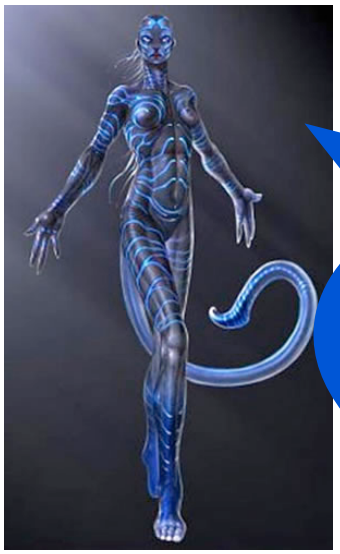
E-SUETERRY-C

March 8, 2010



WEEKLY STORIES & PHOTOS ABOUT INTERESTING STUFF. . .

R E A L I T Y

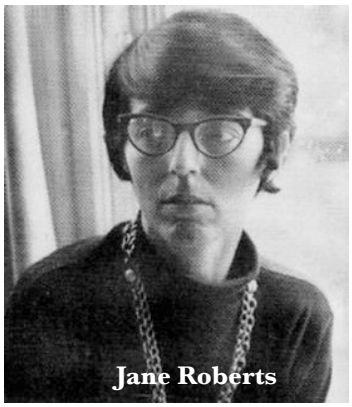
In the 1980's I became aware of a little known literary genre colloquially termed "The Seth Books", and more formally known as "The Seth Material". These books, out in paperback for the impecunious amongst us, contained transcripts and details of trance sessions held by a medium named Jane Roberts (and recorded by her husband Robert Butts) channeling an "entity" named Seth. Seth comments on many aspects of human existence, but the gist of his message is this: you create your own reality. Boom. That's it.

One then asks, does that mean that whatever happens to me, I myself am responsible for it? Holy smoke. When one envisions all the possible scenarios of illness, mutilation, death and ruin of all sorts (which we often seem to prefer over visions of health, wealth and happiness) one is tempted to think how unfair and 'blame the victim'-ish such a philosophy is. Yet when we use our 20-20 hindsight, it's a lot easier to see how our own interpretations of 'reality' may have induced various events in our lives to come about.

Seth is not, of course, the only one who ever spoke about the idea of creating your own reality. It's an idea that gets repackaged continuously, most recently, perhaps, with the ubiquitous DVD and book "The Secret"

I do read, and welcome, your comments!

HERE



When my friend Elizabeth Crefin gave me a copy of the DVD a couple of years ago, I was amazed at the film's high production qualities. It was like a Hollywood blockbuster! Being a student of esoteric philosophy since the seventies, I was accustomed to the low production values of cassette tapes and dog-eared paperbacks--because back then, content was king. Just like Jazz musicians listening rapturously to scratchy old recordings from the likes of Clifford Brown or Bud Powell, if you were into this stuff before there was "New Age", you don't necessarily need Dolby Surround Sound and Imax 3D to appreciate it.

"The Secret" is all about the Law of Attraction, which is just another way of saying--guess what--you create your own reality. There are countless sources of information on the topic of reality-creation, in fact, but they do have something in common--most of them fail to mention the one requirement necessary for actually understanding the concept. That requirement is merely this: one must first quiet one's own mind.

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REALITY, con't

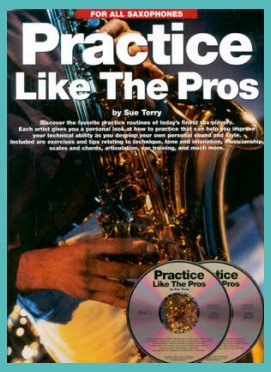
There is a scene from the recent film "Avatar" where the main character, Jake, is told that the tribe cannot give any knowledge to the 'dream walkers' because "their cup is already full." This is a reference to the treasured Buddhist tale of the Master who keeps filling the student's teacup till it overflows, commenting that the student's mind is just like the teacup. The parable gives a clear image of how one must 'empty' oneself before one can receive new knowledge. Especially when that knowledge may not agree with the knowledge you've already got!

The Russian author P. D. Ouspensky puts yet another twist in ye olde reality pretzel with his short novel "The Strange Life of Ivan Osokin." In the novel, Ivan Osokin meets a magician who grants him the ability to relive his life. Ivan expects that awareness of his 'future' will enable him to avoid all the mistakes he had made in the past, but he soon finds out that his choices are still mere mechanical reactions, making change extremely difficult.

In the movie "Groundhog Day", Bill Murray's character gets stuck in a time loop where he keeps waking up on February 2, every day. After going through phases of using the time loop first as an excuse for debauchery, then despondency, then self-development, then altruism, he finally achieves enlightenment--and gets the girl, too.

What if it's true? Could it be that there is no objective reality separate from the individual mini-realities that each one of us creates for him/herself? Even Robert Anton Wilson, the iconoclastic philosopher and author, says there is no objective reality--but I'm still not sure! What if there really is an objective reality, but the human mind is unable to perceive or comprehend the objective reality in its entirety? After all, most of us can imagine three or four dimensions, and we're done. Seeing as how physicists are saying there are at least 26 dimensions, that would mean our understanding is only a fraction of what's really out there. Hence, the multitude of mini-realities--one for each person.

"You are an inspiration."
--saxophonist Candace DeBartolo



In the seventies, I studied a little Kabbalah on my own (I tried to study with a Rabbi, but he wouldn't teach me anything about it. At the time I thought it was because I was a woman, and that ticked me off. Looking back, I can see that was only one of many possible reasons.) The Kabbalistic writings say that the magnificence and the vastness of God is so powerful that we humans aren't capable of taking it all in--that it would destroy us.

The Ancient Greek legend of Icarus tells how he tried to escape Crete, where the king was holding him prisoner, by flying away on giant wings bound with wax. But he flew too close to the sun, and his wings melted. So might we, too, have a meltdown, if we get too much of a dose of reality at one time. Perhaps the purpose of the myth of Icarus is to show us that we can't just 'fly away' from our problems by slapping on a cheap pair of wings--whether they be of feathers or some other folly .

Anyone can read a book or watch a movie. Yet these are things outside of ourselves, and it seems that ultimately our cup will overflow unless we can empty it first. In Taoist philosophy this is called *wu-wei*, "non-doing." In good old fashioned American, one might say it means "going with the flow." But you have to know where the flow is before you can go with it.

"Your blog is overwhelmingly hip! Continue to do what you want till you are an old master, then start the monastery. Let the young monks make the wine."

composer/bassist Derwyn Holder

Califon, NJ

Online Coaching from Sue Terry. The way to study in 2010.

YOU CAN MAKE A DONATION TO THE E-SUETERRY-C ONLINE NEWSLETTER BY CLICKING HERE--THANK YOU!

"GREATEST HITS OF THE BLOG THAT ATE BROOKLYN" release date April, 2010. sneak previews

CECI N'EST PAS UNE CHECK

We got a nice Christmas check in the mail the other day for $40,000.00 That's forty thousand dollars and no cents. It seems that in order to cash this check, we would have to sign some papers or something that had to do with our house. Seemed like a lot of bother for a measly forty thou. Oh, and also on the front of the check in small letters, about a 6 pt. font I believe, were the words 'This is not a check.'

Rene Magritte, the Surrealist painter extraordinaire, were he living today, would undoubtedly glow with pride at this modern-day appropriation of one of his most famous works--"Ceci N'est Pas Une Pipe", or 'This Is Not A Pipe." It is a painting of a pipe.

Likewise, our $40,000 check is not a check. It is only a picture of a check. And this, my friends, surely proves that the Surrealists were right all along!

MINI TOUR:
SWEET SUE + PEGGY STERN

SATURDAY, MARCH 13
Deer Head Inn in Delaware Water Gap, PA on March 13 with Sue Terry/Peggy Stern's "Salsa Dance Party", featuring Rick Chamberlain on trombone, Lew Scott on bass & Peter O'Brien on drums !

FRIDAY, MARCH 19
"SWEET" SUE TERRY & PEGGY STERN at Landings Racquet Club, Sarasota, Florida

SATURDAY, MARCH 20
"SWEET" SUE TERRY & PEGGY STERN at the Palladium Theater in St. Petersburg, Florida

MONDAY, MARCH 22
Sue & Peggy lead a workshop at Ruth Eckerd Hall in Clearwater, Florida

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