

THE FISH

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1978

And there came into being another (yet another) part of me.
Feeding the hand that may refuse to write, yet not letting it take over.
Admitting fault may let in some bright licorice finish.
Through the shudders of errors, light may pass.
To spark an illumination of the darker passages.
Just in time!

I

"It will stop if I look," he thought. But distance would fail him. The fish should appear any second now, and nothing was in sight.

"Perhaps I'll become a writer."

But the fish was no where in sight. He peered into the depths. He knew a true fish could be told by its stability, its lack of hallucination, the absence of a metamorphosis into some other comic cosmic creature. His fish would glow red in blackness, and would not have bulbous eyes or any mechanical-looking parts. His fish would...

"I've been talking to myself again," he said aloud. The fish was nowhere.

II

A cold shudder. The mind immediately registers a radiator, six feet away, on the floor, set at medium high. Images of fish dance through the mind's eye. Waiting! How long has it been? Sure, the body has all the conveniences that the mind can furnish, but when set free, what does the mind do? Images of fish!

Disgusting? No. Changing f's to t's? Yes, but what creativity lies in that? The brain knows everything, except, that is, what to do. Here am I, the eye, trapped into watching images of fish. The emotion is even getting hot. It too distains from images of fish. Yet the heart knows that the fish is coming.

III

Last day of the Age of Pisces, newsflash! The fish have come to celebrate (which is fish talk for saying goodbye). The dolphins will enjoy the show,

too, since scientists have recently discovered that dolphins smile. "They are good friends with the fish," our respected scientists say.

The fish have agreed to join their ocean dwelling friends in saying to man that they have enjoyed the Piscean Age. Chief Fish Spokesman, IV-tweeee-f= 10^4 cps (a name agreed upon by the Chief and his trainer) says the fish are honored to have been the primary non-human religious symbol of the Age. They have happily abounded in coexistence with man, and, although they have only just recently learned the concept of time, say that they love us in infinity. Scientists say that this means that the fish consider themselves to be in the school of gods, but gods far different than man has even known. Current research indicates that the fish are mathematical creatures who claim to know a higher meaningful number than man. Their "religion" is somewhat similar to man's Buddhism (Soft School), although there has been much difficulty with translation. They are also very fond of spiders.

It is not known how much of what we know about the fish is being distorted by their dolphin translators, but two facts are known for sure.

One: The fish, as translated by the dolphins, have never been wrong about substantiating or discrediting our scientific knowledge of fish.

Two: Lately, the fish have been acting differently, some say strangely.

Ever since our scientists have learned to talk Dolphinese, the most interesting questions in their dialogue have been about the fish. In the first fifteen years of our conversation, the dolphins steadfastly refused to discuss the fish at all. Our scientists thought this was due to the fact that dolphins eat fish. Dolphins don't have "food" as a concept, so the fish were naturally assumed to be part of the non-existent food idea. Then, three years ago, the dolphins abruptly announced that the fish were going to sponsor a world-wide celebration for and including mankind, to usher in the end of Their Age.

After double-checking and triple-checking their facts, scientists found that the fish and the dolphins had made huge gains in their interspecies communication skills when man taught dolphins about time and zero. As well as having no concept of lunch, dolphins are known to lack any native concept of stasis, absolute, center, or zero. Once this was learned, dolphins say that the fish began to understand *why* mankind thought. The dolphins assure us that although Standard English is a perfectly suitable mode of translation, many specific sentences will seem unusual, even ridiculous. Thus, for example, "The fish never thought of thinking" is the primary way that the dolphins explain why fish always seemed to us to be lower animals.

In exchange for their new ideas, the fish taught mankind some new mathematics that scientists have yet to understand. Applications of fish-math are virtually non-existent.

The dolphins say that they will read and consider any letters they receive from mankind. The dolphins will accept Standard English letters and tapes at any time, and particularly encourage discussion of the concepts of fish-math. They are also known to be particularly fond of what humans call "drugs".

But the big news is that the fish are giving a party for mankind. Fishermen are recording record catches. Huge fish migrations have been reported, and even our respected scientists are at a loss for an explanation. When pressed by their scientist-companions for more information, the dolphins invariably reply:

"Listen carefully. The fish are coming. It is their mathematics. Those who know will know."

IV

Word play simulates equations. Relationship flows. Reality *simulates* consciousness, different states of consciousness, drug induced experiences, myths, metaphors, religions, archetypes, levels of experience, perceptions, delusions, images, images of dreams, dreams, dreams of images, fantasies, wishes, thoughts, thinking, and many other things, especially mathematics and magic.

In fish-math (as roughly transcribed by the dolphins):

consciousness



sets of realities

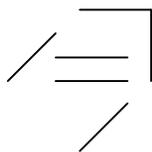


The (fish) Law of Existence:

Consciousness perceived/reflected upon by a set of realities, gives direction/purpose.



The dolphins transcribed this fish communication as



prior to translating it into Standard English.

Apparently,  is fulfilled in the operation of being  .

Perhaps the (fish) Joyous Law is more easily comprehended, although no one who has claimed to understand it has ever been visited by the fish.

The (fish) Joyous Law: Zero exists!

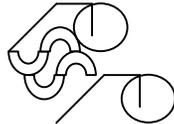
Strangely, the fish-math symbol for zero is the same as the symbol for

consciousness: 

The fish consider writing the Joyous Law down to be a grievous insult.

Whenever the Joyous Law is mentioned, the dolphins say that the fish invite mankind to the celebration of the end of Their Age. Since time exists, the fish will come around the turning of Their Age, to everyone at the same time.

When the fish sent out this invitation, it was of course expressed in their mathematical language. Apparently "zero", "operation", "celebration", and "consciousness" mean the same thing to the fish. Their invitation reads:



The dolphins have explained that the Flow allows Direction to be free of direction. And there is something about the operation of Unity being fulfilled by infinity.

The fish also said that our concept of time is very humorous, and that they split their scales forever when they heard that time was relative. Our respected scientists have yet to decipher fish humor.

The dolphins have explained to mankind their understanding of Joyous Time:

Time is created by being the Flow of space, called self. The set of realities pretend to be self perceiving self. Mankind has "caused" the joyous awakening of the fish. They now wish to find time to celebrate time.

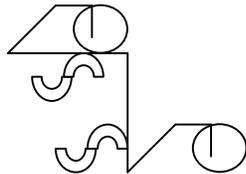
The dolphins say that to impress the fish, mankind should offer to them a question, and that they offer mankind a question:

Can a three-pronged serpent falling in a deep hole catch a meteorite?

And in celebration of the answer, the fish offer another question:

The center prong of the serpent has done this before. What is it?

And in celebration of the answer, the fish offer a fish-mathematical question:



The dolphins, in a desire to be perceived as fair to both fish and mankind, have provided a hint: the answer is a form of laughter.

V

The fish have succinctly told us, through their dolphin translators: "When time fulfilled before, what then is humorous?" In celebration of the Joyous Law, Zero Exists!, they ask: "What is the letter of the Law that does not exist as Zero?"

For us to meet the challenge proposed by the fish questions, we must study and understand some of what has come to be called Fish Theory. As part of their (and our) celebration, the fish have provided a list of things for mankind to "think" about:

A question comes in pairs.
Morality plays a duet.
The fish are facts and facts are the fish
Mankind causes this.
Chemicals invent man.
Feed the dolphins drugs.
The fish don't dribble.

VI

A man sat in his cabin, staring at the scribblings in front of him. A woman stood nearby. The fish-math symbols were clear. A tear was in his eye.

Their hearts knew as their minds puzzled over the latest edition of Fish Theory:

Beware of cats.
Watch your step.
Space is liquid.
Mankind can do it.
Stars are illusions.
Time is an open book.

The lady glanced out her window, lazily. "Come look, dear! The fish have come," she said. "They brought a list of answers."

- A. During the celebration of the Joyous Law.
- B. When there's nothing there.
- C. When mankind thinks about it.
- D. At the turning of Our Age.
- E. When the fish come to Capistrano.
- F. If fishburgers replace hamburgers.
- G. When pigs fly.
- H. When it be cause.
- I. The fish want to thank the popcorn and their friends, the sand.
- J. J is not missing.
- K. The fish celebrate mankind's Social Security and its numbers.
- L. The fish like to count the answer.
- M. There is nothing fishy in Denmark.
- N. The fish know a larger meaningful number than mankind is.
- O. The fish will celebrate the concept of time by stopping.