

Lecturer: R.D. Laing

Date: 26. 7. 67.

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use.

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There's another possibility, which is the sort of thing David Cooper was alluding to a couple of days ago when he talked about turning into a dog, or turning into a plant or turning into an animal, or something like this - which could be said to be the turning into and actualising in one's own life certain concealed and forbidden possibilities of being human that in our society are absolutely tabu, but in other times and places and other societies are often even sought - after experiences or very highly rewarded: and a person who does do this and comes through it - goes into it and comes out of it - has a very high status of shamanistic priest, because they have been through one of those journeys - turning into an animal, total fragmentation of ego - and body into the dust of the cosmic prima materia, and so on, I'll go back to that in a minute - and coming through that again, emerges into society as someone who has been through this and is therefore able to act as a guide to others who may require a helping hand or some orientation in that particular voyage.

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we know where we are in space, we can move a bit, people feel themselves to be behind their eyes, but most people are completely unaware of all the events of the body that are going on. And they're unaware is that is the endemic, quote "normal" splitting off, cut off, repression, denial and so on of our awareness. And it is not natural state of affairs, it's a state of profound alienation to one's self and thence to other people. [And a certain sexual experience - a certain sort of tickle in the sort of genitals spreads a little way, and an orgasm happens, but most people have no experience at all of that, of sexual turn^{on} starting from the sexual Chakra, which can spread right back up the back, through the solar plexus, through the heart, through the throat - as in a sexual yoga, a state of profound illuminative awakenedness can occur through turning on sexually. So the normal state of affairs is literally of being ghosts, of being dead men. The chap who

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realises this is at any rate one step further on than most people who are under the delusion that they're alive. Dead men are very dangerous because all they can do is to kill other people, because they immediately think that nay form of life is a disaster - you might say that they unconsciously envy, but I don't know, they want to treat people who are more alive than them, more aware than them. Because if you're unconscious that you're unconscious, you think you're conscious. Sin has always been defined as a state of ignorance. The greatest form of sin is to be unaware that you're unaware • not to know that you don't know. If you don't know that you don't know, you think you know. If you're unconscious that you're unconscious, you think you're conscious. If you're ignorant of being ignorant, you don't realise you're ignorant and therefore have to sure other people who are aware at any rat~~h~~that they're ignorant who are at any rate aware that they don't know, who are aware - the paradigm of that is that in the country of the blind the one eyed man ~~ix~~ will have his eye excised, because he's suffering from hallucinations.]

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