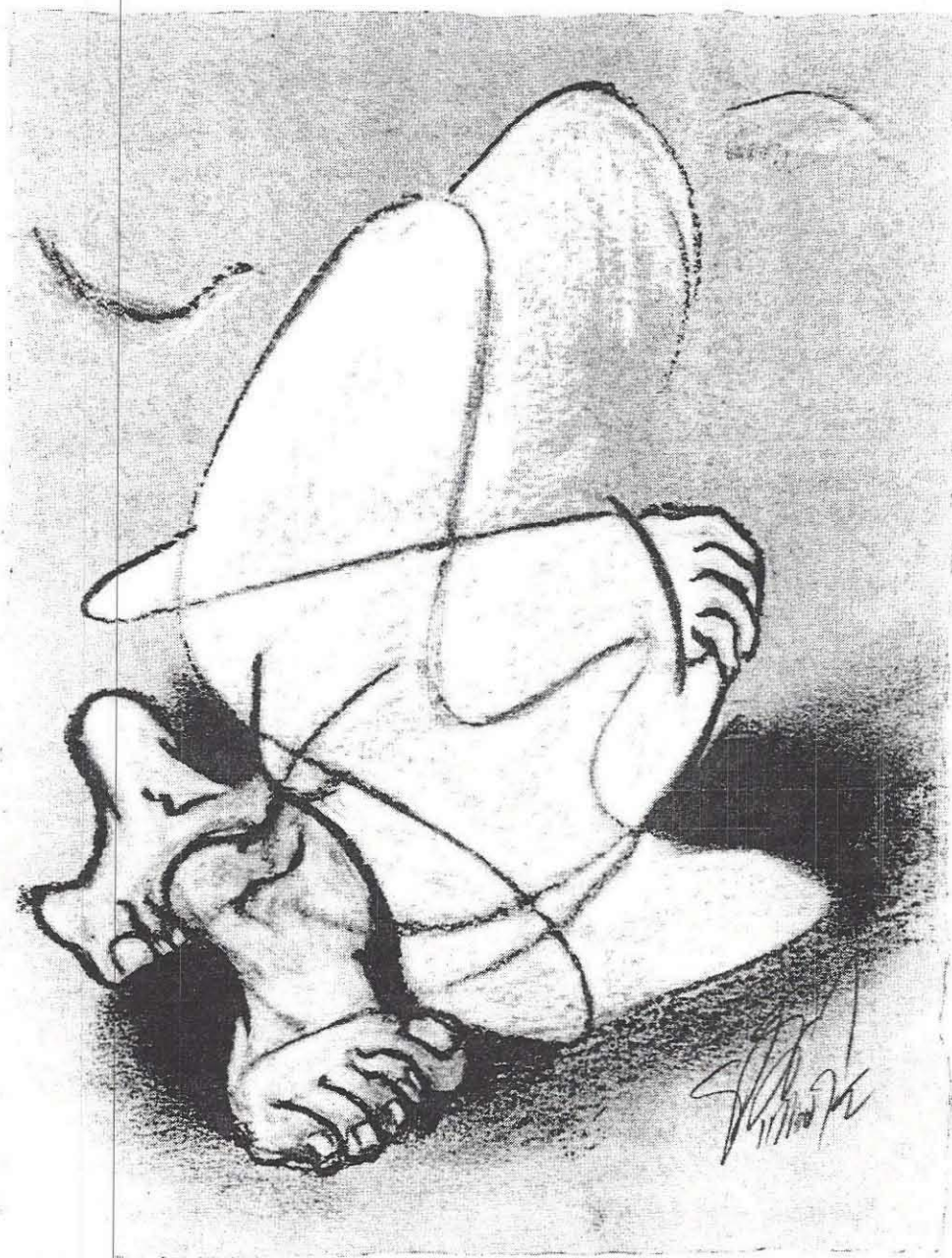


The Invocation of Presence



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GATEWAYS BOOKS & TAPES

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INTRODUCTION

KEY TO LIFE

“At the end of your life if you do nothing to prepare for it, you will find yourself struggling for another day, another hour, another minute, just another breath.

“This is what ordinary phenomenal life is all about. It is a fixation on survival into the future, but how can this be, without voluntary participation in the present?

“Even if you have accomplished the greatest thing in the world, if you penetrate with your vision fifty million years into the future and then look back on your life and ask what you have accomplished, you will see what it really means to be alive.

“What could you have accomplished fifty million years ago that would mean anything now? This is the question that reveals the only real mystery of life, and anyone who possesses an authentic answer to this question holds the key to life itself.”

PREFACE

WHY WORK ON OURSELVES AT ALL?

1. We have all had glimpses of something beyond phenomenal-organic reality. We remember these glimpses.

2. We feel drawn to this nonphenomenal vision of reality.

3. We have made individual efforts and they have failed.

4. We are completely disappointed in the organic world and its achievements, and the loss of everything when at the end of life, we are swept away by forces beyond our control.

5. We have experienced the necessity for correctly organized group effort.

6. The group effort supports a special unique type of consciousness which can eventually, through repetition and voluntary establishment of exalted habits, be aligned to the work.

7. We are shipwrecked among people who are wholly absorbed in the mechanical pursuits of organic life. In a group, we find for the first time others with whom we can share our ideas, lives, and experiences. Here, in the work-community, it is permitted to be authentic.

8. We are running out of time. Every available moment must be used for work.

9. Work on self, establishing the attention and presence of one's rightful I, by self invocation, and the study of the machine, to form a bridge between organic life and the Work.

10. Group discipline is a constant reminder of our work to take our place in the circle of invocation.

11. The voluntary work program makes possible the use of ordinary actions of daily life for the work with inner exercises, producing alchemical transformation to the nonphenomenal real world.

12. The voluntary work program is designed to produce automatic habitual conditioning for conscious passage through the phenomenal world and rebirth into the nonphenomenal world.

13. The active study of the machine combined with activation of presence clarifies one's vision of the nonphenomenal reality.

14. Work on self provides a special situation in which individuals can confront and produce voluntarily those factors which have been a problem for them in the eternal, nonphenomenal world.
