

Article 66: What Would You Do?

Your mind is free to work in infinite ways, but do you guide your mind to work in understanding and in creating your dreams, ...or have you trained your mind, and thus your self and life, to essentially follow only one comfortably convenient and self-satisfying pattern of thinking? Well, ...let's see.

Suppose you really need a new car ...and a friend suggests that you join him in faking a "foolproof" automobile accident so you can each get a much-needed new car. And when you question him about the honesty of these actions, he assures you that "no one will get hurt, not even the insurance company; ...though they are already cheating us ...and have been for years with their unreasonable insurance rates, so they'll just get a little taste of their own medicine. Besides, after we get new cars, our rates will go up, ...so we'll just be giving them their money back for buying us new cars, ...so we're not stealing from them."

And when you ask more about his proposition, suppose he says, "I told you, ..no one's gonna get hurt, everyone wins: The insurance company gets its money back, the car salesman earns a commission, the car dealer makes a sale ...probably at an inflated rip-off price, and we get new cars ...which we pay for through increased insurance rates, ...so how are we doing anything wrong?"

How would you react? What would you do? Would you unquestioningly turn down the proposal? ...and maybe point out that, no matter how he justifies it, such actions would be stealing? Would you proudly, and maybe just a little self-righteously, declare that you are above such actions, ...no matter how right and enticing he makes it sound? Would you chastise him ...and proclaim that you are completely above any such activities, ...no matter how much you need a car? Would you accept the friend and the situation, your own need of a new car and the proposed solution, reject joining in the "crime", attempt to dissuade your friend from faking the accident with anyone else, and try to get him to mend his ways? ...and would you threaten to expose him if he went ahead with the scheme? Would you resent him for asking you? ...and feel insulted? Would you tell him what his manipulative and self-justifying thoughts and words reveal about the self and life he is living? Or would you just pass it all off as a "joke"?

Or maybe, after considering the proposition ...and your need of a new car, you would succumb to this reasoning and agree to participate in the scheme, after all, "everyone wins", you can certainly see that, ...can't you?

Would you consider this situation to be a test of yourself and your honesty? ...and maybe a test of your friendship?

And after making your decision whether or not to join in ...and how to respond, will you then, as a Forever Living Companion, ask yourself, "What does this situation reveal about the self and life I'm living?"

We'll not concern ourselves with whether or not you agree ...only with the proposition. Does your friend's proposal "reflect" that you are or have been, in some way, cheating others and justifying your own actions? ...reflect that you are attempting to get a new self and life (automobile) without working for them? ...that you are attempting to get a new body? ...or that you are, somehow, tempting others with illegal actions ...or shortcuts?

In discovering what this event reveals about the self and life YOU are living, it is important to remember that your portion of this event is *being propositioned*; therefore, consider whether you are, or have been, thinking about an illegal or not-so-legal idea to resolve or ensure (insurance scheme) a business or personal problem. Have you proposed inappropriate ways of solving problems to someone? Or maybe you are merely considering the possibilities.

In such a situation as this, though you say "no", do you act indignant and remain aloof from the proposition? ...criticize and maybe condemn your friend, or previous friend, for making such a proposition to you? ...threaten him if he carries out his scheme? ...and walk away feeling confused and bewildered and disappointed, but proud of your honesty ...and maybe a little self-satisfied and righteous? Do you feel betrayed and improperly judged? Do you get angry and attack friends for even considering you might agree?

Or, instead of using your mind to judge, criticize, and maybe condemn others or yourself, or to proudly congratulate yourself, ...do you seek to understand, in every situation, exactly what that event reveals about how you are living, ...so you can truly change and live the self and life of your dreams? After all, in this example, the proposition was presented to you, which was not an accident ...or God testing you, but reveals you to you. And though, at this time, you might "no", don't be too certain of what you would do or be too self-righteous about your attitude, for, in this example, when you "questioned him about the honesty of these actions," and "asked more about the proposition", you revealed you were considering the possibility, you were enticing yourself, ...otherwise, you would have said "no" without questioning the honesty of "faking an

automobile accident". To completely understand an event, every aspect of the situation is important.

Well, how'd you do? Can you rely upon your mind, attitudes, and emotions to act and react in your own best interest as you truly desire? Would you have said "no" without any hesitation or explanation? Don't be too certain ...for the proposition didn't just come to you out of the blue by accident, for you, in one way or another, created this situation in your life; ...ohh, not the theft, but the thoughts, consideration, or proposition. Do you use your mind to judge and criticize others ...and justify yourself? And what thoughts and attitudes are you concealing and denying right now?

Is your mind open to new awarenesses ...and a wondrous new life? ...or conveniently closed and comfortably self-satisfied, ...which will offer little of what you truly desire? Do not blame individuals and events for your self and life, ...for the conditions and circumstances of your self and life merely outpicture the mind and attitudes you are living ...and frequently struggling against.