

Abraham Lincoln: telling Lincoln that all was well.

... And with an increasing wonder he realized that for the first time since conscious thought began with him, he was not lonely. Never to be lonely again! That which was imprisoned in the poor frame of Abraham Lincoln had envisaged its real identity, had sighted its true home.

Happiness! This, then was happiness! - Its other name was God.

(from "Great Captain", Honoré Merrow)

Next day he was assassinated. But he had told his wife, had told Stanton ...

Is it happiness or a bitter-sweet joy? What words can we choose (The bitterness of maturity, the sweetness of the child.)

Words refer to things we have known. Here is something comparable to an animal becoming a man - what words for such a change?

"Animal becoming a man" says Richard Rose. "How wild can your comparisons get?" let us see.

Experiments have shown that to a certain age animals outstrip human children. But children develop self-consciousness & that is an overwhelming change. Do they learn this; study to do this?

No. Not formally, anyway. But they learn a language & that is a powerful weapon, fashioned by self-conscious people, full of such concepts - even the words "self-conscious". ... Further they observe & copy available adults ... One day the world is seen with new eyes & the child may think it has a unique faculty. This is soon corrected by experience.

It would seem to be easier to take the next step, to Self Consciousness. We have a language skill, we have some feeling of "self". It is true that until it occurs to us we can not know it. But it was the same with self-consciousness, & besides there are a number of people who assure us it happened to them and that it is an "experience" or rather a sudden change in consciousness (like "seeing a joke" perhaps).

But we jib. We say it is a false analogy, there is no such thing, it does not happen. But we cover ourselves by adding, "if something happens it means nothing and is of no importance."

Our friends who are "awakened" say, "since you have little to lose except a few minutes now & then, & everything to gain - truly "Everything" - then isn't it a good gamble?"