

Things in Motion ...

All things are in motion and nothing is at rest...you cannot go into the same (river) twice. --Heraclitus (540?-480?)B.C.

A MIND OUT OF GEAR

WHEN YOU ALLOW your mind to wander in a truly undirected manner you sometimes witness a stream of bizarre and un-called-for thoughts—and you have no idea where they came from. For example, in a state of idle-mindedness I found myself wondering when humans first began to pay attention to their appearance—to cut and comb their hair and to trim or remove their beards. Interesting? Maybe. That led to a few more questions about human behavior. I can only imagine that early man must have gone through a long period of trial and error in finally adapting the hides of animals as a measure of protection from the cold of pre-historic winters. How long do you suppose it took for these early ancestors to learn the secrets of tanning and preserving hides?

Perhaps even more intriguing, what led man to first eat the flesh of other animals? Was it a case of mimicking those carnivores which devoured their prey? Surely our early ancestors had to learn what was edible by the simple expedient of “trying” whatever looked inviting. Was it instinctive to shun the eating of each other—or did that sort of ban exist in the beginning?

Even more bizarre—try to envision what we call the universe; you can't do it. Even if you form a rudimentary idea of our galaxy, it

will be nearly impossible to imagine planet Earth within that galaxy—something like an attempt to pinpoint one bacterium in a jar of pond water. With all due respect to all of the world's religions, what if the universe as we know it is comparable to that one minute bacterium in the jar of pond water?

With the strange thoughts that come at idle times, I have long been convinced that man is essentially ignorant and assuming that our species survives, it will never come to know the secrets of life, only an iota here and there. What man *has* been able to do is to put forth an idea and convince others of the truth of that idea to the extent that it eventually becomes accepted as absolute truth by those who hear it. Isn't this the basis for politics as we know it today? And religion? And science? And does anyone doubt that a new idea *could* change any accepted belief? Are we the creators of our reality or merely the witnesses to what someone or something else created? If you let your mind wander freely, perhaps the answer will come to you.



“It takes the whole of life to learn how to live, and—what will perhaps make you wonder more—it takes the whole of life to learn how to die.”

--Seneca, *De Brevitate Vitae* 7.3

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