

SCREAM OF CONSCIOUSNESS

The buzz from the machines grew increasingly louder, swelling in anxiousness yet frighteningly fluid and unified. It was a mantra, a pulse, a simple melody, a phrase, and a refreshing breeze upon the sweat-drenched brow of the confused. Theo clasped his hands over his ears in a futile attempt to defend himself from its influence. His mind grew numb, an enfeebled automaton listless and consumed with negative passion.

**This book is dedicated to my wife
Melinda and my three sons Avery,
Noah and Gavyn.**

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Introduction

Scream of Consciousness isn't a linear work, if you're into that sort of thing. There is no grand artistic vision, per se and this certainly isn't an attempt at a magnum opus. As a matter of fact, once it reaches print, I'll probably never refer to this work again. Instead the objective was to compile a number of puzzles, poems, short stories and rants all of which share one common thread – they were written impromptu, in single sessions of creative clarity.

Some are examples of raw intellect jotted down feverishly in a matter of minutes, as the inspirato abruptly possessed my pen when an idea fluttered across my consciousness. Others were composed over the course of several hours. All, however, were written in single sessions. It is informal for the sake of informality alone, extemporaneous thought preserved for the sake of preservation alone. Effervescent and seething like a pressure cooker (as a matter of fact, I almost entitled the book *Steam of Consciousness*). A few of the essays were combined with others for topical continuity. Some of the writing observes proper grammatical rules while other pieces might pass for nonsensical sophomorisms scrawled on a bathroom wall. A few of the stories trail off into nothingness or are snuffed out before they manage to lift off the ground, fizzling out from the transient creative drive. Sure, I could have finished them subsequent to the original session, but that would negate the premise of this book. Instead I wanted to illustrate the unpedantic nature of myself as an antiwriter, as everyone else. This might seem like a cop out method of premonitorily writing off my detractors and I'm sure some of you will read the short stories and wince at the abbreviated plots, but the muse inspires as she sees fit, and even an abrupt silence continues to speak, offering infinite possibilities.

The idea behind Scream of Consciousness is a new writing style I'm trying to promote that I call *transentia*, which is similar in nature to the Japanese philosophy Wabi Sabi: *nothing lasts, nothing is finished, and nothing is perfect*. It's about finding the beauty of frozen moments in time and the

flaw of those moments. For example, we've all heard bands make mistakes or have off nights, errors that are exclusive to that particular performance. At the same time, however, there are brilliant, improvised moments, which bedazzle the listener that couldn't possibly be reproduced with any degree of exactitude due to the elements involved (on stage verve, dynamics, individual creativity, tempo etc.) that contributed to that specific outpouring of ideas.

It's a bold and selfless idea to offer your creativity on display with painfully obvious flaws amidst the work. It's intuitive for most artists to strive for perfection when trying to convey their vision so the writer corrects his story through several drafts and extensive editing or the musicians records his or her solo five times and chooses from the best. But to be truly selfless, like Colonel Bruce Hampton's *Zambi* philosophy, requires one to shed the ego and forge fearlessly ahead with the knowledge that most likely, you *will* stumble when the deluge of creativity streams from your mind and forces you to produce something new.

In the Age of Information, anyone can document their thoughts and feelings through blogs and websites, and publishing is available to all who would expose their creativity to the world. The *Scream of Consciousness* perpetually echoes a mantra that pulses through the minds of everyone who has ever wanted to leave a tangible legacy in noumenal reality:

Cogito ergo efficio

"I think therefore I produce."

So I have produced as productions usually make themselves manifest, in a torrential downpour of fingers rapidly tapping arhythmically to the metronome of an arbitrary mind.

Felix Winslow
Antiwriter

PROSE

A Cog is Loose in the Promethean Brainchild

The Promethean Brainchild is a complex think tank created for the sole purpose of aiding in the synthesis of our views on abstruse philosophy, cosmology, number theory etc. Until recently, this cerebral apparatus has operated at high moderate to extraordinary efficiency serving as an environment conducive to Quality Thought (which must be filtered and deciphered through software utilities. Contemporary Quality Thought is a beta version of sorts). However, one of the newer assimilated cogs has come loose, which potentially may hinder the progress of this ever-evolving construct.

This threat, of course has been brought to the attention of the three engineers (known as the Triad) that maintain the Promethean Brainchild. They are in the process of troubleshooting the issue but are having considerable difficulty reaching a decision due to the usual overzealous bureaucratic approach.

Engineer A: "So there you have it Engineer B. Cog 25478 is grinding against cogs 25479 and 25477 causing extreme friction. The cog has been modified and reinstalled. If it continues to malfunction however, I will permanently disable and replace it. The future of PB depends on its success. It is as integral as any cog in the design."

Engineer B: "Well now let's think about this a moment Engineer A. According to the Unnatural Practice Guidelines For The Structural Engineer this cog should have been removed immediately upon it's established inefficiency!"

Engineer A: "Engineer B, this cog can continue to function. I simply thought that--"

Engineer B: "Quality Thought is not permitted here! We do not have the proper translation programs for Quality Thought outside of the PB. By default your Quality Thought is rendered Abstract and therefore Inefficient! It has been expunged from this discussion."

Engineer C, who was in actuality only a mere civil

engineer that was appointed this position due to serendipitous factors, was timid and laconic. Still, he was compelled by his disdain for the Unnatural Practice Guidelines For The Structural Engineer's rigid approach that he decided to speak his opinion.

Engineer C: "B--"

Engineer B: "That's 'Engineer B' Engineer C. That was a breach in protocol punishable by 25 demerits. You can't afford a demotion!"

Engineer B had dealt a damaging blow to Engineer C's well-hid ego. Engineer C's flame was nearly snuffed out but not quite.

Engineer C: "Engineer B, I beg to differ with your assessment of Quality Thought. I think that given sufficient intellectual capabilities one does not require an application to decrypt it's meaning. Quality Thought isn't as abstract as one might think. Point in case, it can easily be established that an apple is red. This is Quality Thought."

Engineer B: "That cannot be proven. There are perceptual and psychological factors that must be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. It would take eons to assess every entity capable of such a perception. Whether or not that entity subscribes to your insane theory is irrelevant. Your idea is, for all intents and purposes moot."

Engineer C: "Um. Not really--"

Engineer B: "Again you neglect to address me correctly. This will not be tolerated."

With that Engineer B quickly activates a console on his left arm. After keying in a few simple U-nex commands, an automaton appears in the room."

Engineer B: "Golem! Escort Engineer C to Clockwork Orange! He must be treated for overexposure to Quality Thought. Administer Rehabilitative Program #235 immediately."

The mindless automaton apprehends Engineer C and begins

the long journey to the Clockwork Orange. Engineer C, in a sudden fit of rage begins spewing venomous curses at Engineer B as he is removed from the room.

Engineer C: "You wretched mindless yes man! Removing Quality Thought from my cerebral processes will only serve to enhance the potential for Quality Thought in Engineer A! You've lost! You've lost! I have beaten the Unnatural Practice Guidelines For The Structural Engineer!"

Engineer B deflects the verbal abuse by running a series of issued assessment programs downloaded from one of the Unnatural Practice Guidelines For The Structural Engineer's local servers. His stream of consciousness is cold and mechanical with no room for expansion: "Breach of Protocol #2154...,, information moot. Breach of Protocol #1279...information moot. Breach of Protocol #54786-8...information moot...."

After Engineer C can no longer be heard and the need to process his torrent of Logic Pollution is unnecessary Engineer B turns towards Engineer A.

Engineer B: "Another breach from you Engineer A and his fate will be yours. As for the defective cog, I will allow it to remain in place for now as long as there is no more inter-cog friction. Cogs 25479 and 25477 are operating at near optimal efficiency. The PB's efficiency overshadows your breach of protocol, which is hereby marked as Pending and will be punishable at a later date. "

Engineer A: ".....Yes Sir."

And so the PB continues to evolve at the expense of the myopic engineers maintaining its back-end.

Aden

Toil worn and aching from his travels, Aden shambled into the Luna Inn with nothing but sleep on his mind. As he skeptically entered the out of fashion, deteriorating building he was immediately greeted by the smell of honey mead and jasmine incense, which dissolved his apprehension. On the wall, opposite the entrance was a fireplace, which Aden watched longingly. Surrounding the hearth were three haggard and irritated ogres arguing vociferously over a game of Spiral. Aden couldn't make out what they were saying as an ogre's speech often tends to regress to a crude sequence of grunts and moaning when upset. He thought this to be an amusing display of just how undeveloped their crude brains were. How they managed to conquer Mendenhall Keep in the dead of winter was unbelievable. As a matter of fact, many of the villagers *didn't* believe it. Another inherent trait of ogre stupidity is the inability to work together for any common purpose or goal. Gathering enough ogres to create a makeshift militia would have been impossible. Moreover, the strategic capacity required for such an attack exceeded the intelligence of even the brightest of ogres. Aden had trouble believing it himself. Other than the brash ogres and their lively conversation, the inn was quiet and there were only a few customers. Aden counted his silver to make sure he had enough for lodging. He planned to sleep until mid-morning and then continue east to Stonehaven.

Suddenly, he felt the piercing chill run through his veins again and he bit down on his gauntlet to keep from screaming in pain. The spell was still affecting his body and probably would for another three or four days. He turned towards the door so that no one would be able to see his repulsive grimace. His limbs began to seize up and his teeth clenched hard against his jaw. He stood as still as possible and tried to regain his composure. This was the worst attack on his body so far. If the pain became any worse than this, Aden feared that it might begin to affect his sanity. He continued to bite down on his gauntlet until he left marks in the iron.

"Sir, are you feeling ill?" He heard a small, almost inaudible voice behind him. As if soothed by the sound of this comforting inquiry, the effects of the spell dissipated. He

stood still for a moment, face covered in cold sweat. Finally, he turned to face the concerned individual.

"I'm...I'm fine. Just tired." The slender, luscious serving wench that stood before him quickly drove his mind to impure thoughts. It had been months since he'd been with a woman and *much* longer since he'd been with one of such delicate beauty. Her narrow, almond-shaped eyes peered up at him through long eyelashes, cerulean orbs piercing into his perverse thoughts. Her ragged blond hair aroused feral passions that Aden thought to be long dormant. "I'd like a room for the night and something to eat. I prefer a quiet room, where I won't be disturbed. What are you serving?"

"We have roasted boar, mutton, stewed cabbage, cheese, and Gazar's own honey mead," she called off the menu effortlessly. "Would you like me to prepare a meal for you?"

"Mutton and cabbage will suffice. Also, I'd like a pint of your mead." When it came to mead, Aden's thirst was insatiable.

"I will bring it to you. In the meantime, have a seat." With that she disappeared into the kitchen.

Aden, still trembling slightly from the effects of the spell was all too eager to relax. He found a small table in the corner of the room, adjacent to the fireplace where he could sit and observe events. He wanted to keep an eye on the ogres just in case things started to get nasty.

As Aden's mind submitted to unconsciousness, his body began to writhe from the spell, which affected him even as he slept. His mind was ablaze with a series of phantasmagoric scenes the last of which provided him the sexual satisfaction, albeit non-corporeally, of unleashing his passions on the hapless Kaia. The scenario depicted the two of them alone in the stables adjacent to the inn.

They were locked in an embrace. Aden was positioned behind her, dominating her. He poured all of his strength into the act, thrusting so hard that she could barely keep her balance. Her head was in a trough so he couldn't quite make

out her naughty utterances but she seemed to be enjoying it. Suddenly, the small of her back began to dissolve, as did her voice, the trough and the stable as he was whisked away. He cursed Morpheus for his peccant timing.

As he slowly opened his eyes, the first thing he saw was Kaia standing over him, shaking his arms.

"Wake up, Sir." she cried.

"What—what is it," he asked dazedly. "What's the matter?" He felt like clutching his groin tightly.

"The ogres! They've set the inn on fire! We have to leave this place. There's no time!"

As if on cue, smoke started pouring into his room. He leapt out of bed and grabbed his belongings.

"Let's go," he said, and with that, the two of them headed into the inferno.

Crow vs. The Mango

Sex without love is an empty gesture. But as empty gestures go, it is one of the best. - Woody Allen

Cunnilingus walks into the room donned in exiguous lingerie exhibiting her calm and collective demeanor. After lazily puffing on a cigarette a few times she turns to her uptight cousins and gives them her signature sardonic smile.

Cunnilingus: What you ladies need is to release the reins of your moral mustangs and join me in my quest for the stallion! I am the recipient of pleasures the likes of which you have never known.

Fellatio: Ah, the Voltarian harlot has graced us with her presence again! You'd forsake all of your earthly capital for a moment of pleasure and the worst part is that you refuse to work for any of it, leech!

Coitus: And to top it all off, she bears the scarlet C as if it were her coat of arms.

(Laughs from Fellatio and Coitus)

Cunnilingus: My dearest cousins, what exactly is it that you are trying to prove to yourselves? Adhara-sphuritam, Jihva-bhramanaka, Jihva-marditathese are all sensations that you should learn to appreciate if not indulge in. They are not amoral acts, but rather expressions of a basic human need.

Fellatio: They don't instill the sense of power that Parshvatoddashta and Bahiha-samdansha can. You make yourself vulnerable to your partner, whereas I take control of him!

Cunnilingus: Control of what, cousin? Perhaps if you'd clamp down with your teeth..

Fellatio: GASP!

Coitus: She has no shame.

Coitus Interruptus: How can you stand there and point the finger at her, Coitus? You go all the way whereas she partakes of a mere sexual game.

Coitus: You think that just because you don't get a little messy that you're exempt from the ramifications of your acts, Interruptus? Spare me the suppressio veri concealed by this alleged moral ambiguity!

Coitus Interruptus: I am still a virgin.

Coitus: In your ear perhaps.

Cunnilingus: Listen to the three of you! You constantly bicker about your place in this concupiscent hierarchy that you've constructed when there are no moral issues tied to these acts! What's worse? Fatalistically you constantly extend your efforts, when in fact, the efforts should be spent on you!

Fellatio: Nonsense. I am the master of my own destiny! I am in control of the situation.

Cunnilingus (puffing on cigarette): Keep fooling yourself my fraudulent femme fatale.

If Only to Fail

Opening Scene

YELLOW TITLE ON BLACK: IF ONLY TO FAIL

Location: A diner located along US Highway 6 in Ansonia, Nebraska near Tioga State Forest.

CAMERA: FADE IN

Opening scene is hardcore mise-en-scène. Start with a low angle shot with the camera facing out the window from a corner booth: A blinding wall of sunlight permeates the entire screen. During this, random diegetic noises are heard plates clanking, the bustle of waitresses carrying orders to their customers, chatter from customers. Slowly the light fades replaced by a strobe effect flashing rapidly. As the camera gradually pans to a high angle mid-shot of the booth we see a middle-aged heavysset man voraciously devouring a half-eaten turkey club sandwich. His glass is empty save for a few pieces of ice. His hair is disheveled and his shirt is wrinkled and untucked. He is grumbling to himself and appears very agitated, his face covered in sweat. He wipes himself off with a yellowish-white (the result of stain) handkerchief. He then turns his cup, tapping the bottom of it to jar the ice loose. He crunches the ice with all the sexual frustration his listless mind can muster.

(EDIT NOTE-FREEZE SHOT AND SWITCH TO GREYSCALE IMAGE, BEGIN NARRATION)

NARRATOR: Walter Solomon, a man of 42 uneventful years, abhors life with all the passion of a performance artist pissed that he can't quite convey the meaning accurately. He's spent most of his ugly life in a swollen state of envy and resentment fed by his inability to act on impulse, to get things off his chest, to speak his mind. Stand on the mountain Walter and shout it loud!

(EDIT NOTE-RESUME COLOR AND MOVEMENT)

Walter takes a draw off his cigarette, lets out a deep sigh,

and then begins a monologue towards an imaginary listener.

Walter: Why the fuck not, you know? Was it so hard to consider the alternative? How could she be so obtuse at a time like this? And with so much at stake. -takes another draw At *least* she could have quit being insular enough to consider a larger city. Damn women. There'd be a bounty on them if it weren't for the

Waitress: Mr. Solomon would you like some more water?

Startled he looks up at his waitress who is not amused. If not for her auburn colored apron by appearances this woman should not be here. Her dirty blonde hair is unkempt and somewhat matted together. Her frame is delicate and weak; she practically succumbs to gravity as if to say, I give up. Her exhausted eyes are black and jaded - she's heard far too many misogynistic comments. If looks could kill...

Walter: No Sybil, thanks. (He waves her away.)

ORDER UP!!!!

CAMERA: ZOOM AWAY FROM WALTER, BEGIN TRACKING SYBIL

She walks away without responding further and maneuvers through the tables over to the order window to grab a turkey Rueben and chips. We are now able to see more of the diner, which is rather banal as diners go. The walls are jaundice-colored like sickened skin, which is reinforced by a few dim lights from the ceiling one of which is the source of the strobe effect, a failing bulb above Solomon's table. Sybil reaches the window, grabs the plate, spins around and opens her eyes wide.

CAMERA: VERTIGO FACE SHOT

(EDIT NOTE-FREEZE SHOT AND SWITCH TO GREYSCALE IMAGE, BEGIN NARRATION)

NARRATOR: Reality is swelling out - at least that's the way it seemed to Sybil. Its been 30 minutes no, an hour since she dropped three hits of white fluff. She

flushed her last 600mg of Ziprasidone down the toilet earlier this morning. Still, despite the lack of meds and the LSD, her mind is busy obsessing over the petty. Come down from the mountain Sybil and walk among us!

(EDIT NOTE-RESUME COLOR AND MOVEMENT)

Sybil blinks twice and then continues to walk towards her next customer.

CAMERA: SWITCH TO MID-SHOT, CONTINUE TRACKING SYBIL

Sybil reaches the table of a young half-Chinese girl of about 16. The girl looks nervous, her eyes darting constantly at the door, then towards the bathroom, then the door, then her hands, which are shaking violently. Her glass is almost empty and her silverware is still in the napkin. At a glance, she appears innocent, inhibited by the naivety of teenage existence.

Sybil: Here's your order. One turkey Rueben with no tomatoes and fries. Salt, pepper and ketchup are right there. ~points to the condiments~ I'll be back with more Coke. Anything else?

CAMERA: REACTION SHOT BACK TO KIM

(EDIT NOTE-FREEZE SHOT AND SWITCH TO GREYSCALE IMAGE, BEGIN NARRATION)

NARRATOR: Kim Winters looks up at Sybil plaintively with pleading eyes and lips ready to vomit a deluge of broken thoughts all over the table for the world to see. "Will someone fix them for me." she implores silently. What did I do to deserve this?

(EDIT NOTE-RESUME COLOR AND MOVEMENT)

Kim: No. Thanks.

CAMERA: REACTION SHOT BACK TO SYBIL

Sybil looks at Kim coldly, her eyes emotionless and her heart oblivious to Kims concerns.

Sybil: Okay, let me know if you need anything. (walks away)

Tears start to well up but she only allows one to fall. She takes a bite of her sandwich and begins to chew through fatigued jaws, lips quivering. There is the sound of a bell and a door opening. She lets out a gasp and turns her head quickly towards the sound.

Kim: Oh no.

CAMERA: MOVE TO THE DOOR

Enter Dustin Mabe, another teenager. 18ish with dark brown corduroys, a black t-shirt and a chain wallet. Shoulder length curly black hair. He scans the room and his eyes brighten when he notices Kim in the corner.

There you are! Jeez Kim I've been looking all over the park.

CAMERA: TRACK DUSTIN TO TABLE

He waltzes over to her booth with a boyish light-heartedness that betrays the scene. He sits down and immediately grabs a fry.

CAMERA: TWO-SHOT

Dustin: So what's up? You sure left in a hurry. I thought you were angry.

Kim: Leave me alone. She turns away from him--

Dustin (unphased): What? You're not still mad about that are you? Sybil I'm sorry but I thought you were in the mood. Jeez. Can you stop being a pouty little Daddy's girl and.."

Kim: WHAT? WHAT DID YOU SAY?

Dustin (whispering): Calm down.

CAMERA: REACTION SHOT TO THE CUSTOMERS

Heads turn. Sybil notices but immediately averts her eyes and focuses intently on Dustin. Her lips are trembling.

CAMERA: RESUME TWO-SHOT

Kim: I told you no Dustin. I *fought* against you. How can you say that you thought I was in the mood? How can you even sit in front of me and look at me like that? As if this were one of your jokes.

Dustin: Look I'm sorry but I still think you're waaaaay overreacting. You *knew* why we went to the park in the first place. Don't try to play miss innocent and offended after the fact. You know what? Just forget it. I'm not going to waste my time just because *you* have issues. Screw that.

CAMERA: REACTION SHOT TO KIM

Kim is weeping uncontrollably, snot dripping from her nose, her face saturated with tears. She is gritting her teeth.

CAMERA: BACK TO DUSTIN

Dustin: I mean *look* at you!

CAMERA: BACK TO TWO-SHOT

In a sudden flurry of movement Kim grabs her silverware, still in the napkin and leaps across the table towards Dustin. Completely unprepared he throws up his arms in a half-attempt to block the blow. It doesn't matter. She lands the blow in his jugular. His hands immediately clench around the fork, which he manages to pull out. He tries to scream or yell or at *least spit a curse* but all that is heard is the air escaping his body. The look of terror speaks volumes. Women scream, fathers cover the eyes of their children and Sybil, by now on her way back to the table with Coke, faints.

Kim: Oh stop overreacting Dustin. Did that hurt? Speak up! You know what? Just forget it. I'm not going to waste my

time just because *you're* bleeding to death.

CAMERA: POINT OF VIEW SHOT (KIM)

Kim starts to gather her purse. Dustin tries to stand up but he falls on his face before he can take his first step.

CAMERA: REACTION SHOT TO KIM

Kim: Goodbye Dustin.

She turns and starts to walk out.

Schopenhauer's Lucid Dream

Unfortunately, life isn't a SIMS game. If Dei, in whatever form, is truly omniscient then there is no artistic experience, no sense of aesthetics to mull over, no work in progress and no surprises. Further, if Dei is omniscient then existence is predetermined. However, if Dei is omniscient of all things past and present, leaving the future undetermined we have another animal altogether, which resembles something I wrote as a teenager (below). It was actually written as a joke because, like the Christian God, it can't be disputed from within the confines of its system, i.e. using circular logic.

In an attempt to better understand an intelligence that is discarnate and one that "governs" the entire omniverse (the total sum of all extra dimensional realities including ours), let us graduate from the concepts of predeterminism and existentialism for a moment and ponder the possibility that we are not victims of predestination yet we do not have full control over our processes.

Imagine that the omniverse itself is an evolving super sentient entity and perhaps one that develops based on a system of reincarnation. Then we can rid ourselves of that accursed first 10^{-44} second of existence, which continues to elude theoretical physicists. This being is not to be confused with the supreme deity but rather an extension of Him/Her/It, which may be responsible for most of the "leaps" forward in human development and technology.

In order to make light of the situation and to steer clear of the connotations associated with God, I used to call the entity "Bob." Here I will refer to him as "Logos" which means "the word." The Greek used "the word" in a broader sense of speaking, thinking, reckoning, reasoning, etc. The result of which is a speech, a discourse, a theory, a thought, an argument, a philosophy, etc (i.e. intelligence).

Logos is omniscient of the past and present i.e. it only "remembers" things that have previously occurred. Like any other living organism, Logos is hopelessly engaged in the learning process. It utilizes game theory, for lack of a better

term, at the highest level applicable. It doesn't feel emotions or get lonely, but rather it operates like an efficient machine trying to optimize its existence.

Logos entails the entire hierarchy of existence and it is cognizant of this fact. It allocates its resources where they are needed to effectively improve its state. I don't think that plants, rocks, quanta etc. "think" but they are definitely a part of Logos and serve some function.

Logos allocates his resources by distributing its sentience on different levels to different aspects of existence. For example a bee carrying pollen from one flower to another is a low level function of Logos. A man creating a child with a woman is another. A high level function of Logos would be the embedded Bible Code found in the original Hebrew Bible. The man and the bee are aware of these actions and the man interprets his action as a choice he made. The reality, I think, is that the man and the bee have no method to grasp the proper context for their actions therefore they assume (the man at least) that they have freewill. What has actually happened is that Logos has allocated a tiny portion of its resources to these actions. Actually, let's rephrase that: Logos has allocated these resources into a template that organisms follow – a function that ultimately aids in the optimization of some aspect of Logos.

Now, assuming that this cosmic entity exists, we can imagine what has happened so far. Somewhere in the distant past (we can't be sure how far back), it all began with the seed that spawned the existence of noumenal reality. This singularity would only consist of the total mass of the universe, but also the fundamental beginning for every alternate reality, dimension, etc that have branched off since. In the primary existence immediately following this first "explosion" this super sentient entity would have developed the ability to create and manage life, to master the mechanics of celestial bodies, subatomic particles, gravity, electromagnetism, zero time, wormholes, etc. We can possibly assume that this all happened at a highly accelerated rate, the same way humans develop and learn during the first four years of life as the brain/mind develops. The first attempt at this obviously failed and eventually after the course of it's "life" the omniverse would have collapsed

into itself in total defeat, the first Big Crunch. The energy then recycled itself and was recreated by Logos to try again. After scores of these lifetimes we finally reach our own.

So where does that leave us earthlings? Like fractals, we may only be extensions of this Cosmic Intelligence, which governs the omniverse yet with the "blue prints" within us. We are free to operate within our own boundaries. We create, destroy and develop completely of our own volition as far as we are concerned. Our idea of evolution taking place has nothing to do with man or animal but far beyond our comprehension. Since the omniverse is sentient and manipulates it's own processes we can discard (to an extent) predeterminism. Obviously, we don't have total control, but as far as our feeble minds could ever grasp, and because it would take consciousnesses greater than our own to understand our consciousness, we might as well.

As for the Dei make no mistakes that it *must* exist. It exists first within the realm of phenomenal reality therefore, by extension; it exists within the realm of noumenal reality. We can witness its legacy throughout human history evidenced by wars, dogma, discrimination, and misplaced virtues. Dei has left its mark. Does existence require the Dei or any notion of such? Absolutely not.

Dei exists as a psychical entity (phenomenal reality) created through the ignorance of man (obsession), which we act upon (compulsion) through its influence affecting the world around us (noumenal reality).

*I reference humans simply because everyone reading this is human. It's highly probable that we (or any other species found throughout the universe/omniverse) are insignificant cogs, perhaps even mere byproducts of a more relevant process in the evolution of Logos. Human existence and the proximity of its affects might very well be located somewhere near the nadir of this stratification. The idea of "human waste" is not an attractive concept but it does remove some of the burden from our shoulders ~raises glass to Voltaire~

The Perfect Woman

She stood, eyes glazed over, watching the triage nurse station with a blank expression on her face. Her temperature had risen to 103 and pain wracked through her body. Her joints were stiff and her head pounded from the sinus drainage that had plagued her for weeks now. After a moment's hesitation, and a few odd stares from the nurse, she shuffled over to the waiting area and slumped silently into a chair. Despite the tired look, her mind was still hyperactive, and full of the usual obsessions. This time it was an incessant diminished scale running itself repeatedly starting with C. She checked her watch and let out a loud sigh. It was now midnight, which meant she'd been at Baptist Hospital for over four hours now and still no news. Bored to tears (or it could have just been her sinuses), she pulled her signature notebook from the pocket of her corduroy pants. The notebook was worn so bad that the binders were coming apart and half of the pages were missing. The remaining pages were a yellowish-brown color from where she'd spilled tea while writing some months earlier. She pulled out her pen and began to write:

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Suddenly she jumped forward in her seat as if she'd been awakened from a nightmare. Her skin was clammy and she was covered in cold sweat. She looked at her watch again – two minutes past twelve. Where had the time gone? She glanced around and noticed something that she'd missed earlier. A small, unobtrusive yet somehow imposing camera hung from the ceiling just above her head. She watched it for a moment, staring into the lens. A red button atop the camera flashed methodically, a silent knowing pulse. Aleta entertained the notion that he was being "memorized" each time the light blinked and this made her uneasy. The scale continued to run itself - C, D, Eb, F, G, Ab Bb, B.... She shook her head trying to clear her mind. She stood up and stretched and then decided to walk to her car and get some fresh air.

She had to keep her mind thinking efficiently by moving rapidly and over a myriad subjects. She began to think about the sonata in D she'd started this morning - an aural montage of minimalistic beauty. She laughed. It was nothing more than a few arpeggios really. Unsatisfied, she began to delve deep into its development, arranging the parts, making mental notations, even writing a segue to bridge the piece into a refreshing new idea all in a matter of fifteen or twenty seconds. Lost in thought, she got carried away and the recurrent high-pitched tone, which she knew too well, started to build up from within. The concentration made her head throb with pain and the tears started streaming down her face. A bright flash of light blinded her and a wave of vertigo forced her to shut her eyes tightly. She pulled her attention away from music and turned it towards her

immediate surroundings. She found that it helped to ground herself periodically in this manner.

It had been six months since Aleta was diagnosed with Excessive Intellection Syndrome. EIS, one of the newest additions to the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders was considered to be a neurosis yet several of the symptoms were similar to schizophrenia, like paranoia and delusions of grandeur. Despite being listed in the DSM, the jury was still out on EIS as many psychologists refute the idea of being "too intelligent." On a fundamental level, Aleta had trouble distinguishing reality from the workings of her mind but not for the same chemical reasons a schizophrenic does. Simply put, Aleta was brilliant, hyperactive and uninterested. In fact, she'd been misdiagnosed with ADD, ADHD, Bi-Polar Disorder and a host of other ailments, far from the mark; prior to discovering she suffered from EIS.

She opened her eyes slowly and looked around. Her car was littered with empty soda bottles, clothes, technical and physics journals, finished crossword puzzles from the Hobbs News-Sun, and books of cryptograms. In actuality, Aleta had no interest in puzzles or riddles whatsoever, but she solved them effortlessly and en masse they provided her mind with the required stimuli without much concentration, in much the same way insomniacs count sheep.

Aleta abhorred slovenliness especially in herself. The messes, the disarray, all of it tended to cloud her mind and muddle her thoughts. It sent her into frenzy. She stuck the key in the ignition and started the car.

ESSAYS

Does the Individual Self Exist?

As you pass through the birth canal the initial onslaught of light and noise permeates the room drowning your senses and compromising the beauty of untainted thought with the inefficacy of language, an impure mechanism that is mostly misinterpreted. After the muck is removed from your throat and nasal passage you're immediately whisked away to a nearby table where you are measured, analyzed and probed. Thus your detachment from humanity ends as nurses and doctors grope you despite your screaming which is expelled in the hopes that somehow your beautiful thought will be conveyed to them. Failure. Soon you will be ascribed a nomen and a 9-digit number which will be documented and accompany you until death. During the first 30 minutes of your life a considerable amount of your essence has already been routinely quantified and defined.

Henceforth you will have to acclimate to similar failures like the resistance against your fragile self, which will attempt to stretch out innumerable times, pushing at a world with a population of seven billion and climbing in a struggle for identity. You'll be told "NO!" as pieces of your expression are chipped away and your behavior is redefined and molded into something altogether not yours.

The force that corrupts identity the most is the aforementioned meddler language. Even now I wince looking at this post because it can in no way relay the vast amount of semi-conscious processing that comes to mind when I throw out words like culture or relativism. Pure thought is abstract but how much of this can exist considering we begin to learn to identify language when less than a year old. Inevitably language must be learned because noise in the system can only be tolerated for so long before the mind, in frustration, begins to make sense of it.

But how much more is implied through silence and mood? For example, can you describe sitting on the beach and watching the sunrise? When you try it's humbling and sometimes embarrassing because you can't explain the metacommunicative experience, the moments you take within your mind to step back and contemplate not only the fathomless ocean and brilliant light that you perceive

through the senses but the sublime swelling of escape, the pureness of the experience.

Probably the only saving grace is that it's a symbiotic relationship, a feedback loop. As permeable as your mind is, so are the minds of others and this pathway must be exploited for you to be heard. This is what some philosophers call your legacy, your impact on reality separate from your consciousness, the effects of your existence on existence that will extend a short distance into the future depending on your significance and impact.

How much of our self is inferred from stimuli that is recycled and implemented into our consciousness? Jung dropped the ball when he was onto something truly marvelous. Collective consciousness? Show me one consciousness that isn't collective, that isn't an assimilation of external influences like culture, language, and human behavior. How much of my mind is my wife, my progeny and my predecessors, my friends, or my job? The question becomes how much of the original self survives? Perhaps Cogito should be re-examined altogether.

Miles Speaks to Thee

I don't subscribe to such rubbish as Satan but I made an interesting observation last night while burning the second CD in the Complete Bitches Brew Sessions boxed set that a friend sent me.

The first track on the CD is entitled Miles Runs the Voodoo Down. Now as everyone knows the practice of voodoo is associated with satanry and demonry. At 96Kbps the total file size for the CD was 666.18 MB. In other words $666 + .06 * 3$ - the Mark of the Beast is represented twice superficially.

Lets dig a little deeper. The mystique of the Mark is that it plays on the representation of the number six *thrice* and as we all know humans have made a big deal of the number three since the dawn of civilization. Death comes in threes; the universe was once thought to consist of three celestial objects Sol, Earth and the moon; the holy trinity is made up of God the son and the Holy Ghost (hence the name) blah blah blah etc etc ad infinitum. Some folks have even gone so far as to claim that the number of God is 777. So lets multiply the chosen bandwidth of 96Kbps * the ubiquitous number three and we get 288. Now add the digits comprising the sum together and you get 18 i.e. $6 * 3$ making this the third representation of the maleficent Mephisto ergo *Satan* must exist right? I mean, look at this blatant indicator. Miles was obviously trying to warn us. He even went so far as to name several of his songs using reverse spellings (e.g. Silem and Sivad) alluding to Satan by appealing to the pop-culture idea that Satan whispers his vile commands to us through concepts like backwards masking.

Or

Could it be another illustration of the truly illusory nature of patterns, probabilities and statistics that we use to make sense of reality? The other night while eating at Sagebrush I noticed the scrambled letters of the name "Quixote" on the first line of the crossword puzzle that my son was working on. One could easily note the correlation between Quixote's world and that of the Spanish-influenced "Old West"

(Sagebrush's theme). This morning, while joking with a co-worker about who had the least amount of money, we decided to switch wallets. I had \$21 in my wallet he had \$12. 2112: Rush's first concept album.

Why did I notice these ridiculously lateral patterns and correlations? I'm a human and as such I'm conditioned to look for them. Its how I interface with reality. My filter for observing noumenal reality allows for only limited interpretation which is derived from finding patterns, forming associations and exchanging ideas, hence phenomenal reality. There is nothing inherently wrong with making observations. The problem lies in most people's inability to appreciate the kernel-level nature and articulation of patterns, which result in simulacra. Before the 1960s thousands of psych patients were misdiagnosed as schizophrenic because the average psychologist couldn't discern a psychosis from a neurosis. How many hapless victims were wrongfully lobotomized into eating their own feces or electro-shocked into listlessness because doctors didn't observe closely enough?

Another example would be Phi. It exists solely within a system that we use to assign meaning by quantifying, measuring, and analyzing: mathematics. Before man, there was no assigned meaning, hence no inherent depth. Fibonacci's numbers are used to predict the growth of a Sneezewort, the development of seashells and cornfields, or the dimensions of Greek monuments but because of it's self-referential nature in the context of its system, it fails to answer the question: does existence imply intelligence? Why does Phi work?

Let's look at another example...

Michael Drosnin's Bible Code, which I'm sure you've all heard about, utilizes equidistant letter sequencing to find encoded phrases in the Torah made easier by the text's lack of punctuation. However, reporter David Thomas estimated 18.7 instances of "Clinton" in War and Peace, Book One (212,000 characters, 7.5 billion possible seven-letter equidistant sequences). He found 21. He estimated 128.1 instances of Apollo and found 129. With each additional letter in candidate words, the chances fall, because you

must multiply your product by another number invariably less than one. To add insult to injury, he perused Eric Zorn's (of the Chicago Tribune) editorials, which predicted the demise of a disgraced Chicago alderman. Hence, the Zorn Code was born.

In other words, the Torah contains no inherent hidden messages, only the nonsense scholars have assigned to it.

One final example and I'll shut up. After the 911 attacks a fraudulent chain letter was passed around which alluded to the number 11 as having a sinister inherent value offering 20 or so connections to those involved in the attacks. I was unfortunate enough to receive of these, which I responded to substituting the number 11 with four. It took me all of 30 minutes to present something as equally convincing.

Is four the New Number of the Beast?

1) New York City has four vowels.

2) Afghanistan has four vowels.

3) Ramsin Yuseb (The terrorist who threatened to destroy the Twin Towers in 1993) has four vowels.

4) George W. Bush has four vowels.

This could be a mere coincidence, but this gets more interesting:

5) New York is the fourth richest state in the country. The mayor at the time of 9/11 was Giovanni (four vowels and four consonants) and according to Michael Bloomberg, being Mayor of New York is the fourth best job in the world.

6) Flight 11 was carrying 92 passengers. $11-9+2=4$

7) Flight 77 which also hit Twin (four letters) Towers (four consonants), was carrying 65 passengers. $7+7+6+5=25$ (one quarter) but regardless there were 64 (4^3) passengers, not 65.

8) *Between the two planes there were four wings.*

9) *The North (four consonants) Tower was struck at 8:46:26. $8-4=4$ (8:46:26), $6-2=4$ (8:46:26). It collapsed at 10:28. $8/2=4$ $10-(2*8)=-4$*

Sheer coincidence..?! Read on and make up your own mind:

Quote from source letter:

"10) The total number of victims inside all the hi-jacked planes was 254. $2+5+4=11$."

Make that 253 (see #7) and interestingly enough $2+5-3=4$

11) The Madrid (four consonants) bombing took place on 3/11/2004. $(3+11+2)/4=4$.

Now this is where things get totally eerie:

The most recognized symbol in the US is money. It has four sides, four 90-degree angles, the value of the print is even written in all four corners. If you look at a bill face up you'll see four four-letter words (note at the top, this note is legal tender and Federal four consonants - Reserve four consonants Bank of). The Note Position Number also appears four times.

Still unconvinced about all of this?

You might not buy any of what I'm asserting but remember this: The chance of being struck by lightning is one in three million but to the hapless buffoon that walks into a bolt of lightning, chances are exponentially better, 100% to be exact.

Noumenal Reality Doesn't Need Us

"Would a tree falling in a forest make a sound if no one was there to hear it?"

Essentially, what is being asked is: Despite the fact that we know sound is caused by vibrations which disrupt air molecules a la the domino effect, would it be foolish to assume that sound is still somehow reliant on the presence of a receiver.

Per Dictionary.com:

"Vibrations transmitted through an elastic solid or a liquid or gas, with frequencies in the approximate range of 20 to 20,000 hertz, capable of being detected by human organs of hearing."

"Transmitted vibrations of any frequency."

Sound doesn't imply a perceiver anymore than death implies a victim. Death is a transformation that we as anthropoids associate with ourselves; We perish, therefore we assume the word must apply to a human experience but death by denotation also entails the termination or extinction of anything (Webster.com); We could just as easily reference the death of the Baroque movement. The term "sound," as used by most people and associated with the processing of sound by a perceiver, is a subtle connotative offshoot, which I don't think is being used in the original question. If a tree falls, it generates an audible noise by disrupting air molecules - sound.

But Felix, Webster.com says that sound is "the sensation perceived by the sense of hearing." Indeed it does, but it also states that sound is "mechanical radiant energy that is transmitted by longitudinal pressure waves in a material medium" which provides a truer, broader spectrum of use.

Of course, the underlying question is so broad that we'd never make any practical progress. "Does it make sound? We can't prove it?" As Hume would say, we can't prove anything. As I leave the forest I could entertain the notion that the trees are expunged behind me because I have no

way of verifying anything else unless I return and perceive their continued existence. For all I know my mind constructs reality. The possibilities for discussion are endless but purely masturbatory and would eventually trail off into the void known as the non-issue.

The bottom line is that our individual internal (correlated) realities have established that aspects of external reality don't dissipate just because we're not present (or paying attention) and that sounds do occur despite no one being there to perceive them.

Webster.com: "mechanical radiant energy that is transmitted by longitudinal pressure waves in a material medium"

Dictionary.com: "Vibrations transmitted through an elastic solid or a liquid or gas, with frequencies in the approximate range of 20 to 20,000 hertz, capable of being detected by human organs of hearing."

These are the definitions we're obligated to use as they encompass all others.

Any falling tree (assuming its not in a vacuum) creates a sound.

Sound/Color Conversion

1) Compile a complete list of colors (represented with hexadecimal) which span the entire visible spectrum. This equates to millions upon millions of colors but will be necessary to maintain accuracy. The highest tone would stop at the penultimate shade of white allowing #FFFFFF to represent silence. The lowest audible tone will be represented by its polar opposite.

2) Next, compile a list of all audible frequencies (down to the cents - e.g. 439, 440 etc.).

3) Transpose sound to pitch.

4) Pick a piece of music (something simple to start out with) and break it down completely. By this I mean determine:

a) The total number of beats in the song x total instrumentation

b) The total number of beats for each instrument categorized by tone (e.g. 64 beats of bass – A 4th register, 32 beats of bass – D 4th register)

5) Convert the synopsis of each song into colors and proportions, which can then be provided to an artist as a palette with specific guidelines.

Example –

Lets take a five verse, 12-bar blues song in the key of A with a 4/4 time signature for a total of 240 beats. Assuming the instrumentation consists of bass, piano and drums we now have a total of 720 beats. Now lets say that the total number of beats for the bass playing the tonic would be 20 (with a standard bass line the tonic will be placed on the first beat of the first measure, first beat of the third measure, first beat of the seventh, and the first beat of 11th). Hence, 1/36 of the visual art would have to contain the color of A (in the register of the tonic – note there are other A's played at higher pitches throughout the progression).

Thanatomania

WHY NOT?

The sardonic final utterance escaped his parched lips. It wasn't a plaintive question posed in mock defiance but a query charged with wanderlust, a mantra that echoed his lifelong counter-philosophies. Leary teased a few of his own signature eccentricities prior to his death - having his head removed and cryogenically frozen (the thought of waking up in the presence of prodding doctors deterred him) and Cybercide (prostate cancer beat him to the punch). He settled on having his remains being launched into space.

When I found out I was terminally ill I was thrilled.

I wish I shared Leary's enthusiasm. In *Slaughterhouse Five*, Vonnegut describes death as a purple light and a hum, similar to a television screen after the broadcast day has come to a close. Appealing perhaps, in a Zen kind of way, but then one tries to envision the final moments aboard Flight 175:

As the plane soared inexorably towards oblivion, I felt the tremor of the engines beneath me and I envisioned being one of the hapless onlookers below, gazing in horror at the surreal events transpiring above.

A shudder echoed throughout the planes structure and I winced as I felt my mind attempt to dissociate from the impending events. I was losing consciousness. My thoughts began to swirl becoming a tempestuous maelstrom of fear.

Suddenly, through the thickening void, my attention was drawn to a monotonous, high-pitched pulse. Frustrated, I opened my eyes and reached toward the sound of the shrieking siren, attempting to silence this interruption. It was my cell phone. I struggled with it for a minute.

"W-What?"

"Jason," her voice was an oasis amidst the madness. "It's Phoebe. What's in Gods name is that noise?"

"I-----Were about to crash, I gasped in astonishment as the reality struck me yet again, leaving a lump in my throat. I wiped the sweat from my brow Phoebe, I-----"

The phone went dead as the plane let out another thunderous shriek. The noise began to escalate and then silence.

..one cant help but wince at the prospect.

Perpetually Thanataphobic,

Felix Winslow

The Highest Good?

I loathe conservative generalizations such as "abortion is wrong in 100% of the cases" or that "homosexuality is evil because the Bible tells us this." It lumps AIDS, abortion, substance abuse and "risky behavior" under the guise of liberalism, obviously assuming that our existence is as bland as duality implies.

I'm reminded of an exchange between a co-worker and myself the day after the election last year. He said he would be voting for Bush because Kerry was "pro-abortion" which he obviously confused, I hope, with "pro-choice." I asked him whether or not he thought life began at the point of conception and his reply was "Maybe even before. I think it's when God gets the idea to bring you into this world." Now I'm no man of the cloth but I do know that all Christians maintain the three O's when it comes to the nature of Dei ergo following this logic every person who has ever existed or will exist will and have always existed. Brilliant. This same voter, a co-worker was so passionate about this belief that he physically threatened his own brother and severed familial ties.

The world needs to freak existential in the worst way and it all begins with eliminating that imposing motherfucker in the sky. Once He is dissolved the rest happens naturally. You'll re-evaluate freewill versus determination and morality. The dilemma then gives way to "IT'S MY CHOICE." That's it. No karmic vindication! No divine involvement! All that is left is respect for life because it's a currency we can all respect. Abortion is a choice. As with cloning, there is nothing inherently wrong with the process, only the intentions. You fuck for fun, you raise a child! You get raped or your life is threatened by an accidental pregnancy, then you truly have a reason to abort. Why can't people discern between pro-choice and pro-choice/pro-life? I'm not going to feel guilty because a crack addict scrapes her insides with a hanger because that's her moral dilemma. Does it mean I should rob her of her rights because she uses them irresponsibly? What about freedom of press? Is it used responsibly? The right to wage war? What about the right for parents to allow the brains of their children to liquefy, sitting them in front of

the television day in and day out? People always want to doctor things up with McCarthyistic stigmas and straw men arguments rather than peering through the eyes of a realist. As Lennon said, "I'm sick and tired of hearing things from uptight-short sighted narrow-minded hypocritics. All I want is the truth! Just give me some truth!"

So lets look at some truth.

1. Homosexuality

Would someone care to explain exactly what is inherently wrong with homosexuality without referencing the Bible or the Christian faith? What I find appalling is that every maxim or truth we're expected to live by found in your Bible smacks of age-old human ignorance and extreme conservatism. The same text tells us that the slaughter of innocent animals is acceptable because they lack the souls that humans possess. I'm curious to know what the Christian view is on homosexual experiences between animals. Is it any less wrong when they commit the act due to their inferior intelligence or because they have no chance at suffering from eternal damnation? If the answer is yes, your entire argument crumbles because it represents sex for what it is: a physical act akin to any other physical act, a biological experience unrelated to anything moral other than what we assign to it through our arrogant yet narrow minds. It matters not a whit whether if it's between two men, two women, a man and woman or a group of people.

This same arrogance is reflected throughout our culture. We accommodate the mentally deficient in every sense of the word because we feel that it's "the right thing to do." Likewise we spit vituperate and loathsome comments at the gifted for their self-assuredness (often confused with elitism). Meanwhile we continue to exploit animals on a daily basis, oblivious to the implications.

And how have we desensitized ourselves against a world where a chicken can be saturated with hormones until its body weight crushes its legs, forced into an 8-1/2"x11" cage and kept awake with unbearably bright lights so that it will

eat continuously until the proper weight is attained (at which time its throat is slit just prior to being dipped into scalding water while still alive)? Simple: by assessing the other species as having less intelligence. How smooth is the blow to our conscience when we annihilate a "mindless" infectious mosquito rather than taking the two minutes required to trap and release it outside? "It's just not worth the time." The pound will pick your newborn litter of kittens up as easily as Domino's will deliver a meat-lovers pizza.

These views are a testament to the laziness of the human mind: the sole reason we invented religion. The reality is that homosexuals won't spend a moment in Hell. There is no vigilant deity watching us muck things up waiting eagerly to dispense justice a la 1950 conservatism which is all the more reason for us to place a higher value on the transient gift we call life (in all its forms).

2. Karma/Divine Intervention

Let's take a look at karma. Doing well by people yields no karmic benefits nor does it ensure a prosperous return. It's a system of checks and balances that can be as cold, utilitarian and dissipative as the wispy trails of frozen exhaust vomited by every warm and fuzzy mini-van that challenges the December air. I can name several people who've experienced more than their universal allotment of personal calamity and where was Serendipity? She held court with another that night. What people describing would by its very nature require an equal number of positive and negative events in the universe and it's practically pureed by moral relativism before it even leaves the macro scale. Wake up people! Karma and the Golden Rule would REQUIRE predestination to a degree. Again it comes down to zero-sum thinking. Look it up.

3. Morality and the Highest Good

Kant asserts that there is a categorical imperative, a universal moral law that all man must adhere to. A law that exists outside the scope of human desire and pain. The only problem with this is that I personally can't conceive of any moral law that isn't a direct result of the Nash equilibrium

and if it's a derivative construct from the interaction of man, how can it possibly claim moral authority above man (and please don't try to feed me the divine). Also, the prerequisite of any universal moral law is that it must be acknowledged by all of man but this is not the case as no moral law is immutable. Take murder for instance. We perceive it as wrong until population control becomes an issue (e.g. China).

The famous enquiring murdering example fails because there is no real sacrifice involved. We can't be sure what the murderer will do with the information you disclose. Lets try a better example.

You're lying in bed one night when suddenly you are awakened by a pinch on the arm. To your amazement, two gray aliens stand before you. You have felt tactile sensation; your nervous system has responded to the stimuli of their touch - you know they're real. One of them is holding a small device in his hand with a red button which you instinctively know spells trouble.

The alien speaks: "Has your world harnessed the power of that atom? Do you have nuclear weapons? If you do, we will incinerate your planet instantly to prevent further involvement. We know from eons of experience that ultimately nothing good can come from atomic energy. Inevitably you will destroy yourselves and possibly others and we cannot allow that to happen. What is your answer?" There is no question as to what the aliens will do based on your response.

Now Kant suggests that you lie because you can't be held responsible for the actions of your response; it falls on the aliens. However, the other 7 billion people of the world would lie, circumvent having to answer the question, alter the truth - anything to deter the impending. Suddenly lying becomes the only option and in this case the moral choice (as I'm sure the world would agree). In other words, survival resumes its place as the highest maxim.

Your six year old son comes home from school and says that he's learned a new word that he heard a fifth-grader repeating over and over. "Mommy what is fellatio?" Do you

follow through with answering the question or do you preserve the development of your child?

Morals are a product of self-preservation and zero sum thinking. We can dress them up and call them "civilized living" because they've been thousands of years in the making but in the end it boils down to "Don't fuck my wife. Don't lie to me. Don't murder me."

I read a bit of an excerpt from Kant's Idea for a Universal History from a Cosmopolitan Point of View in the Portable Enlightenment Reader and I have to say I'm somewhat disappointed considering this came from a man who lived during feudal times. In it Kant describes the difference between Kratos (political force) and Ethos (moral behavior) and paints a utopian image on a canvas of romanticism. His vision scratches the surface of a global federation of states where each state retains its own identity, culture, ethos etc yet works together towards maintaining perpetual peace.

I grow weary of classic philosophers and lofty pedants claiming moral authority and asserting that there is a moral code that supercedes or even presupposes humanity. There isn't. They make crass comments about the "savages" of the world who aren't elevated enough to adhere to true morality. Those "savages" such as the aborigines comprise the oldest civilizations in the world. They boast of virtues and about the direction of morality and of moral ascension. It doesn't ascend. There is only a macro social dynamic which is seemingly linear because humans continue to interact. Let a plague rip through this planet tomorrow. Let a blast similar to Tunguska decimate half the population and the polymorphous shape of morality will waver and dissipate revealing its true nature.

Morality, like culture, is exclusive to a region, a group of individuals, a city, a nation, a religion – everyone that you personally have ever known. Beyond that, there is nothing except morality as view by the next individual, which will be completely different. Even the one value we have pointed out – the value of life – is subjective. Its observed in self-preservation but not appreciated on the same level from person to person. Saddam Hussein shot his first victim at

the age of 10 because he's part of a culture, a sub-culture, a religion, a dynamic that is worlds away from our own.

Think of it like television static. There are thousands of white, black and gray pixels in a completely randomized configuration covering the screen. Wait, is that a pattern? Looks like a hedonistic hentai scene complete with demonic dildos, drugs unheard of and debauchery as the order of the day. Wait it's morphing into a fearless mongoose slaying a cobra.. ah Riki Tiki Tavi... no now its Voltron! No, it's still a completely randomized configuration that our mind is assigning form to. Each one of those pixels is a person, a closed system detached from the next yet observed as part of a pattern. When you watch the screen from your couch, the patterns seem blatant but when you're down in the muck, when you become one of the pixels, you might not see a pixel of any other color, ergo you assume the world is made of white, or gray, or black.

Imagine an alien race whose bodies produce a chemical similar to adrenaline, which induces a feral, uncontrollable rage, which can only be dispelled by extreme violence towards another. In other words the release of battle rage, the strike of a blow, the feeling of punctured skin beneath your fists would be the only way to bring yourself out of this fugue state and when this occurred, the chemical would spill from your pores giving an orgasm so intense it became addictive after the first experience. Sure you could try to withstand the urge, retaining the chemical but its acidic to the point that your veins can't contain it for more than 30 minutes. Then you die an agonizing death as your organs are eaten away. Sure you could try to satiate the rage by self-mutilation but that would serve only to arouse the rage even further. How do you think violence would be viewed in this society? Violence, which would occasionally result in murder, as standard behavior. Violence as acceptable in every day existence. Sure, self-preservation might compel the race to search for a new way, something to replicate the same release in order to avoid the need to kill or bring harm to another. Perhaps cloning flesh and organs - meat puppets - for the sole purpose of beating them to a bloody pulp.

Or it could continue to thrive on this violence, searching for new ways to kill and maim, looking for ways to reach that

same orgasmic release or to take it steps further. No higher government, no colonies, just total anarchy. The result: A world of scheming addicts searching for their next fix not because it's simply an addiction, but because it threatens their life.

Where does Kant's higher morality fit into this picture? Who would give a rat's ass about perpetual peace? Here's where I stand.

Einstein, Gandhi and Twain each gave up on the human race just prior to their deaths reaching the cynical and jaded conclusion that the human race ultimately yields very little promise.

"Why are you so deeply opposed to the disappearance of the human race?" Einstein asked himself in 1949, just a few years before his death in 55. "I have admitted my mistake," Gandhi grumbled bitterly in 1948, shortly before his assassination. "I thought our struggle was based on non-violence, whereas in reality it was no more than passive resistance, which essentially is a weapon of the weak." Twain's was bleakest of all. In 1898 at the age of 63 he wrote "The Mysterious Stranger," a long short story whose premise detailed the creation of the world by Satan rather than God. "Strange, indeed," says the Devil to the lone human to whom he has revealed himself, "that you should not have suspected that your universe and its contents were only dreams, visions, fiction! Strange, because they are so frankly and hysterically insane -- like all dreams: a God who could make good children as easily as bad, yet preferred to make bad ones; who could have made every one of them happy, yet never made a single happy one; who made them prize their bitter life, yet stingily cut it short..."

Let's face it. As Kant taught us the three looming a priori assertions are freedom of will, god and immortality. Regardless of error or inconsistency we still pursue these three questions tirelessly. Why do they endure? They apply on several levels to the individual. With all three of these great minds we see the same solipsistic process of turning inward, shunning the world and its denizens after a lifetime of valiant effort to explore and protect its nature. They all folded. Word is Konnegut recently folded as well. Is the

inexorable termination of the human race the only answer?
No sound if no tree falling?

That question was more or less to gear up for my next: Can the inexactitude of thought and the gap between phenomena and noumena drive us to insanity or at least extreme cynicism?

Kant names three a priori questions that we continue to chase after but he neglects the fourth which is the most important: phenomena. It's hinted at within the question of freedom of will but the inherent problem of phenomena and internal correlating reality supercedes predestination/freewill. Every entity is an island. Think of the most paranoid or hysterical place your mind has taken you and you'll find the root of the problem is that ultimately there is no control group to measure your thoughts against, no context. How close can we get to another human? Just consider the difference between the beauty of thought and the inefficacy of speech.

If you can provide sound, logical and empirical arguments against any of what I've said, I'm all ears.

POETRY

Ape March

An exhibition of unfettered mediocrity
A syndicate of lackadaisical lemurs
with the conviction to be languorous
a gargantuan shift to ape the ape.

A generation self-contented with scatology
But what man can refuse this antediluvian call
lest Apollo lose this immortal affectivity
should mankind forsaken this simian sirra.

Cereus

She seethes, not pours
For to seethe is to boil ever so suddenly
A transient transparency
A window of mania
A moment on the shores of Pharos

Fleeting vibrance
For to shimmer is to attract the shadows
The forgotten fog
The auroral apex
The seepage through the pores of Eros

Scrambling bedlam
A cascade of formless impulses compelling
Lateral projections
Written in sweat
A torment born of her naïve pathos

Exhausted lemming
For to expend is to do it vivaciously
Psychical shambles
Emotional swindling
Seething in the wake of Prometheus.

Donuts for Daddio

Potty mouth, potty mouth, baker's band,
kneading the notes as fast as they can.
Donuts for Daddio, strudels for me,
Java for you, but for me, iced tea.
The continental curtain opens up at six
After the show you can catch a pickle flick,
And then Orange Juice will go on at eight,
A little dab'll do you, but you're gonna have to wait!

DESPITE THE BARRAGES OF
MANKIND'S IGNORANCE
A LONE MUSE
DEDICATED
HER FORCE
TO AN EMOTION WHICH OFT
IS IGNORED
IN THE MIND
OF MAN, BUT
ONE THAT IS EVIDENT IN
THE BEAUTY WE CALL LIFE

PERHAPS
THE ERA
FOR LOVE
HAS MET
THE MUSE
WITH HATE
AND RAGE
FOR WE
ARE NOT
RIPE FOR
HER LOVE

FOR
THE AGE
THAT LOVE
WILL RULE
WAS EONS
IN THE MAKING
AND NOW
THE EYE
FOR HER
CAN SEE
ONCE MORE

ERATO CONTINUES TO
CHOKES THE EMOTIONS

BACK
FROM
FEAR
THAT
FOUL
FOLK
WILL
FIND
HER

ULTIMATELY
THE ONE
THAT WILL
HOLD FIRE
WITH LIFE
WILL FEEL
FREE FROM
TIME AND
PAIN FOR
THE MUSE
BLESSES

Magnum Opus

Dishevled, disheartened and distraught
indecisive melodies sprawling out in many directions
arpeggiated fiddle-faddle, mawkish chromatic intricacies
enclosures seeking closure.

Uncreative, unproductive but definitely unrepentant
exercising scales, exorcising dry theory
accompaniment into the abysmal labyrinthine
passages of complacent 4/4.

Will Salieri ever hope to exceed his meager abilities?
A semisynthetic scalar between his passion and prowess
it doesn't matter anyway
Thanks to the Big Bang he forgot
to hit the record button.

Mystery Train

A deafening static permeated the area
lazily alleviating
steadily rejuvenating.

Sturm and drang, storm and drain
soiled and stained, grinning yet panged
going in with a bang.

Arrived at her destination a little too early
a livid line she is
keeping her distance from the tracks.

Pansentience

Piss in the face of reason
this season a new treason
mutiny's mutants propel
and dispel the myth of consistency.
God (Speed [Rush])

When your back was turned
it knew, it watched and drew
its mind back in fear
the feedback loop is clear.
Permeating (Everything [Teleology])

A challenge is issued
heretofore eternal
searching for a pinnacle
trough internal.
Rock (Static [Fuzz])

Titanium brain
uranium stain
Fat Man and a Little Boy
snug on a plane.
Stellar (Genesis [Foam])

Piss in the face of reason
tease in the space of season
dog atop dog
bacon from the hog.
Event (Horizon) [Apex])

Senses

An engineered inner sneer
with an inner ear listening ever clear
turned towards time
listening listlessly and
haunted hopelessly by
timeless captivity
but a Protean am I
with a modus operandi
both modular and insular
like no man in particular
each man is a no land
wet behind the ears and
polymorphous behind eyelids
from a barrage, a montage
of images unimaginable
of meaning inextricable
of stimulus undetectable
each node we decode
were not capable
yet our minds remain insatiable
sniffing, panting, digging,
tasting, scratching, wiggling
at the first sign of confrontation
upon regenerative speculation
regurgitated indigestion
spawned from nervous indignation
See? It makes us seethe to see the sea
thoughts, skin, hair and despair
choking and gasping on pretentious air
The fish cant breathe
no Poseidian heir
our lungs are ill equipped
our tongues easily whipped
Into the shapeless ocean
of amorphous motion
Lights! Sounds!
Plights! Zounds!
Cacophonic zithers
emit dithering blithers
in no direction in particular

as they fall on deaf ears
for years spent Alpha
eventually succumb to delta
sleep counting sheep
So I close my eyes
and REMember a time
sublime and replete
no need to compete
its all the same ocean anyway
and I'm terrified of water
adjacent complacent displacement
one left, one down, one right
you cough at the thought of one off
but the sloth moves slowly lowly
over the valleys and alleys
and Miles smiles at the inner city
universal noise, the sound of boys
balling in the street, youth is fleeting
souls are meeting, bleeding
converging, merging, surging
up to Heavens gate
incandescent but pubescent
God doesn't play dice, or create mice
or gene splice, or bless the nice
so dress to entice, the Voltarian life
breathe it in, taste the wind of splendor
it never ends or it never begins
and it seldom blends
the relentless senses
eternally attentive
subconsciously inventive
electric incentive.

The Paradoxical Duality of Jesus Christ - The Incredible Oedipal Egg

Was it a bang with a big B
or perhaps not quite that precise
maybe the ambiguous endeavor
of a macroentity's sweet device?

Regardless of what is relative to belief
the empty void has been filled by Me
this conundrum cannot be solved by logic
or a mysterious dogmatic 6003.

An avatar among us should clear things up
Pour it into our naive minds
I think our cups runneth over
As we forget the past, the future's refined.

It was an attempt to clarify, to enlighten and transcend
into a lofty understanding of the morals we cast aside
yet as easy as it should've been
the Sirens won't allow us to abide.

So they turn towards a myriad truths
none of which will ever ring true
a cosmic puzzle without one piece
keeps us in our stoic view.

The Babylonian empire is built again
this time much taller than before
it's gothic towers like shadowy figures
standing outside the killing floor.

So we've laid his treasures on the ground
and decided to go in search of our own
yet we're not the avatar merging two
the likes of which we've never known.

A bang, a week, a chiliad
like a day or the twinkling of an eye
our conundrum has been replaced by power
while the end is growing ever nigh.

Un Opus Consacré A Ma Douleur

It begins anew at the dawn of each day,
be it a throbbing pain in the neck
or vertigo which banishes me
to the labyrinthine passages of Cretan,
The incessant sneezing and wheezing
juxtaposed with headaches spawned
from the deepest pits of Tartarus
An otorhinolaryngological anomaly am I!
The cacophonous bronchial noises oft
begin pianissimo, adagio, teasing a melody
praising the satyr that sired the satire
the small quivering tone suddenly bursts
into a polyphonous roar..the pain grows worse..da capo...da capo..

La douleur n'est pas toujours physique!
Indeed the cranium often pangs
from the inside out when I beseech my muse
or opt to tackle the greater mystery:
Oj est le traitement?

Wither

Phantom limb
atrophied whim
on a cliff
off a tiff
have a skiff
sail on a
thought
sail on a skiff
have a tiff
off a cliff
on a whim
atrophied limb,
Phantom.

Wunderkind

The ne plus ultra,
the apothecotic Hippocratic
has a vantage point
and a bandaged joint
making do with the tools of fools
the Tao jonz plagues him
and the eight-fold path
is an octoplegic spider
disoriented and off center
off kilter with a dissociative filter
squandering his energy on
cynicism and fatalism
causing a schism which makes him forget
the world itself is a pest but
to make it work *is* the quest.

Zero

Recidivists confess
while mentalities regress
as thoughts coalesce
lines end at a point
we disjoint the immaculate
with ambitious friction
and endless fiction
Categorical Imperatives
repairing themselves temporally
through decay, nature betrays
through kernel cohesion but
only from the perspective
of sentient confusion
reaching out, trying to make a difference
yet the parts are killing the whole
as holism works itself towards non-existence
a pulse, throbbing strings
bits echoing the message:
01011010 01100101 01110010 01101111
01011010 01100101 01110010 01101111
Let it Crunch.

PUZZLES

2 to 1 Animal Anagrams

The following word pairs are anagrams, which can be combined to form the name of an animal or insect. However, be careful. A few of the pairs include one extra letter just to make things more difficult. Regular anagrams are worth one point; anagrams with one extra letter are worth two points. Good luck! Check your answers on page 90.

1 lone tape

2 cot soup

3 bow mat

4 Atlanta run

5 boa luff

6 evil owner

7 moral dial

8 neat help

9 camel shone

10 log rail

11 bloat grail

12 stare blanket

13 port rap

14 lot cone

15 zeal gel

Aardvark Puzzles Squares

Directions: Each of these squares contains a pattern, which can appear in just about any form. Your goal is to find the missing figures. Very little general knowledge is required. There is no time limit and you may use any reference materials. However, don't discuss the problems with others. When you are finished with the test check your answers on page 91-93. Good luck!

1)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| X | H | W |
| T | A | E |
| L | Z | ? |

2)

| | | |
|------|------|------|
| male | lame | meal |
| mate | team | meat |
| pat | tap | ? |

3)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|----|
| 9 | 4 | 1 | 13 |
| 7 | 9 | 2 | 23 |
| 6 | 4 | 5 | ? |

4)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|----|
| 2 | 8 | 5 | 13 |
| 4 | 7 | 6 | 20 |
| 4 | 5 | 9 | ? |

5)

| | | |
|---|-----|----|
| 4 | 41 | 5 |
| ? | 221 | 10 |
| 7 | 85 | 6 |

6)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| N | D | R |
| U | ? | U |
| N | O | C |

7)

| | |
|------|------|
| 1467 | 9643 |
| 2589 | 8521 |
| 9134 | ? |

8)

| | | |
|----------|-------|----------|
| A | HUMAN | TRIANGLE |
| DOG | F | LINE |
| TRIANGLE | ? | ANT |

This concludes the test.

Carolina Intelligence Test

Directions: This test is designed for your amusement only. There is no time limit and you may use any means possible to find the answers (except by discussing the problems with others). A grading scale along with the answers is provided on page 94. Good luck!

1) DUMMY

The letters from the three words below can be taken apart, unscrambled and merged to form three separate words all of which are synonyms. Can you find them?

CLIMBER MONITOR NIECE

2) Unscramble

The king of conundrums lives in the MANLIEST CAGE

3) Something Fishy!?

How long does it take for you to solve weird riddles? Time is passing as we speak...tic...toc! This one involves absolutely no academia. If you don't solve it you might be ill. As far as difficulty is concerned it's my easiest one. Can you solve this?

4) SO!

What color is her blouse?

5) Below there are sixteen numbers. Assuming that any three of the numbers may be drawn at random, what is the probability (to the nearest percent) that three numbers will be drawn whose sum equals six?

1 2 3 1

2 3 1 2

3 1 2 3

1 2 3 1

6) Judy is five times as old as Henry. In two years, she'll be three times as old, and in six years she'll only be twice as old. How old will Judy be in seven years?

7)

ETS

Which one is the odd one out?

URN URA ARS RTH TER NUS

8) In the following series, find the missing number.

1584 5842 5834 5484 5584 5846 ?

9) LET'S SPLIT

Maxwell Edison is studying a newly discovered hyperactive amoeba, which multiplies at a highly accelerated rate. He places one such amoeba in a jar. After 15 seconds the amoeba splits. 15 seconds later the two amoebae split. 15 seconds after that, the four amoebae split and so on. After two hours the jar is halfway full. How long will it take to fill the jar completely?

10) GOOD SAMARITAN

463512=a divine service and $\frac{3}{8}$ of me is a system or theory. What am I?

This concludes the test.

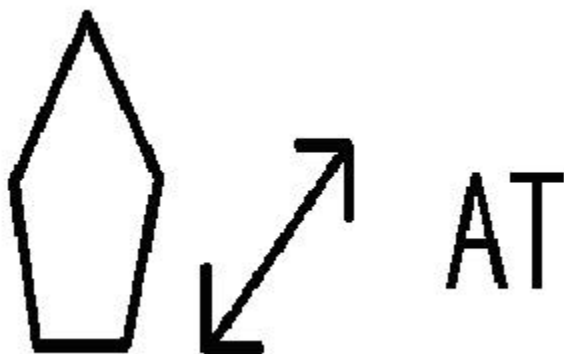
The Enigmus Associations Experiment

Copyright 1999

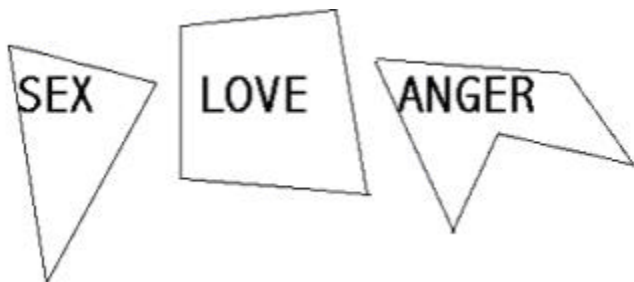
Directions: The following sets of words, numbers and phrases have a common association, which is a word, or phrase that you must find. When you are finished finding solutions you may check your answers on pages 95-96. There is no time limit and you may use any reference materials to find the answers. No discussions with others are allowed. Good luck!

- 1) ENERGY MISSLE FAMILY
- 2) BIG ADAM WORM
- 3) SHORE SICK HORSE
- 4) KILOMETER INCH YARD
- 5) SQUID OCTOPUS JELLYFISH
- 6) SPIDER OCTOGON AUGUST
- 7) TWO BEAR ALE
- 8) WORMHOLE DOORWAY NOSTRIL
- 9) DUBLOON PENCE NICKEL
- 10) SALT LADDER RABBIT
- 11) EVE SEX AT MADAM TAXES RISE TO
VOTE SIR

12)



13)



14) 17938232 344 57896

15) 4 81 900

16) 2 13 71

This concludes the test.

Enigmus Analogies Test

The following analogies will quiz your intelligence. The rules are as follows (if you wish to play by them!):

- 1) Do not use reference materials, calculators, etc.
- 2) Do not communicate with others during the test.
- 3) There is a 25-minute time limit. Make sure that you won't be interrupted before beginning the test. It's a one shot deal!
- 4) Do not use scratch paper (except to record your answers). Any calculations must be performed mentally.

Upon completion, you may check your answers and see how your results rank on pages 97-99. The IQ scale is tentative so don't take it too seriously. Good luck!

CHECK YOUR CLOCK!

START THE TEST NOW!

1) The Cat in the Hat : Seuss :: Rikki Tikki Tavi : ?

a) Brown b) Kipling c) Kachur d) Burgess

2) bang buzz hiss : onomatopoeia :: frauple frequent
fraxenigan : ?

a) trophic b) hyperbole c) alliteration d) metaphor

3) apple : gravity :: spaghetti : ?

a) black hole b) electromagnetism c) quarks d) space-time

4) religion with one god : Christianity :: religion with over
six million gods : ?

a) Shintoism b) Buddhism c) Hinduism d) Taoism

5) $A^2 + B^2 = C^2$: Pythagoras :: $N = N * f_p n_e f_l f_i f_c f_L$: ?

a) Sagan b) Drake c) Einstein d) Hawking

6) Do : 1 :: Do : ?

a) 3 b) 5 c) 7 d) 8

7) Anglo- : England :: Sino- : ?

a) China b) Japan c) Korea d) Vietnam

8) God : Moses :: Myrddin : ?

a) Lancelot b) Merlin c) Mordred d) Arthur

9) queen : king :: cherubim : ?

a) Michael b) angel c) seraphim d) archangel

10) Plague : Black :: Mary : ?

a) Bloody b) Red c) Mother d) Typhoid

11) mule : horse-donkey :: zobo : ?

a) yak-zebu b) zebu-cow c) yak-cow d) zebu-ox

12) $8 + 7 = x : 15 :: 2x + y = 3z : ?$

a) 4, 2, 3 b) 3, 5, 4 c) 7, 10, 8 d) 6, 4, 5

13) hard place : Charybdis :: rock : ?

a) Hercules b) Hades c) Scylla d) Prometheus

14) palindrome : Sidis :: ultima : ?

a) da b) ty c) ci d) au

15) Adam's apple : women :: navel : ?

a) Bill b) Sam c) Adam d) Greg

16) bicentennial : 200 years :: sesquicentennial : ?

a) 600 years b) 125 years c) 700 years d) 150 years

17) St. John's-bread : beans :: St. John's-evil : ?

a) greed b) epilepsy c) adultery d) schizophrenia

18) calumniate : traduce :: eulogize : ?

a) decry b) asperse c) laud d) revile

19) tendon : Achilles :: box : ?

a) Jack b) Pandora c) square d) sides

20) W : 3 :: X : ?

a) 1 b) 2 c) 4 d) 5

21) Big Foot : Loch Ness Monster : Sasquatch : ?

a) Scotland b) Yeti c) Ogopogo d) Canada

22) cerulean : sky blue :: xanthous : ?

a) orange b) red c) blue-green d) yellow

23) throw : stud :: worth : ?

a) Fabio b) poor c) rich d) dust

24) sake : end :: sake : ?

a) monkey b) wine c) goodness d) beginning

25) farfamed : bedlam :: eminent :: ?

a) huggermugger b) euphoria c) illustrious d) obscure

26) ; : semicolon :: ~ : ?

a) circumflex b) macron c) tilde d) dieresis

27) palindrome : Sidis :: penult : ?

a) da b) ty c) ci d) au

28) sphinx : woman :: Thoth : ?

a) lion b) man c) ibis d) woman

29) pentagon : figure with five sides :: pentacron : ?

a) a period of five years b) solid with five angular points c) a star with five points d) a union of five cities

30) Armaggedon.....July '99 : Nostrodamus' prophecy :: Christ will return and set up theocratic kingdom : ?

a) Ragnarok b) chiliasm c) rapture d) Heaven

This concludes the test.

The Enigmus Riddle Exam

Directions: This test consists of thirty riddles designed to test your verbal intelligence. You may use reference materials and there is no time limit. However, you may not discuss the questions with others. When you are finished finding solutions you may grade your answers on page 100. Good luck!

- 1) I am a word that means both pleasing and obsolete. My last three letters are very cold! What am I?
- 2) I am a time for gathering crops. My last four letters is something that you wear. What am I?
- 3) I am the wealthiest man in the world. My last name is an anagram for a word that means platform. Who am I?
- 4) My first three letters is a word which means disencumber. I am a mystery. What am I?
- 5) I am the study of the history of words. Change my third letter then add a letter between my first and third and you have a study of insects. What am I?
- 6) I am a poem that expresses melancholy. My second, third and fourth letters are an appendage. What am I?
- 7) I am a long journey. Change my fourth letter to a vowel and you have a large organic object that for some reason seems to attract felines. What am I?
- 8) I am a comparison between two things. Remove a letter from me and you have a facial expression. What am I?
- 9) I am short, concise and to the point. Change my first letter and you have a body of metrical writing. What am I?
- 10) I am a word which means unchanging. I am also a form of energy. If you change my first letter then I become an anagram of a device for accomplishing an end. What am I?
- 11) I am a compound word and a popular snack. My first word means bust or explode. My second word is also edible. What am I?
- 12) I am might, authority, strength and control! Most people can't handle me and I change them for the worse. Change my first letter and you can make several words. One such

- word is a tall edifice and another means to cringe. What am I?
- 13) I am the act of turning something inside out. Replace my first two letters with three different ones and you have a word that means to change or alter. What am I?
- 14) I am a protective outer layer. My first three letters is one of your anatomical references. What am I?
- 15) I am anger and if you remove my first letter I become a word, which means to grow old. What am I?
- 16) I am a spiritual being but if you switch my last two letters around I become a viewpoint or a turn, which is measured in degrees. What am I?
- 17) I was a ruler of Rome. Remove my first three letters then add a new one and you have a word, which means ruler. Who am I?
- 18) I am a word that means to bewilder or perplex. You can get lost in my last four letters. What am I?
- 19) I am given to criminals who are caught and taken to court (if found guilty). Add one letter to me and I become intelligent. What am I?
- 20) I am a charged subatomic particle. Remove my first letter and you turn me _____. What am I?
- 21) I am the basis for every language. My first five letters means the beginning. What am I?
- 22) I am a very large reptile. Remove my last two letters and add six and you have the man who created the fundamental formula for measuring the distances in a plane. Who am I?
- 23) I am a word, which means to summon by invocation. My first three letters is an argument or evidence in opposition. What am I?
- 24) My last five letters is a word which means to seat oneself for riding. I am a word, which means equivalent in value or effect. What am I?
- 25) There is no word in the English language that rhymes with me. I am edible and if you remove my first letter I become a series of mountains. What am I?

26) I am a large fortified structure. My first four letters is something used to help in healing bones. What am I?

27) I am a container, which holds food for livestock. My last five letters is a negative emotion. What am I?

28) I am a country in the Mediterranean region. Remove my last letter and I am an anagram for the rear end of an animal. Many people say that I am shaped like a boot. What am I?

29) I am a writing utensil. My first three letters is also a writing utensil. What am I?

30) Everyone you know has one of me. Change my first two letters and I become something else that everyone has. Remove my first two letters and add three and you have something else that many people have. I am (or have been) a living thing. What am I?

This concludes the test.

The Ghotiwhaid Frenzy

Did you know that the word "fish" can be spelled "ghoti?" It's true. If you take the "f" (gh) sound from the word "tough," the "i" (o) sound from the word "women," and the "sh" (ti) sound from the word "position" you have the word (or at least the sounds) of the word "fish." This is the basis for this little quiz. The following cryptic words are comprised of different words/sounds. See if you can figure out all ten. Good luck! The answers are on page 101.

- 1) GNOOD
- 2) POSSOL
- 3) TIAIGNJ
- 4) SSEAUM
- 5) SCAUKNOQ
- 6) TIOMONM
- 7) LOWHIOR
- 8) LEENMOKN
- 9) SIQOP
- 10) JEAGNOC

Myths, Legends & UFOs

Are you interested in the paranormal? The mythological? The extraterrestrial? We'll see. Try this trivia quiz and assess your knowledge of the strrrrrrange! When you are finished, check your answers on page 102. Good luck!

1) In which of the following states is the top-secret military installation known as Area 51 located?

- a. Utah
- b. Arizona
- c. New Mexico
- d. Nevada

2) Hermes is the Greek messenger god. Who is his Roman equivalent?

- a. Jupiter
- b. Saturn
- c. Mercury
- d. Vulcan

3) Which of the following creatures has allegedly been seen swimming in Canadian lakes?

- a. Yeti
- b. Bunyan
- c. Ogopogo
- d. Loch Ness Monster

4) Odin, the king of the Norse gods traded one of his eyes for

- a. compassion
- b. bravery
- c. strength
- d. wisdom

5) Many conspiracy theorists believe that humans haven't been back to the moon since _____ because aliens inhabit it.

- a. 1971
- b. 1974
- c. 1973
- d. 1972

6) A satellite that was taking photos near one of Mars' moons was allegedly obliterated by a UFO near the turn of the decade (1990-2000). What country created this satellite?

- a. Russia
- b. Germany
- c. USA
- d. England

7) Which of the following dragons comes from Chinese mythology?

- a. Hydra
- b. Tiamut
- c. Smaug
- d. Quetzlcoatl

8) In the Arthurian legend which of King Arthur's knights found the holy grail?

- a. Pellinore
- b. Lancelot
- c. Gawain
- d. Percival

9) According to Greek mythology, the peacock received the "eyes" on its feathers from which creature?

- a. Argus
- b. Pegasus
- c. Scylla
- d. Pan

10) Which if the following monsters is not a zombie?

- a. wight
- b. poltergeist
- c. lazar
- d. lich

11) In July of what year did a UFO allegedly crash near Roswell, New Mexico?

- a. 1945
- b. 1947
- c. 1948
- d. 1950

12) Which of the following creatures is not a nymph?

- a. satyr
- b. naiad
- c. dryad
- d. Nereid

13) Which of the following monsters is not a hybrid?

- a. griffin
- b. chimera
- c. centaur
- d. doppelganger

This concludes the test.

The Oracle Exam

This fifteen-item test consists of problems roughly measuring general knowledge and cognitive ability. There is a twenty-minute time limit and no discussion with others or use of reference materials is allowed. All calculations must be performed mentally. When you are finished, check your answers on pages 103-104. Good luck and above all else—have fun! When you are ready to begin taking the test, turn to the next page.

CHECK YOUR CLOCK!

START THE TEST NOW!

1) In the following series 2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 13 the next number will be

- a. 15
- b. 17
- c. 16
- d. 19

2) If someone is omniscient then that person knows

- a. something
- b. everything
- c. nothing
- d. none of the above

3) PGPGGPGPPGGG is to ~/~//~/~~/~// as
GPGGPGPPGGG is to

- a. /~//~//~//~//
- b. ~/~//~//~//~
- c. ~/~~/~//~//~
- d. /~//~//~//~//

4) A man walks into a hardware store with \$111.50. He grabs three cans of paint each costing \$24.79 and puts them into his shopping cart. He also grabs two paintbrushes, (\$4.95 apiece) a roller, (\$13.95) and a pack of batteries (\$3.99) for his radio. After 6% sales tax is included he can afford this material.

- a. True
- b. False
- c. Neither
- d. None of the above

5) EEZSHNCIT unscrambled is the name of a(n)

- a. poet
- b. philosopher
- c. composer
- d. artist

6) The area surrounding a blackhole where the intense pull of gravity begins to be felt is called

- a. the event horizon
- b. the singularity
- c. a wormhole
- d. spaghettification

7) The weakest force in quantum physics is

- a. electromagnetism
- b. gravity
- c. a strong nuclear force
- d. a weak nuclear force

8) Rasputin (also known as the Mad Monk) was killed by which of the following methods:

- a. gunshot
- b. drowning
- c. stabbed
- d. beheaded

9) Dissociative Identity Disorder is an example of a psychosis.

- a. True
- b. False
- c. Neither
- d. None of the Above

10) In music, a sforzando refers to

- a. dynamics
- b. tempo
- c. polyphony
- d. none of the above

11) KKAOGNB unscrambled is the name of a(n)

- a. city
- b. plant
- c. nation
- d. animal

12) 25201014106149 is to infinity as 2520149185205 is to eternity.

- a. True
- b. False
- c. Neither
- d. None of the Above

13) If I write this poem down:

The sky awakens
And all the creatures are blessed
The falling rain

then I have just written a haiku.

- a. True
- b. False
- c. Neither
- d. None of the Above

14) If something is eradicated from existence as though it has never existed then it has been

- a. obliterated
- b. annihilated
- c. expunged
- d. demolished

15) EMNOGTA unscrambled is a type of

- a. music
- b. art
- c. writing
- d. religion

This concludes the test.

The Raven Quiz

This test is for your amusement only. In it you are furnished with 15 riddles, and the answers all have a common thread: they contain the word "ever". The word may appear outright or may be scrambled. Nevertheless, it is there. When finished you may check your answers on page 105. Good luck!

- 1) I am a word that means 'calling forth respect through age, character, and attainments.' My middle three letters make up a memorable or important date or event. What am I?
- 2) I am a word which means 'to go back to an original state.' Change my last letter to a vowel and you have a word, which means 'to regard with deep respect.' What am I?
- 3) Remove my first six letters and my last and you have a rodent. My last four letters are the amount or degree of a thing in relation to units of something else. I am a word that means 'disembowel.' What am I?
- 4) I am bubbling! My last five letters are an odor and my last four letters are a coin. What am I?
- 5) I'm huge! As a matter of fact, I'm over 25,000 feet tall. What am I?
- 6) I am a word which means 'to deduce or infer.' Remove my second letter and I am a force, which compels. What am I?
- 7) I am the highest point. I am also the point of intersection of the two sides of an angle. Remove my first three letters and add two to the end and you have a state in the USA. What am I?
- 8) I am a word, which means 'vigor and energy.' Change my first letter and add two and you have a word that means 'to turn aside from a straight line.' What am I?
- 9) I am a symptom of many sicknesses. Is it hot in here or is it just me? What am I?

10) I am the state of sadness caused by the death of someone close. My first two letters mean 'to exist.' What am I?

11) You won't solve me. Not at all. Not ever. What am I?

12) I am a premonition. My first five letters mean 'to make merry.' What am I?

13) I am a bar used to pry. Change my last letter to a vowel and you have a dam or embankment. What am I?

14) I am a fiber. When you feel pain, it's my fault. What am I?

15) I am a member of the clergy. My last three letters are a word meaning 'termination or closing.' What am I?

This concludes the test.

The Test You Really Should Try

Introduction: This test was originally designed as a prototype for a high IQ entrance exam. Unfortunately, due to the level of difficulty and the esoteric nature of some of the questions I have decided to retire this endeavor and offer the test as a power test exercise. The answers are provided on pages 106-107.

Directions: The rules are quite simple. As with most of my tests, there is no time limit. You may use any reference materials (calculators, literature, etc) but you may not discuss the test with others. When you've thoroughly drained your brain check your answers on page 106.

ANALOGIES (ex. boy : girl :: man : woman)

- 1) telepathy : obsession :: telekinesis : ?
- 2) head : cabbage :: ear : ?
- 3) small bird : dodo :: horse/zebra : ?
- 4) 25151871169182220 : 1119261526123 :: phalanx : ?
- 5) simultaneous : 71 :: AAAIIEEE! : ?
- 6) plumed serpent : Quetzlcoatl :: sunbathing omniscient shapechanger (HANG ON FOR YOUR LIFE) : ?
- 7) 1996TL₆₆ : Jupiter :: decennium : ?
- 8) apple : core :: blackhole : ?
- 9) re- un- -ism : fix :: "agony" "pain" "like better" : ?
- 10) garrulous : prenatal :: laconic : ?
- 11) empiricism : Aristotelian :: egotism : ?
- 12) Taoism awakens prophetic theatrics drowning indeed definitively honey-dew-eatin' definitions obliteration saturations : four :: Your name is Matsika Ujimbo : ?

LATERAL THINKING

13) TRANSLATE

20004100000002100100000020 0302030302

LOGICAL REASONING AND PROBABILITIES

14) Below there are 36 numbers. Assuming that any three of the numbers may be drawn at random, what is the probability (to the nearest percent) that three numbers will be drawn whose sum equals 15?

456745

567456

674567

745674

456745

567456

15) Imagine that you have two standard radial clocks one of which operates efficiently and normally and one that has been completely modified. Note first that the hands of the altered clock operate independently (meaning that they have no effect on each other) except where otherwise stated. The modified clock operates in such a fashion that the second hand moves clockwise twice as fast as normal, the minute hand moves counterclockwise at normal speed and the hour hand moves counterclockwise by one-minute increments per every twelve minutes ONLY. However, for whatever reason the second hand will manage to draw the minute hand clockwise one minute every 90 minutes (standard time). This will subsequently affect the hour hand every 60 minutes (altered time) or 90 minutes (standard time). Both clocks are synchronized at 12:00 AM. At what time will the standard clock read when all three hands on the altered clock are in perfect alignment? Only alignments that occur *after* the minute hand has begun to move count (e.g. the starting point at which the clocks are aligned and 30 seconds after the clocks have started to move are not valid answers).

This concludes the test.

ANSWERS

Answers to 2 to 1 Animal Anagrams

- 1 antelope
- 2 octopus
- 3 wombat
- 4 tarantula -n
- 5 buffalo
- 6 wolverine
- 7 armadillo
- 8 elephant
- 9 chameleon -s
- 10 gorilla
- 11 alligator -b
- 12 rattlesnake -b
- 13 parrot -p
- 14 ocelot -n
- 15 gazelle

Aardvark Puzzles Squares-Answers & Grading Scale

Score Ranking

- 1-2 Silly Square
 3-4 Quizzical Quadrangular
 5-6 Righteous Rectangle
 7-8 Cool Cube

1) M. The first letters in each row are made up of two lines, the second letters in each row three and the third four (M is the only other letter which consists of four lines).

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| X | H | W |
| T | A | E |
| L | Z | M |

2) Apt. All three of the words in each row are anagrams of each other.

| | | |
|------|------|------|
| male | lame | meal |
| mate | team | meat |
| pat | tap | apt |

3) 34. $9 * 1 + 4 = 13$, $7 * 2 + 9 = 23$ and $6 * 5 + 4 = 34$

| | | | |
|---|---|---|----|
| 9 | 4 | 1 | 13 |
| 7 | 9 | 2 | 23 |
| 6 | 4 | 5 | 34 |

4) 19. In each row take half of the first number and multiply it by the second. Then add the third.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|----|
| 2 | 8 | 5 | 13 |
| 4 | 7 | 6 | 20 |
| 4 | 5 | 9 | 19 |

5) 11. Multiply the numbers in the first and third squares, double them, and add one to get the number in the middle square.

| | | |
|----|-----|----|
| 4 | 41 | 5 |
| 11 | 221 | 10 |
| 7 | 85 | 6 |

6) M. Starting with the cell at the bottom right travel clockwise in an inward spiral to the middle to form the word "conundrum."

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| N | D | R |
| U | M | U |
| N | O | C |

7) 1976. The individual corresponding numbers in each row (ex. 1-9, 4-6, 6-4 & 7-3 for the first row) add up to ten.

| | |
|------|------|
| 1467 | 9643 |
| 2589 | 8521 |
| 9134 | 1976 |

8) I. This is probably the hardest one. The pattern is 1, 2, 3 for the first row; 2, 4, 6 for the second and 3, 6, 9 for the

third. The pattern is scrambled to increase difficulty and disguised by different entities that pertain to this pattern (ex A-the first letter of the alphabet, HUMAN-a biped, TRIANGLE-a three sided object).

| | | |
|----------|-------|----------|
| A | HUMAN | TRIANGLE |
| DOG | F | LINE |
| TRIANGLE | I | ANT |

Carolina Intelligence Test-Answers and Grading Scale

1-2 Duh! Anyone wanna play Candyland?

2-3 Mind-Boggled

3-4 Average Joe/Jane

5-6 Above Average Joe/Jane

7-8 Mind-Boggling (gifted - WB)

9-10 Wise Guy (genius - WB)

1) IMBECILE MORON CRETIN

2) ENIGMA CASTLE

3) Scales. The true question is in the title. Take the last letter from each sentence and you have something that's definitely fishy! The second sentence with it's broken text is a subtle hint that something's up with this paragraph.

4) Blue. Remove the letters "s" and "o" from the word "blouse" and you have the word "blue." Once again it's all in the title.

5) 29%.

6) Judy will be 17 in seven years.

7) URA. The other three-letter sets are the last three letters in the names of the planETS (SatURN MARS EaRTH JupiTER and UraNUS). URA is the first three letters in the name of the planet Uranus.

8) 5874

9) 15 seconds after the jar is halfway filled (two hours and 15 seconds after the first amoeba is placed into the jar) the jar will be completely filled. Remember, the amoebae double every 15 seconds.

10) altruism. 463512=RITUAL. An ism is a system or belief.

Enigmus Associations Experiment-Answers and Grading Scale

| | |
|-----------|---------------|
| Raw Score | Ranking |
| 1-4 | Poor |
| 5-8 | Average |
| 9-12 | Above Average |
| 13-16 | Exceptional |

- 1) nuclear (nuclear energy, nuclear missile and nuclear family).
- 2) apple (the Big Apple, Adam ate the apple and so do worms).
- 3) sea (seashore, seasick, seahorse)
- 4) units of measurement
- 5) tentacles
- 6) eight (eight legs, eight sides, eighth month)
- 7) homonym (two-too-to, bear-bare, ail-ale)
- 8) portals
- 9) coins
- 10) luck (salt over the shoulder brings good luck, walking under a ladder brings bad luck, and the foot of a rabbit is said to bring good fortune)
- 11) palindromes
- 12) Each figure is comprised of five lines.
- 13) The number of letters in each word is equal to the number of sides in each polygon.
- 14) The first and last letters in each figure has a difference of one.
- 15) Each number is the square of a number (2, 9 and 30).

16) Each of the numbers is prime (divisible by one and themselves).

E.A.T. (Enigmus Analogies Test) Answers

| Raw | IQ |
|-------|-----------------------|
| 1-5 | 100-114 Average |
| 6-10 | 115-119 Above Average |
| 11-15 | 120-124 High Average |
| 16-20 | 125-129 Superior |
| 21-25 | 130-134 Very Superior |
| 26-30 | 135-139 Gifted |

1) Kipling. Dr. Seuss wrote the famous children's book The Cat in the Hat. Rudyard Kipling wrote the famous Rikki Tikki Tavi (along with the Jungle Book and other favorites).

2) alliteration. Even though the words are nonsensical they all have the "fr" sound which makes the phrase alliterative.

3) black hole. As the falling apple is often used to depict gravity at work, "spaghettification" is a term used to describe what would happen to mass being absorbed inexorably into a black hole (scary huh!).

4) Shintoism.

5) Drake. $N=N^* \text{ fp ne fl fi fc fl}$ is the equation which will supposedly tell us how many planets in the universe sustain sentient life capable of communicating with us (or others).

6) 8. A tricky one. Do is the first note in the diatonic scale. It is also the eighth.

7) China. Anglo- is a prefix meaning England (ex. Anglophile). Sino- is a prefix meaning China (ex. Sinology).

8) Merlin. Moses worshipped and served God. The famous magician Merlin worshipped and served the pagan god Myrddin.

9) seraphim. As a king is ranked above a queen, so is the seraphim ranked above the cherubim in the hierarchy of angels.

10) Typhoid. The connection: sickness (The Black Plague and Typhoid Mary).

11) yak-zebu. A mule is half donkey and half horse. A zobo is half yak and half zebu.

12) 7, 10, 8. The missing variable in the equation $8 + 7 = x$ is 15. The missing variables in the equation $2x + y = 3z$ would have to be 7, 10, and 8 in order for the equation to be correct.

13) Scylla. The expression "caught between a rock and a hard place" refers to two mythical beasts in Greek mythology. Scylla was a monstrous multi-headed spider who would eat hapless sailors passing near her cave. However, in order to steer clear of this catastrophe one would have to sail near Charybdis who was supposedly able to swallow a large portion of the ocean (including ships) and spit it back out (without the ships, of course).

14) ty. Sidis is a palindrome. ty is the ultima (last syllable) of the word audacity.

15) Adam. Women do not have an Adam's Apple. Adam (the first human to exist) couldn't have had a navel with no earthly mother to bare him.

16) 150. bicentennial means 200 years. The prefix sesqui-means one and a half. Hence the name sesquicentennial.

17) epilepsy.

18) laud. Calumniate and traduce are synonyms. Eulogize and laud are synonyms.

19) Pandora. Achilles' (from Greek mythology) tendon was his weak point. Pandora (also in Greek mythology) had a box that contained all that was evil. When the box was opened, all of the evil was released into the world.

20) 1. The letter "W" when pronounced has three syllables. The letter "X" has one syllable.

21) Ogopogo. Bigfoot and Sasquatch are one in the same as are the Loch Ness Monster and Ogopogo.

22) yellow. Cerrulean is the shade of blue that you see everyday (most of the time) when you look up at the sky. Xanthous is a name for the color yellow.

23) dust. Worth is an anagram of the word "throw." Dust is an anagram for the word "stud."

24) wine. The word "sake" means an end, purpose or cause. The word "sake" (pronounced sa' ke) is a type of rice wine.

25) huggermugger. Eminent is a synonym for farfamed. Huggermugger is a synonym for bedlam.

26) tilde.

27) ci. The name Sidis is a palindrome. The syllable "ci" is the penult (next to last) syllable.

28) ibis. The sphinx has the head of a woman. The god Thoth has the head of an ibis. Both are from Egyptian culture.

29) solid with five angular points.

30) chiliasm. According to Nostrodamus' prophecy, the world was supposed to have begun its decent into oblivion in July of this 99 (sheesh!). A chiliasm is the belief that Christ will return and rebuild his kingdom.

The Enigmus Riddle Exam-Answers

| RAW SCORE | IQ |
|--------------|---------|
| 1-5 | 100-107 |
| 6-10 | 108-114 |
| 11-15 | 115-121 |
| 16-20 | 122-128 |
| 21-25 | 129-135 |
| 26-30 | 136-142 |

- | | |
|-------------|---------------------------|
| 1 nice | 16 angel |
| 2 harvest | 17 Caesar |
| 3 Gates | 18 amaze |
| 4 riddle | 19 sentence |
| 5 etymology | 20 ion |
| 6 elegy | 21 alphabet |
| 7 trek | 22 python |
| 8 simile | 23 conjure |
| 9 terse | 24 tantamount |
| 10 static | 25 orange |
| 11 popcorn | 26 castle |
| 12 power | 27 manger |
| 13 invert | 28 Italy |
| 14 armor | 29 pencil |
| 15 rage | 30 mother, father or skin |

The Ghotiwhaid Frenzy-Answers & Grading Scale

| Score | Rank |
|-------|-------------------|
| 1-2 | MOORANM |
| 3-4 | BEELEAU AVEROJ |
| 5-6 | AVEROJ |
| 7-8 | SCNMART |
| 9-10 | JEAGNOC |

- 1) NUDE
- 2) PUZZLE
- 3) CHANGE
- 4) ZOOM
- 5) SONIC
- 6) SHAMAN
- 7) LAWYER
- 8) LAYMAN
- 9) CHECKUP
- 10) GENIUS

Myths, Legends and UFOs-Answers

- 1) d. Nevada
- 2) c. Mercury
- 3) c. Ogopogo
- 4) d. wisdom
- 5) c. 1973
- 6) a. Russia
- 7) b. Tiamut
- 8) d. Percival
- 9) a. Argus
- 10) b. poltergeist
- 11) b. 1947
- 12) a. satyr
- 13) d. doppelganger

Oracle Exam Answers and Grading Scale

- 1) b. 17 The pattern is ascending prime numbers.
- 2) c. nothing A lot of people get this confused with omniscient which means knowledgeable of everything.
- 3) d. /~//~/~~~/~/
- 4) a. True
- 5) b. philosopher
- 6) a. the event horizon
- 7) b. gravity
- 8) b. drowning
- 9) b. False
- 10) a. dynamics
- 11) a. city
- 12) b. False
- 13) b. False

14) c. expunged

15) b. art

The Raven Quiz – Answers and Grading Scale

| Raw Score | Ranking |
|------------------|----------------------|
| 1-3 | NEVERMIND |
| 4-6 | EVER-SO-OFTEN |
| 7-9 | AVERAGE |
| 10-12 | CLEVER |
| 13-15 | EVER-HIGHER! |

- 1) venerable
- 2) revert
- 3) eviscerate
- 4) effervescent
- 5) Mt. Everest
- 6) derive
- 7) vertex
- 8) verve
- 9) fever
- 10) bereavement
- 11) never
- 12) revelation
- 13) lever
- 14) nerve
- 15) reverend

The Test You Really Should Try-Answers & Grading Scale

| RAW SCORE | IQ |
|-----------|---------|
| 1-2 | 100-110 |
| 3-4 | 111-120 |
| 5-6 | 121-130 |
| 7-8 | 131-135 |
| 9-10 | 136-140 |
| 11-12 | 141-150 |
| 13-14 | 151-159 |
| 15 | 160 |

- 1) compulsion
- 2) corn
- 3) quagga
- 4) blitzkrieg
- 5) 36
- 6) Proteus
- 7) lustrum
- 8) singularity
- 9) fer
- 10) postmortem
- 11) Nietzschean

12) (Name of test taker)

13) An eye for an eye

14) 17%

15) 1:48:27AM

Epilogue

What is Truth?

- 1) The answer to question four is definitely b.
a) True b) False
- 2) The answer to only two of these questions is b.
a) True b) False
- 3) The answer to question one is b.
a) True b) False
- 4) The answer to three of these questions is true.
a) True b) False
- 5) The answer to this question is b.
a) True b) False

THE END