

# RAMA TRAUMA TRUMP



I LEFT THE CULT  
AND NOW  
LOOK WHAT HAPPENED

Graphic non-fiction

STORY BY MARK LAXER  
ILLUSTRATIONS BY MARCIE VALLETTE

"COMPELLING AND DARK--A MUST READ!" - STEVE HASSAN, AUTHOR OF *THE CULT OF TRUMP*

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**WELCOME!**

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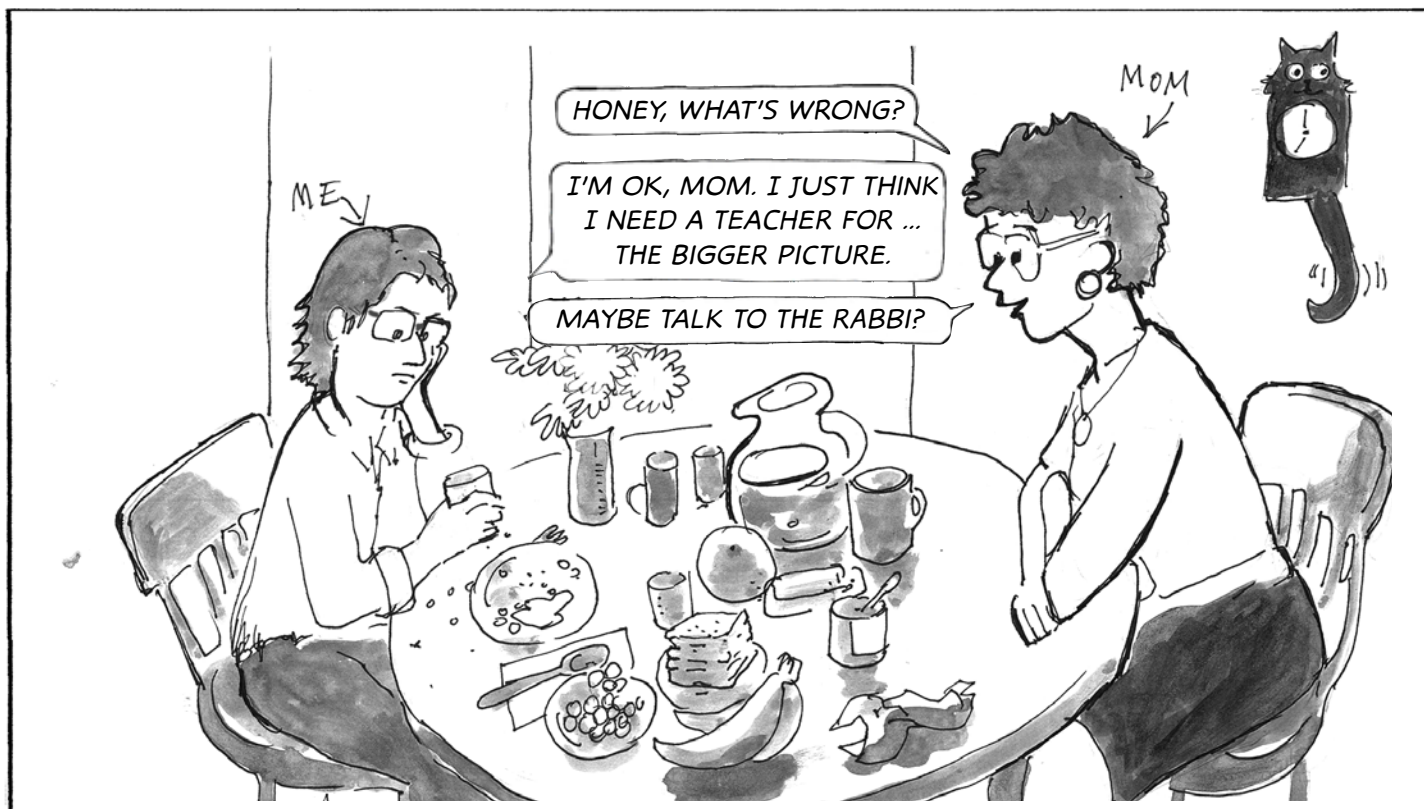
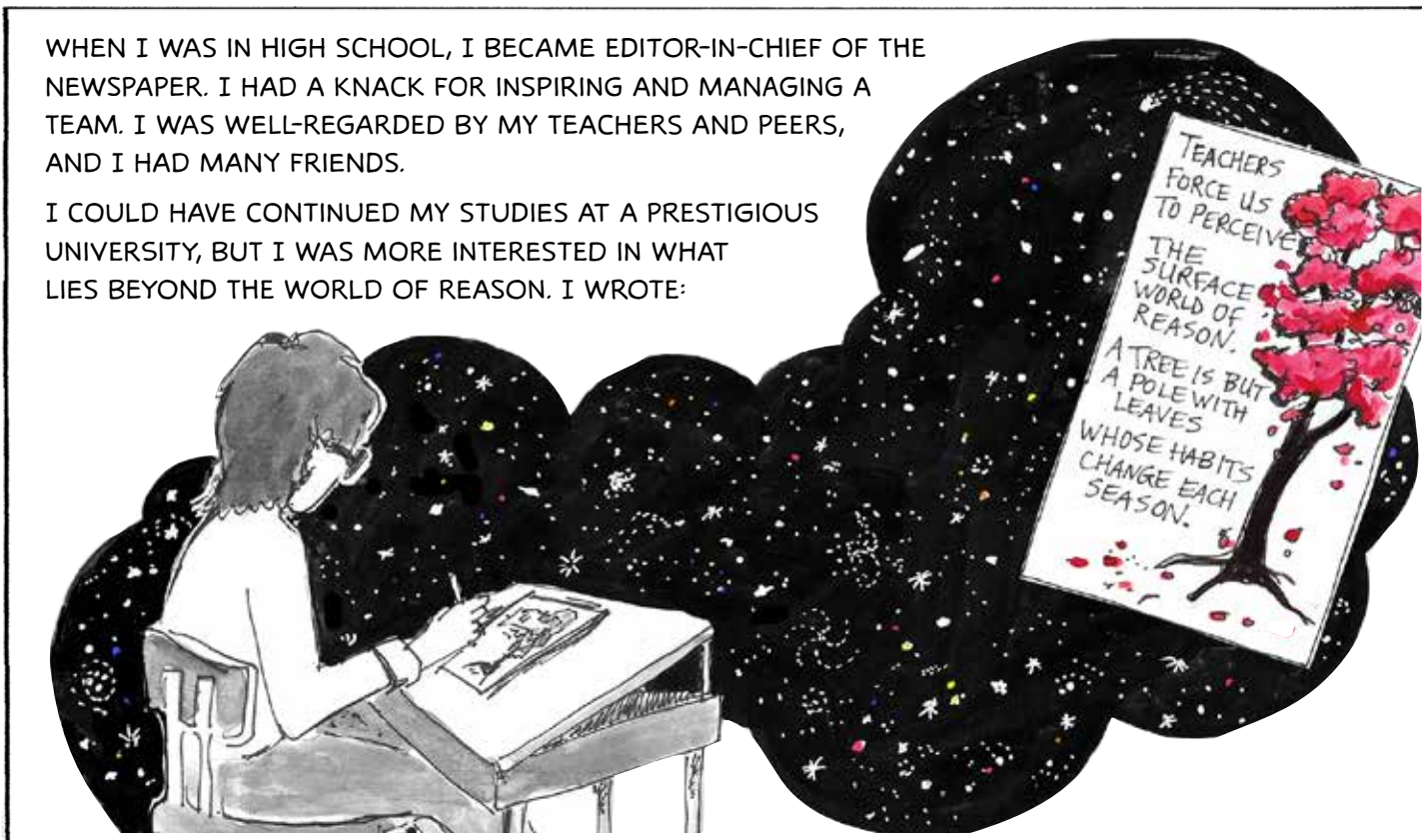
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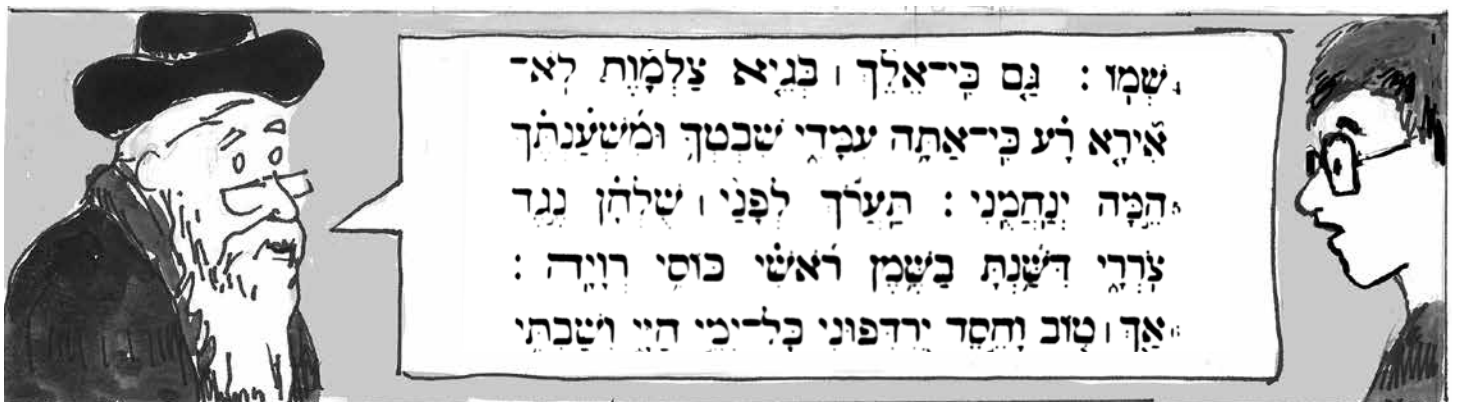
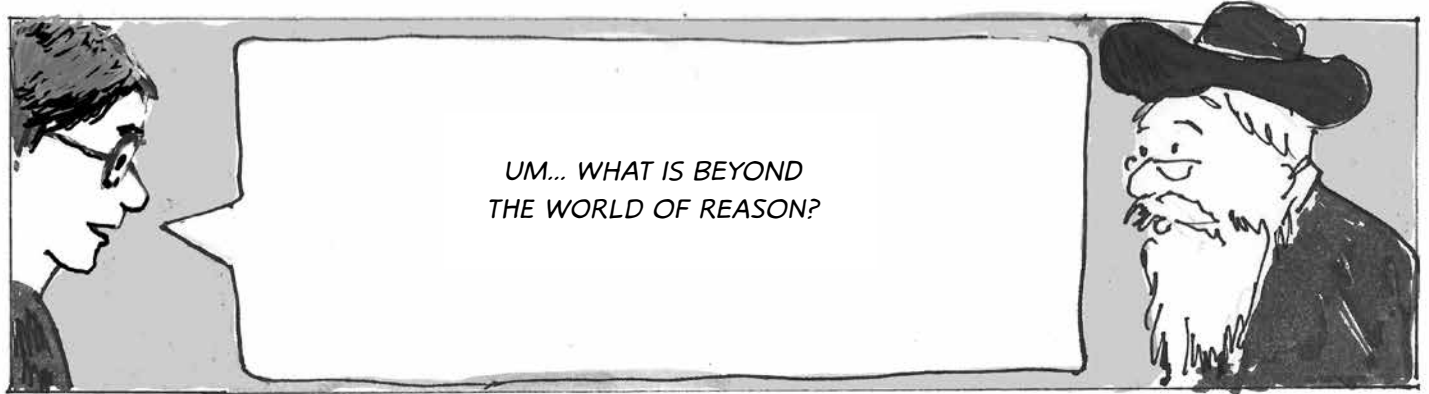
# PART 1: THE SPIRITUAL SEEKER

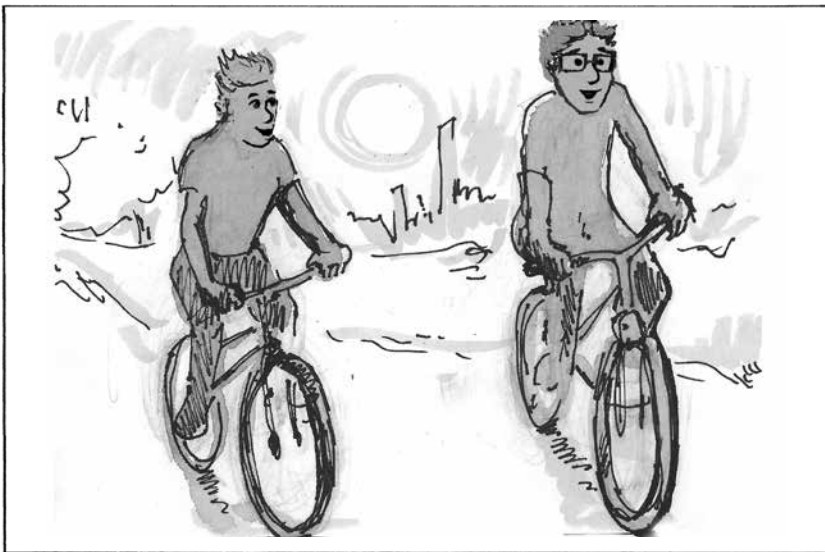
WHEN I WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL, I BECAME EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF THE NEWSPAPER. I HAD A KNACK FOR INSPIRING AND MANAGING A TEAM. I WAS WELL-REGARDED BY MY TEACHERS AND PEERS, AND I HAD MANY FRIENDS.

I COULD HAVE CONTINUED MY STUDIES AT A PRESTIGIOUS UNIVERSITY, BUT I WAS MORE INTERESTED IN WHAT LIES BEYOND THE WORLD OF REASON. I WROTE:



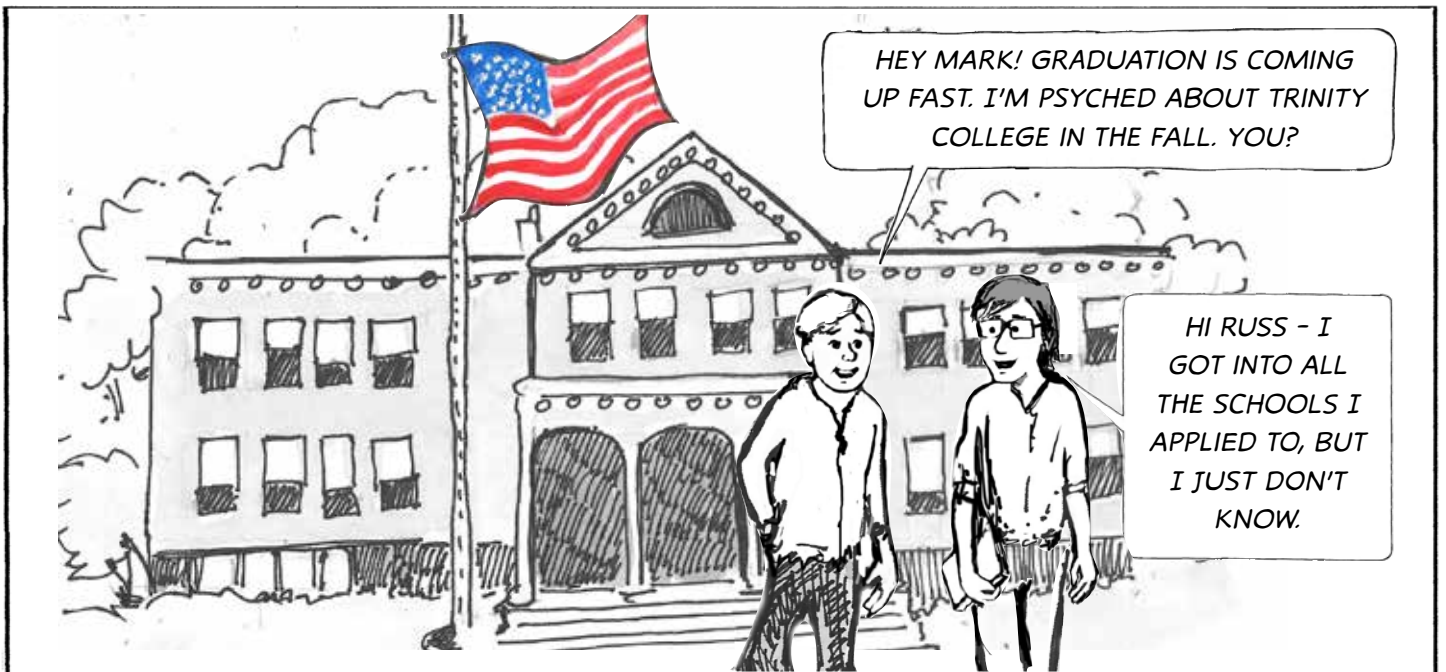
A FEW WEEKS LATER...





I SPOKE WITH MY FRIEND RUSSELL.

WE WERE GOOD FRIENDS AND LOVED TO BICYCLE TOGETHER. BUT I FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO SHARE MY LONGING FOR A MYSTICAL QUEST.



HEY MARK! GRADUATION IS COMING UP FAST. I'M PSYCHED ABOUT TRINITY COLLEGE IN THE FALL. YOU?

HI RUSS - I GOT INTO ALL THE SCHOOLS I APPLIED TO, BUT I JUST DON'T KNOW.

I WROTE A SPEECH AND GAVE IT AT GRADUATION.





I HAD BEEN SO INSPIRED BY BOOKS ON NEW AGE SPIRITUALITY BY CARLOS CASTANEDA THAT I PLANNED TO PUT COLLEGE ON HOLD AND HITCHHIKE WEST TO THE SONORAN DESERT, IN CALIFORNIA.

I PLANNED TO FIND A TEACHER LIKE CASTANEDA'S TEACHER, DON JUAN, A YAQUI INDIAN MEDICINE MAN, WHO WOULD GUIDE ME ALONG THE PATH OF DIRECT MYSTICAL KNOWLEDGE.



BEFORE HITCHHIKING WEST, I ATTENDED A FREE LECTURE SERIES IN MANHATTAN ON MYSTICISM AND MEDITATION GIVEN BY A COLLEGE PROFESSOR AT THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT STONYBROOK, DR. FREDERICK LENZ.

HIS INDIAN GURU, SRI CHINMOY, HAD GIVEN HIM THE SPIRITUAL NAME **ATMANANDA**, WHICH MEANS "**BLISS OF THE SOUL.**" ATMANANDA KNEW ALL ABOUT THE CASTANEDA BOOKS.



ATMANANDA WAS FRIENDLY AND FUNNY.



THERE WAS SOMETHING HAUNTINGLY FAMILIAR ABOUT THIS CONFIDENT, WELL-SPOKEN YOUNG PROFESSOR. I FELT DRAWN TO HIM. I FOUND MYSELF STARING INTO HIS FULL MOON, GRIPPING EYES. WHEN HE SPOKE TO THE CROWD, I FELT HE WAS REALLY TALKING TO **ME**.



AND THAT NIGHT HE DID TALK WITH ME, PERSONALLY.

IT WAS A BIG DEAL FOR A SEVENTEEN-YEAR-OLD SEEKER.



YOU ARE AN ADVANCED, VERY OLD SOUL, MARK, AND WITH THE GUIDANCE OF A FULLY ENLIGHTENED SPIRITUAL TEACHER, YOU COULD EVOLVE THOUSANDS OF LIFETIMES IN JUST ONE LIFETIME.





SURROUNDED BY MAGICAL BOOKS, MEDITATION, AND A WARM, TIGHT-KNIT COMMUNITY OF LIKE-MINDED SEEKERS, I CHOSE TO ABANDON THE QUEST TO HITCHHIKE WEST. IT SEEMED NO COINCIDENCE THAT I HAD ENCOUNTERED A MYSTICAL TEACHER BEFORE THE ADVENTURE EVEN BEGAN.



THERE WERE MANY BEAUTIFUL WOMEN IN THE GROUP WHICH MADE THE PATH EVEN MORE ATTRACTIVE.

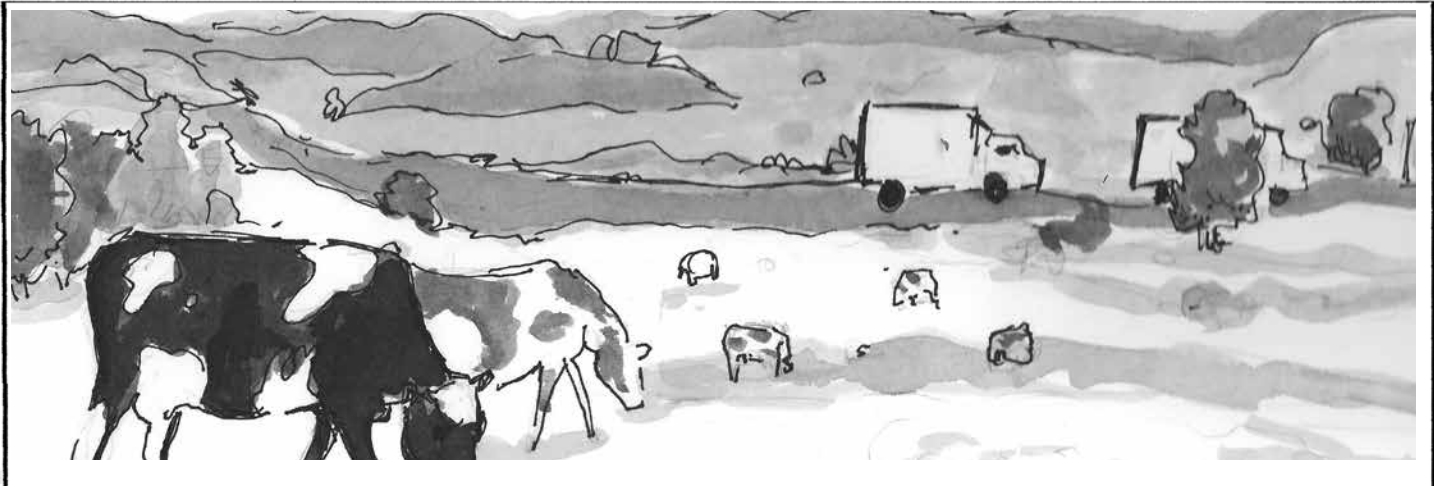




I ROSE IN ATMANANDA'S ORGANIZATION. I DISCOVERED I WAS GOOD AT RECRUITING AND BRINGING IN MONEY.



THEN ONE DAY, ATMANANDA HAD US PACK UP AND MOVE ACROSS THE COUNTRY.



ATMANANDA INVITED ME TO MOVE IN WITH HIM AND THREE INNER-CIRCLE WOMEN INTO THE PLUSHLY CARPETED CENTER BY THE CLIFFS OF LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA.





I HAD AMAZING SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCES AND WAS LOOKED UPON WITH ADMIRATION AND ENVY BY THOUSANDS OF SPIRITUAL SEEKERS.

WE ARE GOING TO  
MAKE MILLIONS  
OF PEOPLE HAPPY!

I LED A LARGE TEAM OF DISCIPLES WHO POSTERED EVERY CITY AND TOWN IN CALIFORNIA.

OUR RALLYING CRY ATMANANDA BORROWED FROM KERMIT-THE-FROG IN THE MUPPET MOVIE, "WE ARE GOING TO MAKE MILLIONS OF PEOPLE HAPPY."



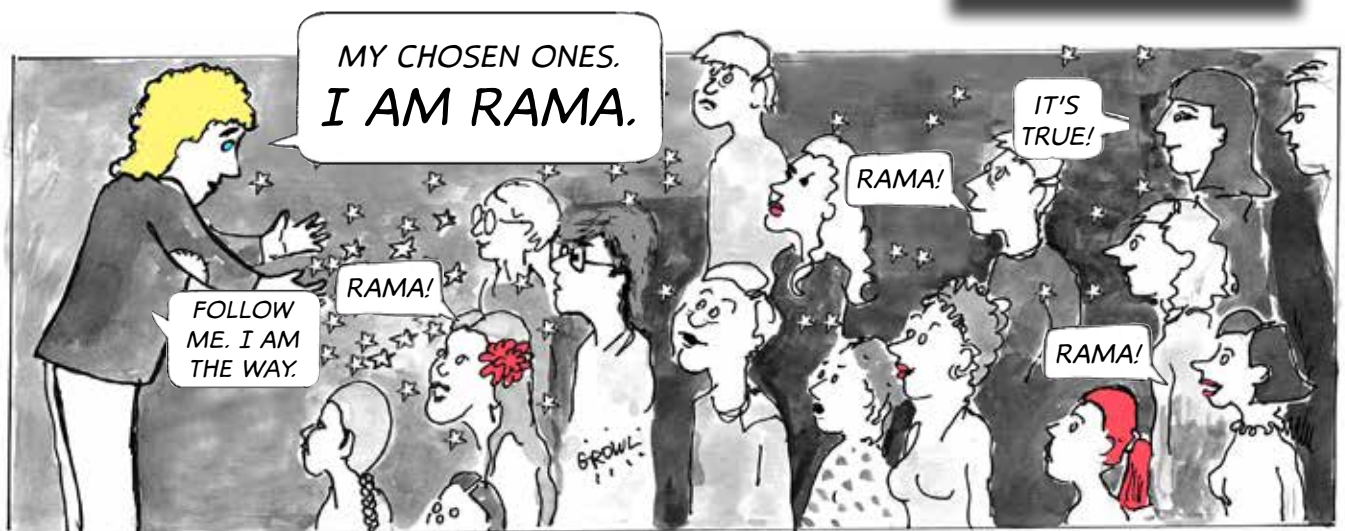


THINGS WERE BECOMING INCREASINGLY INTENSE  
IN CALIFORNIA.

ATMANANDA HAD US FAST FOR FOURTEEN  
DAYS AND KEPT US AWAKE MANY NIGHTS FOR  
INTENSIVE MEETINGS AND MEDITATIONS. HE SAID  
HE WAS GOING INTO SAMADHI, AN EXALTED STATE  
OF CONSCIOUSNESS.

HE SAID HE WAS NO LONGER **ATMANANDA**.

HE WAS NOW **RAMA**, THE LAST INCARNATION OF  
VISHNU, A HINDU GOD.





# I AM RAMA

FOLLOW  
ME.

MY ENERGY  
WILL SAVE  
YOU.

WE ARE THE  
CHOSEN  
ONES.

AREN'T WE  
LUCKY TO BE  
SO CLOSE  
TO DIVINE  
ENERGY.

WE ARE  
HERE TO  
USHER IN  
THE NEW  
AGE.

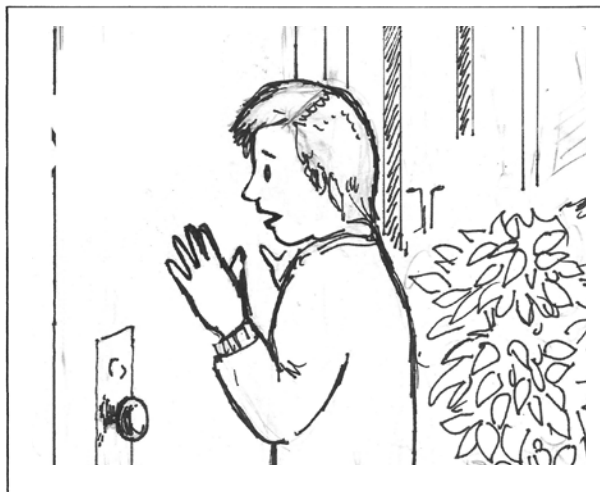
I AM THE LAST  
INCARNATION OF VISHNU.



RAMA EXPLAINED  
THAT IN ORDER FOR  
US TO PROGRESS,  
WE MUST BREAK  
OUR ATTACHMENTS  
TO THE OUTSIDE  
WORLD.



THAT'S WHEN  
RUSSELL, MY  
FRIEND FROM HIGH  
SCHOOL, SHOWED  
UP AT THE CENTER.



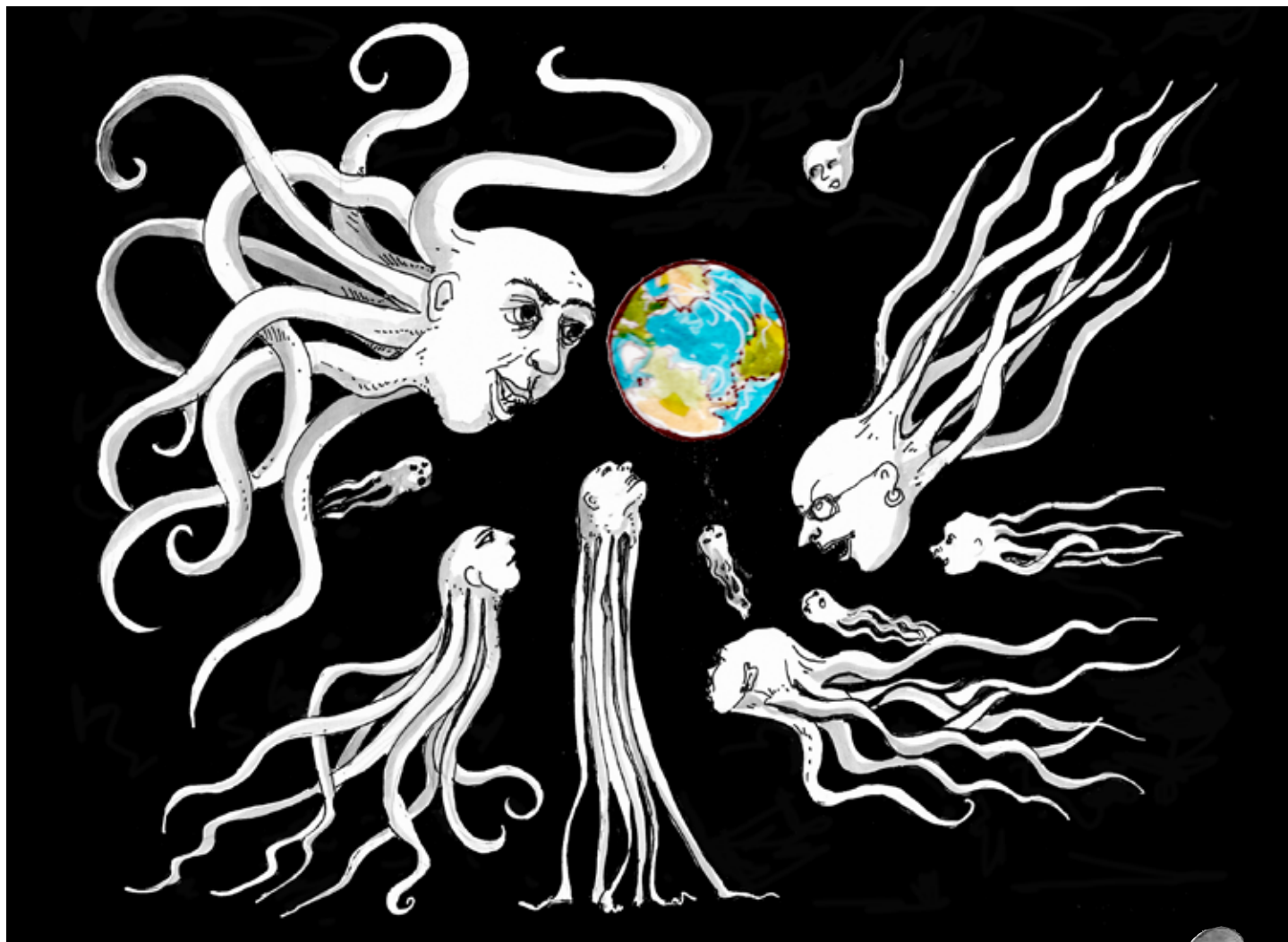
I TOLD RUSSELL I COULD  
NOT TALK TO HIM.

I DID NOT INVITE HIM IN.





RAMA HAD BEEN INCREASINGLY TELLING US WE WERE ALL POSSESSED BY EVIL SPIRITS CALLED "DARK ENTITIES." INDEED, MANY OF US GREW FRIGHTENED THAT IF WE DIDN'T FOLLOW HIS EVERY COMMAND, WE WOULD BE DAMNED AND DESTROYED, ETERNALLY, BY THE UNSEEN SCARY ENTITIES. RAMA TOLD US HE WOULD PROTECT US.

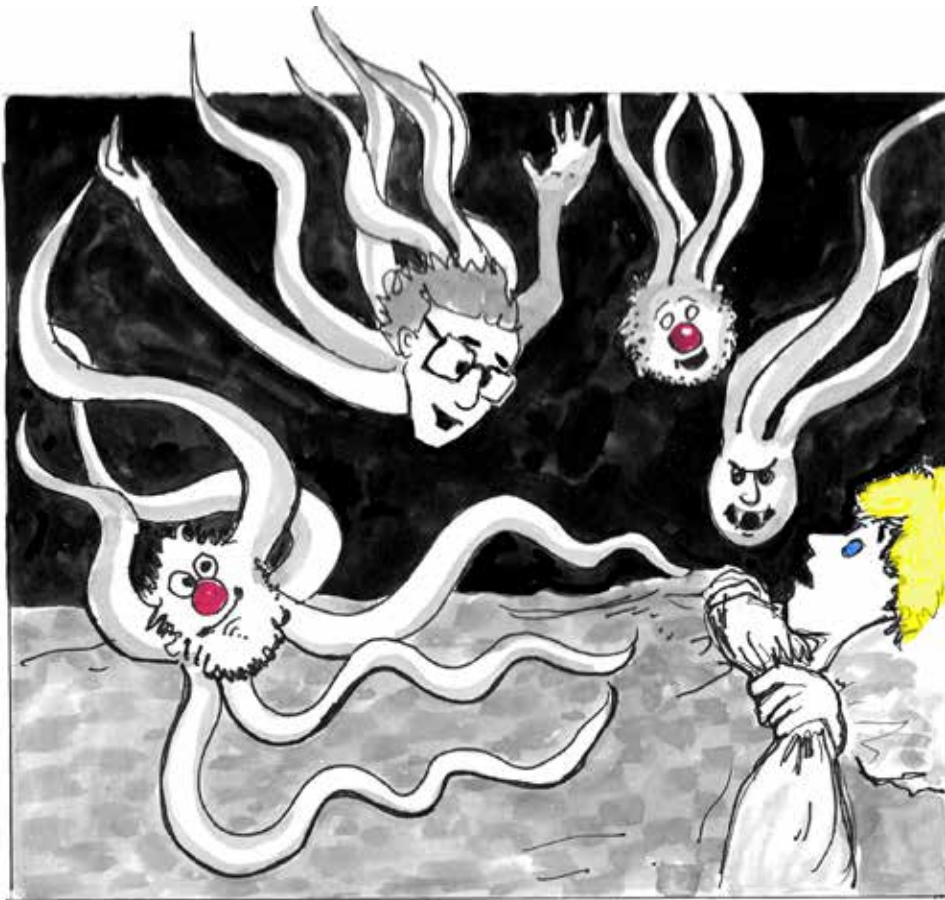


AS RAMA'S FAME AND FOLLOWING GREW, SO DID HIS ACCUSATIONS. SUDDENLY, HIS DISCIPLES WERE NOW MENTALLY ILL AND ATTACKING HIM IN THE INNER WORLD, DRAINING HIM OF HIS COSMIC POWERS.

BACK IN THE 60'S HE HAD EXPERIMENTED WITH **LSD**. HE REKINDLED INTEREST IN THE DRUG WITH GROUP ACID TRIPS.

YEARS LATER, HE WOULD SHOUT AT FOLLOWERS FOR HOURS, WHILE THEY WERE TRIPPING.

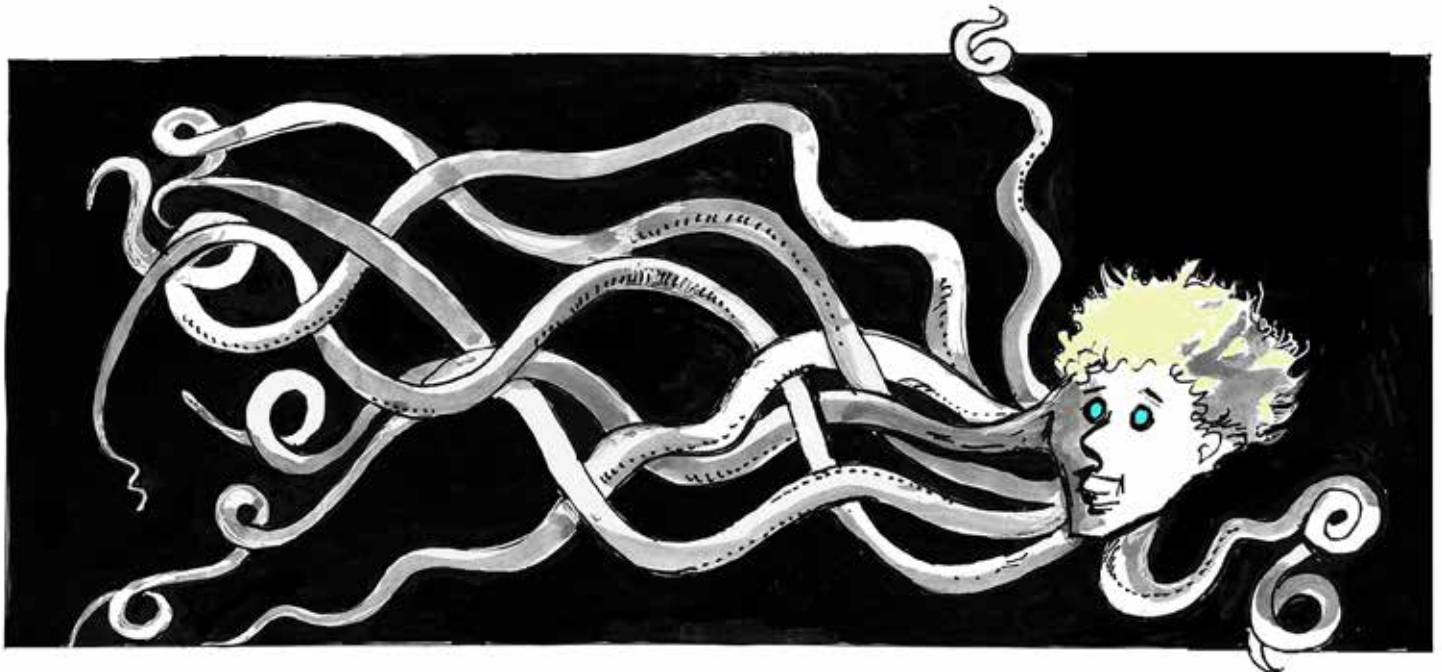




AT THIS TIME, I WAS STILL IN THE GROUP, BUT I HAD MOVED OUT OF RAMA'S HOUSE AND LIVED IN AN APARTMENT.

ONE TIME HE DROPPED ACID AND I HELPED HIM THROUGH A BAD TRIP. IT WAS THEN I CAME TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THE PLAY OF LIGHT AND DARKNESS, THE NARCISSISM, THE PARANOIA, THE EXTREME HIERARCHY AND FEAR EMBEDDED DEEP IN THIS MAN'S PSYCHE.

I BEGAN TO WONDER IF THE LAST INCARNATION OF VISHNU MIGHT BE A LITTLE LONELY.



THIS NEW UNDERSTANDING ABOUT RAMA LED TO A NEW UNDERSTANDING ABOUT MYSELF AND THE SPIRITUAL PATH I WAS ON. I WAS LEARNING TO LISTEN TO MY OWN VOICE, MY GUT FEELINGS, AND THIS BECAME KEY TO MY GRADUALLY LEAVING RAMA'S SPHERE OF INFLUENCE.



I FOLLOWED MY GUT FEELINGS DURING ONE GROUP ACID TRIP WHEN RAMA ASKED THE DISCIPLES TO REMAIN INSIDE. I HAD WALKED OUTSIDE AND WATCHED THE SMALL BIRDS FLY.

"THE BOTTOM LINE IS THAT HE'S WRONG ABOUT ME," I THOUGHT, MY SELF-CONFIDENCE GERMINATING, THE WAY PINE SEEDS FLOURISH WHEN THEIR CONES ARE SCORCHED BY FIRE. "I'M NOT POSSESSED BY DEMONS, MENTALLY ILL, OR BENT ON DESTRUCTION. I'M OKAY."

THIS REALIZATION THAT I WAS OKAY WAS THE KEY TO MY LIBERATION. I LEFT THE GROUP.

MONTHS LATER, RAMA CALLED THE INNER CIRCLE BACK FOR "OUR LAST MEETING." I MISSED MY FRIENDS SO I DECIDED TO GO. I FELT ALERT. I RODE MY THREE-SPEED TO HIS HOUSE LATE AT NIGHT AND WORE AROUND MY NECK A STRING WITH A BICYCLE LOCK KEY. RAMA TRIED TO TURN US AGAINST ONE ANOTHER. WHEN I CHALLENGED HIM, HE STARTED CHANTING AND POINTING HIS INDEX FINGER AT ME.



I SEIZED THE STRING WITH THE BICYCLE LOCK KEY. I PICTURED BRIGHT PURPLE SPARKS AND BLUE LIGHTNING BOLTS RADIATING IN ALL DIRECTIONS FROM THE KEY. I STEPPED OUTSIDE. HERE THE LIGHT WAS SOFT AND GRAY. A MOURNING DOVE COOED. THE BICYCLE WAS THERE FOR ME. IT WAS 1985 AND I WAS 25.

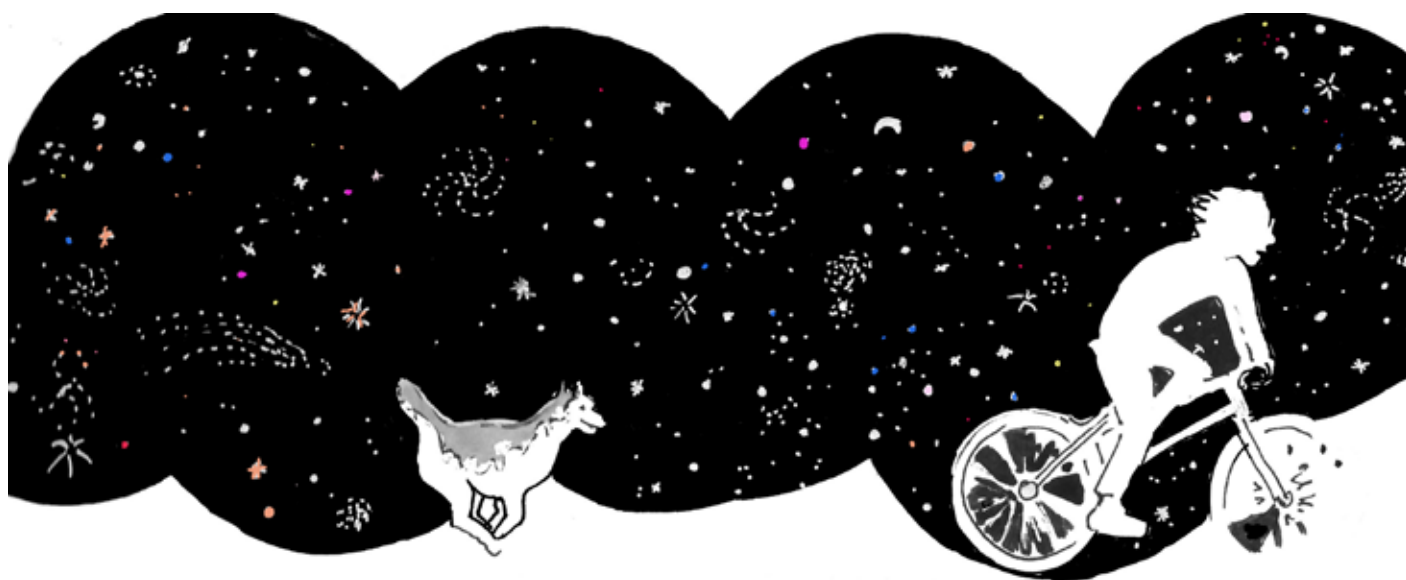




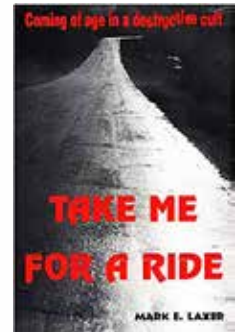
I MOVED BACK EAST.

IN THE MONTHS THAT FOLLOWED, I OCCASIONALLY BICYCLED TO WALDEN POND, WHERE I READ ABOUT THOREAU'S EXPERIMENT WITH SELF-RELIANCE. DISTRACTED BY HAUNTING MEMORIES, I GAZED AT THE WATER IN SEARCH OF CALM, BUT THE WIND SPAWNED NEW WAVES AND THE SURFACE SWELLED WITH COMPLEXITY.

"THERE'S PLENTY OF TIME TO SORT IT OUT," I REASSURED MYSELF. "MAYBE I'LL TAKE MYSELF FOR A RIDE ACROSS AMERICA AND DO SOME THINKING."







ON MAY 31<sup>ST</sup>, 1986, I BEGAN PEDALING WEST WITH NUNATAK, MY SIBERIAN HUSKY PUPPY. THE BICYCLE TRIP, THE REFLECTIONS, AND THE MEMORIES OF MY YEARS WITH RAMA BECAME THE BASIS FOR MY NON-FICTION BOOK: **TAKE ME FOR A RIDE: COMING OF AGE IN A DESTRUCTIVE CULT**. I WAS SUED FOR \$30 MILLION AS A WAY TO SILENCE ME. BUT IT DIDN'T WORK. I POSTED THE ENTIRE BOOK, OFFERING IT FREE, ON THE INTERNET.







## PART 2: WHAT HAPPENED?





IT STARTS OUT WITH FEELINGS OF LOVE  
AND ACCEPTANCE FROM THE LEADER  
AND GROUP MEMBERS.

IN THE EARLY YEARS WITH RAMA,  
WE WERE ACCEPTED, LISTENED TO,  
AND WE FELT LOVED.

## I REMEMBER MY FRIEND CAROL:

### AT FIRST:

RAMA ACTUALLY  
LISTENS TO ME  
MORE THAN ANY  
OTHER PERSON IN  
MY LIFE, INCLUDING  
MY HUSBAND! I FEEL  
CARED FOR  
WHEN I'M  
WITH HIM.



### THEN LATER:

I'VE PUT SO MANY  
YEARS, SO MUCH  
TIME AND EFFORT  
INTO THIS, AND IT'S  
STILL NOT GOOD  
ENOUGH FOR HIM.  
HE RIDICULES  
ME IN FRONT OF  
EVERYONE.







CHARLES WAS AN ENGINEER:

**AT FIRST:**



RAMA'S AN INTELLECTUAL! HE'S FUNNY, KNOWLEDGEABLE AND INSIGHTFUL. I BELIEVE HE IS TRULY WISE.

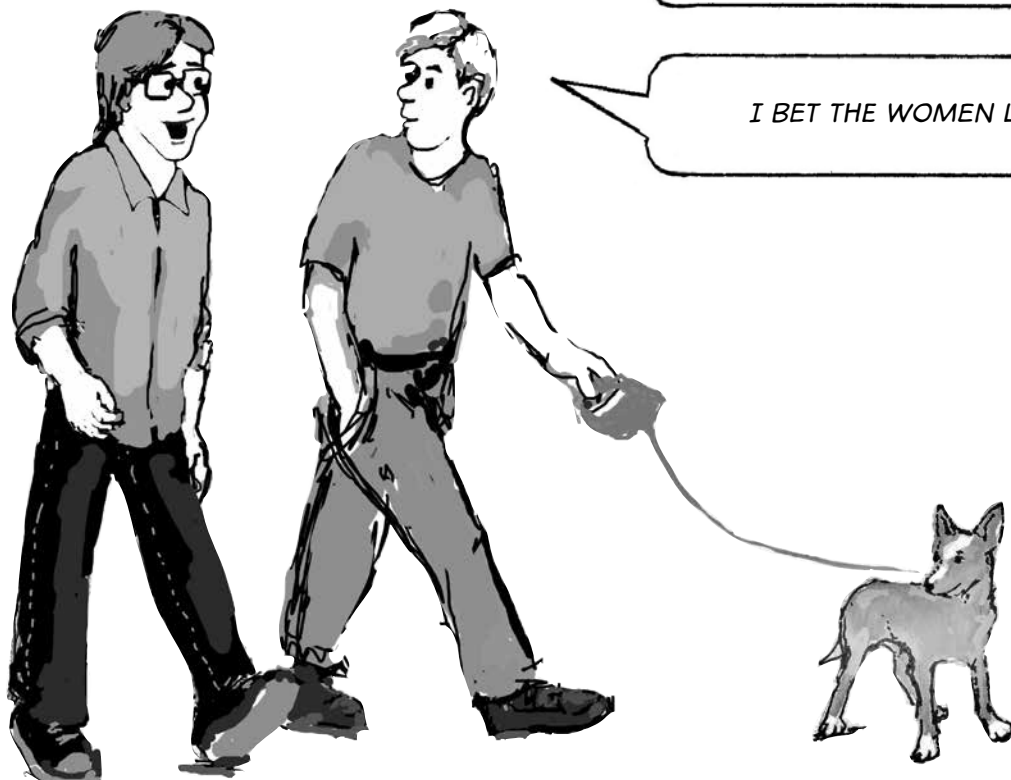
I CAN LEARN SOMETHING FROM HIM!

**THEN LATER:**



I FELT BAD FOR CHEATING AND LYING FOR OUR BUSINESS, THOUGH I KNEW IT WAS FOR MY OWN SPIRITUAL ADVANCEMENT AND THE ADVANCEMENT OF MANKIND.

IT WAS FOR THE GREATER GOOD... OR WAS IT?



RAMA WAS ARTICULATE, CONVINCING,  
AND HAD CHARISMA TO SPARE.

IT SEEMED LIKE HE COULD CHANGE THE  
MINDS OF LARGE AUDIENCES  
JUST BY HIS PRESENCE. INTENSE!

I BET THE WOMEN LIKED HIM.

OH YES! I REMEMBER JESSIE. TO HER THE WORLD SEEMED TO  
BECOME MAGICAL. SHE WAS RAMA'S GIRLFRIEND FOR A WHILE:

### AT FIRST:

I NEVER KNEW I  
COULD FEEL SO  
HAPPY.

I'M IN LOVE! I  
THINK HE'S MY  
SOUL MATE.

THIS IS MY  
DESTINY.



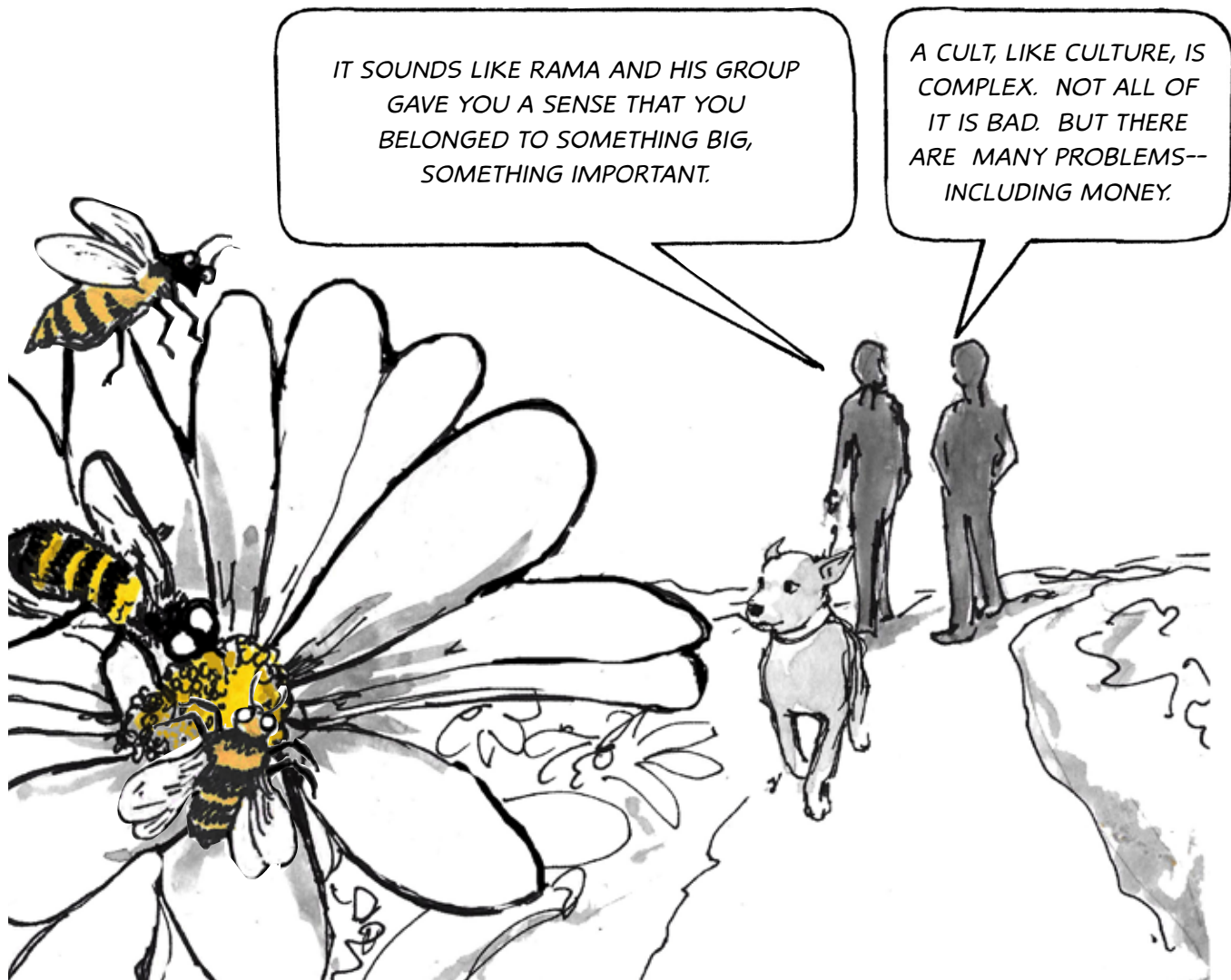
### THEN LATER:

I LEFT MY  
HUSBAND AND  
QUIT MY JOB  
FOR HIM.

BUT NOW HE'S  
ABANDONED  
ME...







IT SOUNDS LIKE RAMA AND HIS GROUP  
GAVE YOU A SENSE THAT YOU  
BELONGED TO SOMETHING BIG,  
SOMETHING IMPORTANT.

A CULT, LIKE CULTURE, IS  
COMPLEX. NOT ALL OF  
IT IS BAD. BUT THERE  
ARE MANY PROBLEMS--  
INCLUDING MONEY.

KEVIN FOUND A COOL GROUP OF PEOPLE TO HANG OUT WITH AND  
HIS LIFE NOW SEEMED TO HAVE MEANING:

### AT FIRST:

DUDE!

THIS RAMA GUY  
IS COOL. HE IS  
DEEP.

MY PARENTS  
NEVER  
UNDERSTOOD ME.



### THEN LATER:

RAMA FOUND  
OUT MY PARENTS  
HAD MONEY. I  
GOT SOME OF MY  
PARENTS' MONEY  
AND GAVE IT TO  
RAMA. I FEEL  
USED.



IN A  
DESTRUCTIVE  
CULT, THE  
LEADER  
LIES OR  
EXAGGERATES  
ABOUT HOW  
IMPORTANT  
AND SPECIAL  
THEY ARE. ONE  
SHOULD BE ON  
THE LOOKOUT  
FOR  
GRANDIOSE  
CLAIMS.



CLAIRE WAS A SEEKER OF TRUTH AND WAS ATTRACTED BY  
STUDYING WITH A TRUE TEACHER:

### AT FIRST:

THIS IS THE TRUE  
DHARMA. THIS IS  
THE TRUE PATH. THIS  
IS FOR REAL. RAMA  
IS A TRUE MASTER.

I WISH EVERYONE  
WAS ON THE PATH.  
I WANT TO SPREAD  
THE WORD.



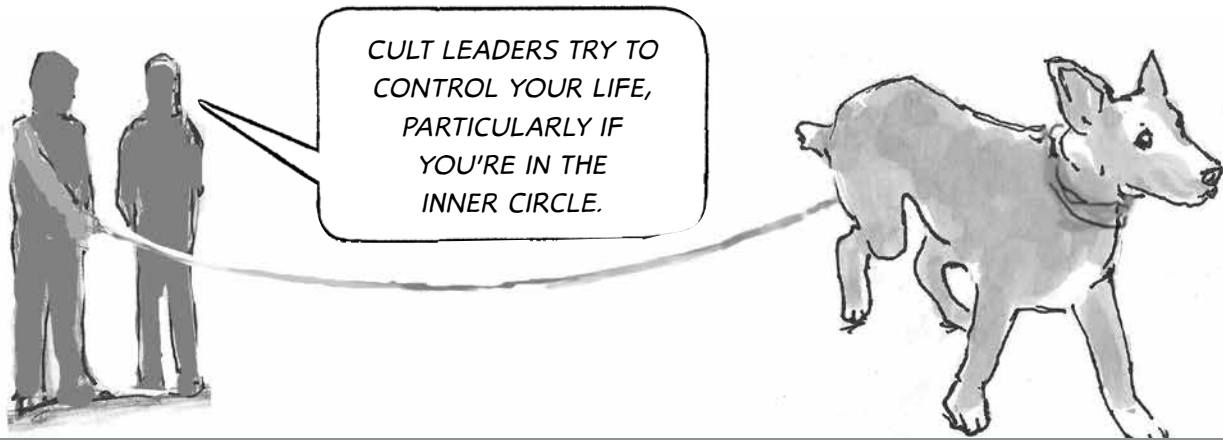
### THEN LATER:

I WORKED SO HARD  
FOR HIM. HE LIED TO  
ALL OF US AND HE  
LOST IT AT THE END.

CAN I EVER TRUST  
ANYONE EVER  
AGAIN? CAN I EVER  
TRUST MYSELF?







BOB HAD A GREAT FUTURE PLANNED OUT.

**AT FIRST:**



I AM ON A MEANINGFUL PATH OF STUDIES AND ACTION! I'M GOING TO BE A DOCTOR. THIS PATH WILL HELP ME WITH MY STUDIES.

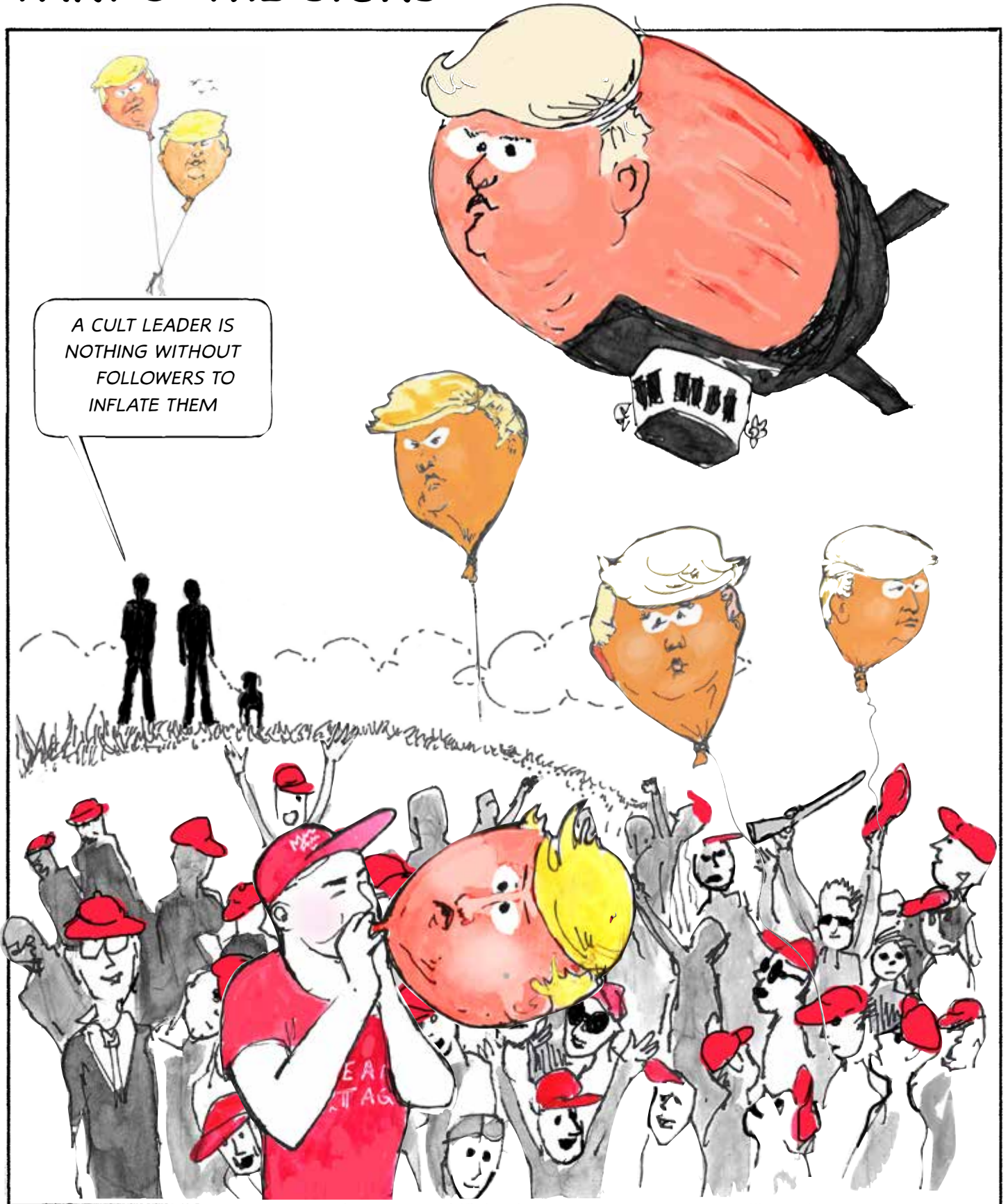
**THEN LATER:**



HE SAID HE KNEW MORE ABOUT ME THAN I KNEW ABOUT MYSELF. SO I QUIT PRE-MED TO LEARN SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT.



## PART 3: THE SIGNS





# I AM PRESIDENT

I AM A VERY  
STABLE  
GENIUS.

NOBODY'S DONE A  
BETTER JOB THAN  
I'M DOING AS  
PRESIDENT.

I COULD STAND  
IN THE MIDDLE  
OF FIFTH AVENUE  
AND SHOOT  
SOMEBODY AND  
I WOULDN'T LOSE  
ANY VOTERS.

I GIVE MYSELF  
AN A+.

UNDER THE  
NORMAL RULES  
I'LL BE OUT IN  
2024 SO WE MAY  
HAVE TO GO FOR  
AN EXTRA TERM.



THE BEAUTY OF ME IS THAT I'M VERY RICH.



I DON'T KNOW, MARK.  
IT SEEMS THIS ONE CAN  
INFLATE HIMSELF.

A DESTRUCTIVE CULT LEADER  
IN CHARGE OF OUR COUNTRY COULD  
THREATEN OUR DEMOCRACY.



## AT FIRST:



I KNOW TRUMP HAS  
AUTOCRATIC  
CONSPIRATORIAL  
TENDENCIES AND I CAN  
SEE HE'S NOT WILLING  
OR ABLE TO SEE THE  
DIFFERENCE BETWEEN  
FANTASY AND  
REALITY -- I'M  
NOT STUPID. BUT  
I THINK HE'LL  
MAINLY FOCUS ON  
THE ECONOMY AND  
I'M WILLING TO TAKE  
THAT RISK, GIVEN THAT  
THERE'S PROBABLY ONLY  
SO FAR HE'LL GO. HE'S A  
SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS  
GUY AFTER ALL. SURELY,  
NORMALCY WILL KICK IN.  
IF NOTHING ELSE, OUR  
INSTITUTIONS, OUR SYSTEM  
OF CHECKS AND BALANCES,  
WILL SAVE US.



## THEN LATER:



OH  
WELL.



SO MUCH FOR CHECKS  
AND BALANCES.  
WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT THIS?



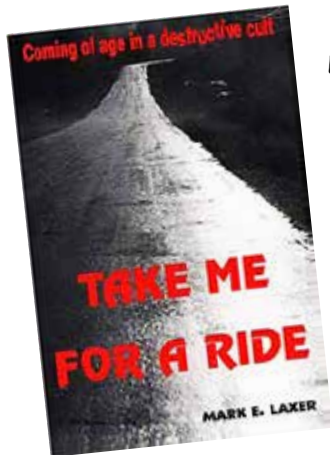
WE CAN LEARN ABOUT THE SIGNS OF  
A DESTRUCTIVE CULT LEADER.  
WE CAN KEEP TALKING ABOUT IT.  
**AND WE CAN VOTE.**



THE END



# FURTHER READING <sub>s</sub>



**MARK LAXER'S**

***TAKE ME FOR A RIDE: COMING OF AGE IN A DESTRUCTIVE CULT***

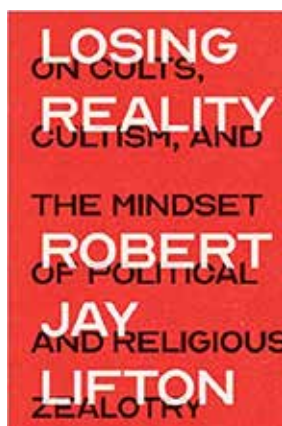
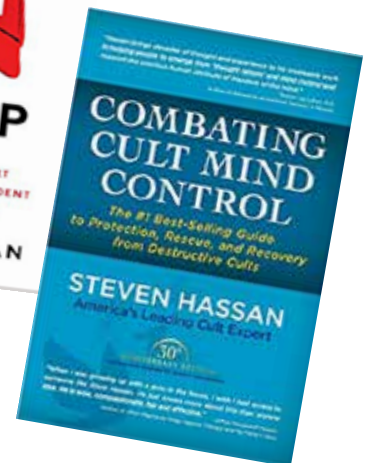
"WHILE HIS PORTRAIT OF A CHARISMATIC LEADER'S SLIDE INTO MADNESS IS GRIPPING, PERHAPS MORE IMPORTANT HERE IS LAXER'S DISCLOSURE OF SOME OF THE MOTIVES IMPELLING YOUNG PEOPLE TO IMMERSE THEMSELVES IN CULTS...THE WORK IS WELL WRITTEN." --**LIBRARY JOURNAL**

**STEVE HASSAN'S *THE CULT OF TRUMP***

"A BRILLIANT ANALYSIS OF A UNIQUE MODERN PHENOMENON. READERS WILL NOD THEIR HEAD IN RECOGNITION AS HASSAN EXPERTLY TAKES THEM THROUGH A FASCINATING, ENGAGING EXPLORATION OF THE COERCIVE CONTROL TECHNIQUES THAT PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP USES DAILY TO INFLUENCE HIS FOLLOWERS." --**DR. PHILIP ZIMBARDO, AUTHOR**

**OF THE LUCIFER EFFECT AND EMERITUS PROFESSOR OF PSYCHOLOGY, STANFORD UNIVERSITY**

SEE ALSO HASSAN'S WEBSITE: [WWW.FREEDOMOFMIND.COM](http://WWW.FREEDOMOFMIND.COM); AND SEE HIS HIGHLY REGARDED BOOK: ***COMBATING CULT MIND CONTROL***.

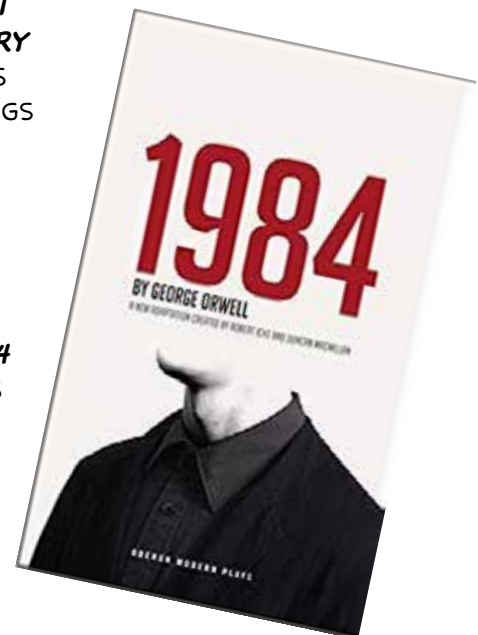


**ROBERT JAY LIFTON'S *LOSING REALITY: ON CULTS, CULTISM, AND THE MINDSET OF POLITICAL AND RELIGIOUS ZEALOTRY***

"ONE OF THE WORLD'S FOREMOST THINKERS ON WHY WE HUMANS DO SUCH AWFUL THINGS TO EACH OTHER." --**BILL MOYERS**

**GEORGE ORWELL'S *1984***

"ORWELL SAW, TO HIS CREDIT, THAT THE ACT OF FALSIFYING REALITY IS ONLY SECONDARILY A WAY OF CHANGING PERCEPTIONS. IT IS, ABOVE ALL, A WAY OF ASSERTING POWER."--**THE NEW YORKER**





## MARK LAXER, WRITER:

MARK LAXER'S QUEST TO UNDERSTAND THE BIGGER WORLD LANDED HIM IN THE INNER CIRCLE OF A BRILLIANT, CHARISMATIC GURU GONE MAD. THIS CULMINATED IN A \$30 MILLION LAWSUIT AND THE PUBLICATION OF ***TAKE ME FOR A RIDE: COMING OF AGE IN A DESTRUCTIVE CULT*** (1993). LAXER CONTINUED THE QUEST BY WRITING ***THE MONKEY BIBLE*** (2010) WHICH--WITH ERIC MARING'S COMPANION ROCK OPERA ***THE LINE***--ASKS SCIENCE, RELIGION AND MYTHOLOGY WHAT IT MEANS TO BE HUMAN.



## MARCIE VALLETTE, ILLUSTRATOR

INTERESTS IN ART, HEALING, TEACHING, MEDITATION, AND POWER DYNAMICS HAS LED VALLETTE TO CARTOONING AND GRAPHIC NOVELS AS A FORM OF EXPRESSION. SHE HAS BFA, M ED, AND LPN DEGREES. SHE LIVES AND WORKS IN VERMONT, WHERE SHE EXHIBITS HER ART, TEACHES ART TO ADULTS, AND WORKS AS A NURSE.



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INSTAGRAM: MARK.LAXER

PODCAST WITH ERIC MARING: TAKE ME FOR A RIDE  
YOUTUBE CHANNEL: MARK LAXER

***TAKE ME FOR A RIDE*** (FREE DOWNLOAD):  
[WWW.GUTENBERG.ORG/EBOOKS/162](http://WWW.GUTENBERG.ORG/EBOOKS/162)

***TAKE ME FOR A RIDE*** (FREE AUDIO) PLAYLIST ON  
MARK LAXER YOUTUBE CHANNEL (READ BY AUTHOR)  
***THE MONKEY BIBLE*** IS AVAILABLE ON AMAZON

TO ORDER A PHYSICAL COPY OF THIS BOOK (NOT FREE)  
VISIT [RAMATRAUMATRUMP.COM](http://RAMATRAUMATRUMP.COM)

MARCIE VALLETTE'S WEBSITE: [WWW.VALLETTE.NET](http://WWW.VALLETTE.NET)

CONTACT PUBLISHER FOR INTERVIEWS AND PUBLIC SPEAKING.





**RAMA TRAUMA TRUMP** IS THE TRUE STORY OF A SEVENTEEN-YEAR-OLD WHO JOINS A SPIRITUAL GROUP THAT STARTS OUT COOL BUT GRADUALLY, OVER YEARS, TURNS ABUSIVE. THE YOUNG MAN LEAVES THE GROUP, TRIES TO COME TO TERMS WITH THE PAST, AND IS SURPRISED TO FIND THAT THE LARGER CULTURE LOOKS AN AWFUL LOT LIKE THE CULT HE HAD LEFT.

THIS HEARTFELT, EDUCATIONAL GRAPHIC NOVEL EXPLORES THE IMPORTANCE OF CULT-PROOFING KIDS, COMMUNITIES, AND NATIONS. ULTIMATELY, **RAMA TRAUMA TRUMP** IS THE STORY OF FRIENDSHIP AND LOYALTY WHICH TRANSCENDS THE MIND-BENDING POWER OF NARCISSISTIC CHARISMATIC LEADERS.

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