. She is doing what Jill B. Taylor did during her left brain stroke recovery and is taking advantage of this marvelous plasticity of the physical brain to work up new pathways for performance. Writing from the right will be difficult (*for a Democrat*) but she will develop new modes of thought and perhaps special insight. Language and speech will be relearned. I heard a commentator state that it is too bad that she was not shot through the right hemisphere rather than the left. That way, she could still be articulate and functional. From my view and all that I have discussed above, I think that if she had any choice of these two terrible alternatives, she is better off having a well-functioning right brain. If I take anything from my bicameral brain studies, it is this: You are closer to your soul, to your inner essence, to who you are when you emanate from your right hemisphere. It is too early for me to prophesize, but I can guess. G. Giffords may or may not be able to return to Congress. However, the person who emerges from this tragedy will be more thoughtful and closer to her essence as her right hemisphere is guiding her recovery. That bullet fired by a deranged madman did not destroy who she is. I expect that eventually, we will receive wisdom from G. Giffords.

A final bicameral rant:

Overall, I am satisfied with the approach I used in this article but I still have questions re: Jaynes. Upon further reflection, I think that self-consciousness was

more of a cultural development and evolutionary genetics had a negligible role. The sensitivity of the cave paintings 28 to 29 thousand years before the *Iliad* does not indicate Chauvet Cave painters were schizophrenic automatons. God voices may have been drowned out by the natural left brain inner chatter with something that may have been a lot more interesting and useful to those people. When we began to doubt the wisdom of our gods (which in reality is our own projections onto God), we may have invented the "self" and hence, became transfixed on the internal chatter of mad monkeys.

As we search for Self, we must become aware of errant voices and attached thought forms or entities and once recognized, we must subtract them from our being. Our greatest *Odyssey* is that great adventurous search within. Jaynes teaches me to question my own emanations from the right and treat them as perhaps inner wisdom and creativity but not as projections from a divine intelligence. The gods of the *Iliad* were all too human. That does not mean that right brain inspiration cannot contain true and creative insight. The left brain only works with the given and is not given to leaps of insight. Until we are no longer somatic beings, balance and discernment is required.

I have one added thought. We can conclude from our study of Jaynes that God is a creation of the mind of man. However, this god projection is based on a deep inner intuition that there is more to this heaven and Earth than what is immediately before our senses. I have spoken of those inner longings. I believe that they are what drive us to invent gods and their religions. They may also be what drove Gautama, the Nazarene, Rose and countless others to look beyond the projections. I am a scientist and I have made a casual study of the minds and mentation of other scientists over the ages. Through the ages, we have marveled at the beauty and complexity of existence, from a blade of grass to the mother of all black holes and this entire existence, the daughter of the Big Bang. Our physics tells us now that we have some part in this creation just by the act of observing. But many of us return to the need for a creator. If none exists, then we will just have to reinvent God just to keep things from being meaningless....or we allow the eye to see into the eye and see if there is a Self somewhere within this maze of existence.

Peace to the Wanderer.

James Cornie....

As usual, praise or scathe equally accepted at
jcornie@mmccinc.com *or at*
info@richardroseteachings.com

IN RESPONSE TO OUR LAST NEWSLETTER...

We asked our readers to respond to the following question, “What role, if any, does imagination serve on the spiritual path, and is it an obstacle or a door to the Absolute?” From one of our readers:

“The individual only exists in the imagination. So too it is with all dualism. It is this that the Self overcomes; the outside and the inside becoming One beyond subject and object, beyond contradictions, seeing that all is perfect in the eternal now. Is it an obstacle or door to the Absolute consciousness? Both, but it is designed to be so. There is no error in That Which Is.”

Tom McCorlew

CALL FOR PAPERS

If you would like to share your own experiences, thoughts and findings for publication in “The Nook”, particularly in regards to how they might relate to the teachings of Richard Rose, send us an E-mail and a copy of your article to: The Editor, info@richardroseteachings.com.

For information on the St. Louis, MO Albigen Study Group, write to: Andrew McMaster
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albigenzen@mac.com; also, check out his postings on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/albigenman> or go to his Facebook page at:
<http://www.facebook.com/people/John-Rose/692946767>

For information on an Ontario, Canada online discussion group contact:
Philip.winestone@rogers.com or go to Richard-rose-friendship-group@googlegroups.com

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