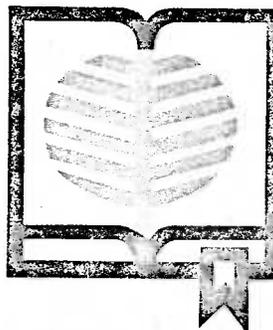


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WILLIS E. ELLIOTT, Dean
Exploratory Programs

PATENT TRADER: letter to the editor

 TM AGAIN: MASTURBATION OR RELATION?

Agnostic Enrique Lopez, at a recent party an hours-long delightful conversational partner of mine, finds--in his recent attack on me in your columns--no problem with being "a meditator and agnostic." I completely agree with him. It takes only one to masturbate, and meditation is masturbatory. Prayer would be a problem for him, for prayer is relational, taking two to play. (I modulate to the game of solitaire as an analog for TM, for I fear some more delicate readers might find the sexual analog gross.)

Mind you, I'm not against [sexual] masturbation, which in my lifetime has come up in society from "self-abuse" to neutral to healthy self-love--in the latter case, if not practiced in order to avoid encounter. But I stand against masturbation when used to evade the sexual relationship with its high potential for the humanization of self and society; and against meditation when used, as it is in TM, as a "non-religious," "scientific" bypass of confrontation with God and the spiritual heritage of theism (especially the Bible, in Judaism and Christianity).

For the solid year Robert Kory spent with him, the Maharishi evaded God-questions. Our American public school system evades God-questions. Agnostics like Dr. Lopez evade God-questions. Which brings me to the precise objection of my former PT letters: the public schools crawling in bed with the bogus "scientist of creative intelligence," and now Dr. Lopez snuggled in with them--from masturbation to group sex!

Americans have been duped religion-dumb by a secularistic, scientific public school system, and are naturally therefore dupable by a secular version of pop Hinduism. My answer is not to wring my hands and say "No no, naughty naughty, boo hiss" to letting TM into the public schools' curriculum, as it is sneaking in all across the country. Rather, my answer is to hold out my hands to any who will sit with me to consider how to stop this nonsense of graduating from high school our children stupid in religion, incompetent in value-decisions, unprepared for helping make those oceanic judgments mankind must now make to survive, to say nothing of thriving on God's good earth.

But Dr. Lopez seems not to have read all I have had to say on TM in PT, and I would not be too hard on him. (He says he sent me something I'd referred to in one of the letters, so didn't need instruction from him on.) He assumes I am not a meditator: scientific experiments on me as a Christian meditator go back to 1941, University of Chicago Medical School. He assumes I commit the genetic fallacy: nothing I've written or said implies that something's religious just because it's Indian. Dr. Lopez calls me to meditate: I do meditate. I call Dr. Lopez to prayer.