

The Cabaret, she is beautiful.
Whatever else it is like outside,
Life in here is beautiful.
The band, she is beautiful.
The spirit life, she is beautiful.
Purgation, "I don't know why
I love you like I do."
The research, she is beautiful.
Late night work, she is beautiful.
The first two weeks, they are beautiful.

Last week I mentioned that a miracle was about to happen. You don't know what it is or how to get hold of it. You cannot even look directly for it. You have to look tangentially. That miracle happened. But it was not what I expected. We are in a time of resurgence and where you look for resurgence is into the midst of tragedy and suffering. Well, last week was a time of resurgence. Due to the pain and suffering of the spinouts we almost missed that it was resurgence, and almost missed the miracle that happened, the miracle of spinouts. After the Cabaret and the Plenary last week we were all riding high. Then the mood seemed to drop and the Cabaret dynamic did not spontaneously go on throughout the week. At least it waned some. Then the spinouts began in earnest. That was a frightening experience because we saw the abyss and we saw ourselves. The spinout is a mixture of psychological fragility and spirit journey through the dark night. It was a dangerous week as all times of resurgence are. But it was not destructive. Instead it was healing. For those who spun out it gave new possibility. For those who didn't it nurtured. Then the humiliation came when we saw that the spinout is in all of us. It was also a week of purgation. We realized that everyone spins out one way or another. We are all capable of it. If we do not spinout publicly then we collapse. If we do not collapse outwardly, then we collapse within and behind closed doors so that we can go on.

Spinouts become present in a time of resurgence, in a time of possibility. It is not like in a time of awakening where you hide in illusions. The dark night will not allow us to hide in illusions any more. It burns us with lucidity so that we have to stare stark naked into reality. The transparency is so apparent that everything breathes awe. The dark night assaults you with radical humiliation, weakness, suffering and anger. And you know that going to a mental institution would not help because they are geared to deal with people in despair or depression, not with people today in a time of overwhelming possibility.

What we are talking about is a sociological phenomenon that is always manifest more intensely during times of resurgence. The few days of intensification of consciousness this summer allows us to see it. But you will also find it more and more in your churches, your galaxies, your cadres, your guilds, your houses or in your work. As resurgence continues it will continue to become more of a visible phenomenon to us all. Throughout the centuries those who have dared to stand present to the transparency have many times manifested their stance in strange actions. Look at our own heritage, in people like Dostoyevsky, VanGogh and many others like them. Go to other cultures and you see people like Rama-krishna. All you have to do is look into his eyes in a painting to see that his eyes have seen deeply into the dark night. If St. John of the Cross were here what would he be like? We probably would be frightened to get near him. Jesus'

parents thought he had gone off the deep end and sent after him. There are shamans in every society and shaman helpers. These people are special graces to every community. However painful, they provide healing to a situation for those who grasp it with eyes to see what is going on. To them it gives deep reflection and radical intensification of consciousness. Or again the spinout shows us the continual and spacial unlimitedness of transparency. This transparency takes place in the every day mundane. It confronts us with the spirit journey through the dark night. It gives us an opportunity to see when absolute darkness comes that there the light bursts forth and the darkness cannot put it out. It allows us to handle our collapses and resolve not to manifest those collapses to others. And it gives us a new possibility to grasp after a new understanding of spiritual health and spirit healing. The event of the spinouts was a miracle that was not anticipated and indeed almost missed. Actually we had miracles all over the place these last two weeks. I want to talk about four miracles that happened and then end with a miracle.

The first dynamic of miracles I would call the Cabaret dynamic, which includes the Cabaret itself, two movies: The Seven Faces of Dr. Lao, and The Gospel According To St. Matthew, and then Uptown 5. For example, we saw that the Cabaret came off last night, once and for all. We can articulate the Cabaret dynamic within the Cabaret form. If that sounds strange to you, back in the years of awakenment we had to learn how to inject the education dynamic in the midst of educational structures. Now the question is how to get the Cabaret dynamic back into the Cabaret form, so that the Cabaret dynamic can be seen and participated in by all. Those of you in the audience, especially in the last show, found out what it meant to participate in the Cabaret as it was being put on. Now the Cabaret dynamic, wherever we go, is a possibility. Those two movies were like reading Journey To The East again. You might say that after seeing those movies we know who we are, what we do and what we say. We are just different.

You recall when we returned from watching The Seven Faces of Dr. Lao we ran into the Uptown 5 group working on the vacant lot across the corner. There was the Cabaret dynamic going on. There was the Circus taking place. Remember how in the movie when the printing press was torn up by two henchmen and was in utter shambles, Dr. Lao went something like "SNAP" and it came into being? Did you see what happened as you walked back from the movie? There was that old, dirty vacant lot and Uptown 5 went "SNAP" and grass grew, and trees were there, and flowers were growing. Or again do you remember in the movie when Dr. Lao was fishing in a gully without any water and everybody began to laugh and said, "Dr. Lao, there is no water in there." And he replied, "Yes, but it is all right, I do not have any bait." That is like what the Uptown 5 group is doing. They were going around in the community and were not saying much to anyone. People would see them and say, "How can anything happen in Uptown 5? We have eighty one social agencies here and nothing happens." And Uptown 5 group responds, "That's all right, we don't have any bait. We are not a social agency." What happens when suddenly they come up with a fish? One of our groups, and I am going to exaggerate a little, took his Guild symbol and put it around the neck of an important community member, and that man just began to dance all over the place. That is the kind of "fish" that came out of the gully. If you watch people walk by this building, you see them walking along and then do a double-take on those pictures in the windows on Lawrence Avenue. Suddenly they are beginning to get the sense that this building is bigger on the inside than it looks from the outside.

In the area of the spirit dynamic there was a whole battery of miracles. They were the sanctification lectures, John of the Epistle, the singing and the

song conversations, and St. John of The Cross. Two anchors were driven down: the anchor of sanctification and the anchor of St. John of the Cross. They went to the bowels of our existence, until we screamed, did they not? If that was not enough, there were two other anchors, John of the Epistle and the song conversations, with guy wires stretched across the first anchors. Here our heritage and the secular world were joined together with our fathers and contemporary lectures so that transparency will never be missed again in the mundanity of life. The sanctification lectures came to a great climax when we saw that the Word in Jesus Christ is as much at the center of sanctification as justification. It is that one eternal Word that gives us the possibility and allows us in every moment and every place to take that flame deeper and deeper into our bowels. This Word is given back to us as white hot heat.

There was another battery of miracles called missional planning. They were the form, the logistics, the task and the frame of the Guild. In two weeks this summer we accomplished more than any four weeks in previous summers. It is not just that you have prepared great documents these past two weeks for these will be transmuted in the next two weeks. But we know that we are guildsmen. We know that only the local level will bring off reconstruction around the globe. We now know that the movement is come of age. We now know that whatever is out there to do we can do it. The task is at hand, and we have the strength, the motivity and the tools to take it upon ourselves. That is a miracle.

Again we are reminded and have become deeply appreciative that the task provides a context for ourselves to transcend our individual creativity and individual blocks. It provides an arena for absolution to take place. It provides an arena for spirit life. One person was saying the other night that they were awakened at two in the morning with a team working in the room next to them, and suddenly there was singing and dancing. He was afraid they were going to dance all night. They were getting rather wild. But after the singing and the dancing, with as much wildness as you can imagine in the Cabaret, they stopped and finished their work. It is that way in which you have tackled your task. You have been high in wrestling with your task. And yet you have maintained the kind of discipline necessary for getting the job done well.

The next battery of miracles is in the corporate style dynamic. Here is the miracle of discipline, the miracle of decor, the miracle of the Daily Office and the Solitary Office, and the miracle of sophistication. I have already mentioned the kind of discipline that you have produced with head on work in the missional task, but you have now shown discipline in your teams. Just in the last few days it seems that the teams and units have really begun to come off. Now we are developing a construct that we can take to the whole movement of what that iron task group is in the midst of history. Another thing in the midst of that discipline has been the one-day-wonders. This year they have really been wonders. Maybe they have come off like they never have in years before. There has been a new kind of fellowship manifested in them. If any of you walked into that kitchen on Saturday you discovered a wonder all by itself. People were in ecstasy cooking all day. Even as you ate it last night, you tasted a bit of the wonder.

In decor we are learning to set up decor so that you and I can go a million miles an hour while it appears that we are walking. Our non-chalance in the midst of a highly disciplined output indicates that we are moving in learning how to use decor as a tool so that we can grasp the future and move into it.

In the area of the Daily Office, if you wanted to say that this is the Year of the Guild, that would be correct, but it is also the year of the Daily Office. Something has happened to us. Awe has begun to break loose far beyond our imagination. Mystery has manifested its presence in that office. The Daily Office has begun to push us in ways that we do not understand, and that many do not want to be pushed. In that office voices come out of the dark. You can not even see people's faces, much less their lips moving, or their eyes flashing. Public voices talk back and forth. Gongs sound and mysterious forms come into being here and disappear there. You get many comments about the worship that are choice as well as informative. For example, one of them says, "It is like a setting for witches." Another says, "No, it is like walking into a great cathedral." Another said, "For the first time in Daily Office I sensed I have actually worshiped and not experimented with worship. Another said, "The forces of the universe are loose in our Daily Office." Another said, "Yes, and the forces of the universe are at our throats." Whatever else is happening, awe is beginning to break loose. Also we have become less tense in the Daily Office. Maybe even the wildness that breaks loose has a healing effect upon us all and gives us a new relationship to the office and our presence in the midst of it.

Then there is the miracle of sophistication. Going to the world we see that we are to be all things to all men, and that takes discipline. It also takes a certain kind of dedication and a non-chalance born out of a deep resolve of life-long commitment in the midst of history. In other words, we are to be at ease in our chastity or our singleness of purpose. Our style of hard discipline and non-chalance has begun to be manifested as such this summer. Sophistication is on its way to being present in our midst. The miracle has happened.

In the two weeks ahead we will be working in four areas. First, we are going to take all the work of the first two weeks and translate what we have done into hard headed, practical, strategic tactics. In other words we will put wheels under everything that has taken place in our research. Another group will work on such things as commonizing the Religious Houses, Regions and the Movement, and the Local Church Experiment. Then we will have groups working on future projects, such as preparing the sanctification course, revising the Odyssey manuals, etc. Then the laboratories will keep on working on LENS and Uptown 5. The next two weeks will be a battery of PSUs. We will immediately set up a pattern for the future, and that is the PSUs. This is the first sign and signal as we step into tomorrow.

Now, for the last miracle. Ladies and gentlemen, "There was a rock in the middle of the road. In the middle of the road there was a rock." The miracle is that you and I will never forget that. We are marked for life. We are fated. Our destiny is such that we are to look into the midst of suffering and tragedy and grasp resurgence. That rock is in our memories and is always going to be there in the midst of history. The miracle that is there is that we have become the religious, those who saw the rock in the midst of life, and embody that relationship to all of life. Ladies and gentlemen, "There was a rock in the middle of the road."