

(03) ROB TULLY - REPLY TO BILL, FREUD AND BETTELHEIM

Subject: Re: Stan
From: Rob Tully
To: Bill Howard
Date: Monday, 21 September 2015, 15:46

dear bill,

it was with great pleasure that i received your account of the effects and influences stan had on you, those so in concert with those he had on me.

leaving the house one morning to go to the U of R campus, apropos of i forget what, he commented over the top of the car, he getting in one side, me the other, on the genius of freud's 'interpretation of dreams', 'real science' as he put it, a book that would take a minimum of two years to really comprehend. i of course immediately put it in my mental 'to do' list (though as yet have not set aside the demanded two years).... his regard of freud (as you note, through bettelheim) might have been responsible for my taking later a freud seminar though i can't be sure of that..... he spoke often of bettelheim which did indeed cause me to (1) read much of bettelheim's work and (2) seek summer employment at the orthogenic school (it turned out that bettelheim would not be there that summer)..... a few years later dick cavett on his talk show was hosting bettelheim followed by a very minor comedian, doc something or other. coming on after bettelheim and sitting next to him, the comedian, abject fool, tried with lame arrows at psychiatry to elicit some cheap laughs at

bettelheim's expense. within two or three scathing sentences, bettelheim demoralized the pretender to such an extent he ended up staring at his shoes, head bowed, for the remainder of his interview, from which position he never recovered. i was astonished. when i mentioned this to stan who had also seen the segment in 1971 (the last time i saw him), he said 'see, an expert' many many years later i saw a lecture by bettelheim at the u of new mexico, not too long before he committed suicide.

i hugely regret not being in touch with stan in his later years, not least because of his financial straits which by that time i could easily have helped with and would have very happily done so. lamenting this on a visit to peter in rochester, peter said no, it was far better that i didn't know stan then as he had markedly deteriorated physically and psychologically, peter noting that he was having all of the john nash symptoms of schizophrenia, reading arcane messages into everyday events and so on. perhaps his pot habit might have had some effect. indeed, looking at peter's wedding pictures, i had to ask who a certain man was in the photos, only to be told that it was stan, shockingly unrecognizable to me..... my friend john flavin, a couple of years ahead of me, after talking to stan at length one morning in '67 or '68 when stan was through rochester, said that stan was deeply haunted by something which would never let him be deeply at ease.

i have a particularly hard time trying to imagine stan when he was young, a student with you at chicago.....i

knew him when he was a mature 39, masterfully assured in all aspects, a mantle of intellectual virtuosity lying easily about his shoulders.....if you would like to relate something of him during this time, i would be gratified.....

at some point (in the 70's?), stan lived with bonnie gold and her husband until that point the he and the husband had an irreconcilable contretemps.

though i did write to juliette kennedy, i've not heard from her. should it not be presumptuous, i would be appreciative if you mentioned the existence of the memoir to her.

my best wishes,

rob.