

KNOTS

R.D. Laing



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R D Laing: Selected Works

Volume 7

Knots

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The patterns delineated here have not yet been classified by a Linnaeus of human bondage. They are all, perhaps, strangely, familiar.

In these pages I have confined myself to laying out only some of those I actually have seen. Words that come to mind to name them are: knots, tangles, fankles, *impasses*, disjunctions, whirligogs, binds.

I could have remained closer to the 'raw' data in which these patterns appear. I could have distilled them further towards an abstract logico-mathematical, calculus. I hope they are not so schematized that one may not refer back to the very specific experiences from which they derive; yet that they are sufficiently independent of 'content', for one to divine the final formal elegance in these webs of *maya*.

April 1969 R.D.L.

1

They are playing a game. They are playing at not playing a game. If I show them I see they are, I shall break the rules and they will punish me.

I must play their game, of not seeing I see the game.

They are not having fun.

I can't have fun if they don't.

If I get them to have fun, then I can have fun with them.

Getting them to have fun, is not fun. It is hard work.

I might get fun out of finding out why
they're not.
I'm not supposed to get fun out of working
out why
they're not.
But there is even some fun in pretending
to them I'm not
having fun finding out why they're not.
A little girl comes along and says: let's
have fun.
But having fun is a waste of time, because
it doesn't
help to figure out why they're *not* having
fun.
How dare you have fun when Christ died
on the Cross
for you! Was He having fun?

It is our duty to bring up our children to
love,

honour and obey us.

If they don't, they must be punished,
otherwise we would not be doing our duty.

If they grow up to love, honour and obey us
we have been blessed for bringing them up
properly.

If they grow up not to love, honour and
obey us

 either we have brought them up
properly

 or we have not:

if we have

 there must be something the matter
with them;

if we have not

 there is something the matter with us.

A son should respect his father

He should not have to be taught to respect
his father

It is something that is natural
That's how I've brought up my son
anyway.
Of course a father must be worthy of
respect
He can forfeit a son's respect
But I hope at least that my son will
respect me, if
only for leaving him free to respect me or
not.

There must be something the matter with
him
because he would not be acting as he
does
unless there was
therefore he is acting as he is
because there is something the matter
with him

He does not think there is anything the
matter with him
because
 one of the things that is
 the matter with him
 is that he does not think that there is
anything
 the matter with him
therefore
 we have to help him realize that,
 the fact that he does not think there is
anything
 the matter with him
 is one of the things that is
 the matter with him
there is something the matter with him
because he thinks
 there must be something the matter
with us
for trying to help him to see

that there must be something the matter
with him
to think that there is something the
matter with us
for trying to help him to see that
 we are helping him
to see that
 we are not persecuting him
 by helping him
 to see we are not persecuting him
 by helping him
 to see that
 he is refusing to see
 that there is something the matter with
 him
 for not seeing there is something the
matter
 with him
 for not being grateful to us
 for at least trying to help him

to see that there is something the
matter with
him
for not seeing that there must be
something the
matter with him
for not seeing that there must be
something the
matter with him
for not seeing that there is something the
matter
with him
for not seeing that there is something the
matter
with him
for not being grateful
that we never tried to make him
feel grateful

It is the duty of children to respect their
parents
And it is the duty of parents to teach their
children
to respect them,
by setting them a good example.
Parents who do not set their children a
good example
don't deserve respect.
If we do set them a good example
we believe they will grow up to be grateful
to us
when they become parents themselves.
If he is cheeky
he doesn't respect you
for not punishing him
for not respecting you
You shouldn't spoil a child.
It's the easy way, to do what they want

but they won't respect you for letting them
get away
with it when they grow up.
He won't respect you
if you don't punish him
for not respecting you.

My mother loves me.
I feel good.
I feel good because she loves me.
I am good because I feel good
I feel good because I am good
My mother loves me because I am good.
My mother does not love me.
I feel bad.
I feel bad because she does not love me
I am bad because I feel bad
I feel bad because I am bad
I am bad because she does not love me
She does not love me because I am bad.

I don't feel good
therefore I am bad
therefore no one loves me.
I feel good
therefore I am good
therefore everyone loves me.
I am good
You do not love me
therefore you are bad. So I do not love
you.
I am good
You love me
therefore you are good. So I love you.
I am bad
You love me
therefore you are bad.

Mother loves me
because she is good
I am bad, to think she is bad

therefore if I am good
 she is good
 and loves me
 because I am good
 to know she is good.

I am bad
 to doubt she punishes me for doubting
 she loves me by punishing me
 for doubting she loves me.

She says
 it must be *her* fault
 if I doubt she loves me.

She feels bad because
 I don't think she loves me because
 she feels bad when I don't think she
 loves me.

She feels
 it is her fault
 that I can be so cruel
 as to doubt she loves me

when she makes me feel cruel,
to think she tries to make me feel
cruel.

To be kind is good. To be cruel is bad.
It is bad to feel mother is cruel to me, and
hence bad.

Mother is cruel to me
but she is only being cruel to be kind
because I thought she was cruel when
she was cruel
in punishing me
because I was cruel to her
to think she was cruel to me
for punishing me
for thinking she was cruel
for punishing me
for thinking....

You are cruel
to make me feel bad to think

I am cruel to make you feel cruel
 by me feeling bad that you can be so
 cruel as to think

I don't love you, when you know I do.
 If you don't know I do there must be
 something the matter with you.

it hurts Jack
 to think
 that Jill thinks he is hurting her
 by (him) being hurt
 to think
 that she thinks he is hurting her
 by making her feel guilty
 at hurting him
 by (her) thinking
 that he is hurting her
 by (his) being hurt
 to think
 that she thinks he is hurting her

by the fact that

da capo sine fine

2

Once upon a time, when Jack was little,
he wanted to be with his mummy all the
time
and was frightened she would go away

later, when he was a little bigger,
he wanted to be away from his mummy
and was frightened that
she wanted him to be with her all the time

when he grew up he fell in love with Jill
and he wanted to be with her all the time
and was frightened she would go away

when he was a little older,
he did not want to be with Jill all the time
he was frightened
that she wanted to be with him all the
time, and
that she was frightened
that he did not want to be with her all the
time

Jack frightens Jill he will leave her
because he is frightened she will leave him.

Jack is afraid Jill is like his mother
Jill is afraid Jack is like her mother

Jack is afraid
Jill thinks he is like her mother
and that Jill is afraid
Jack thinks she is like his mother

Jill is afraid

Jack thinks she is like his mother
and that Jack is afraid
Jill thinks he is like her mother

Jack wants to devour his mother and be
devoured by her later, he oscillates between
wanting to devour her but not wanting to be
devoured by her, and not wanting to devour
her but wanting her to devour him.

Later still, he does not want to devour her
and does
not want her to devour him.
Jack feels Jill is devouring him.
He is devoured
by his devouring fear of
being devoured by
her devouring desire
for *him* to devour *her*.

He feels she is eating him

by her demand to be eaten by him
 Two people who originally
 wished to devour and be devoured
 are devouring and being devoured
 She is devoured, by him being devoured
 by

her devouring desire to be devoured
 He is devoured by her being devoured
 by him not devouring her

He is being devoured
 by his dread of being devoured
 She is being devoured

by her desire to be devoured
 His dread of being devoured
 arises from his dread of being devoured by
 his devouring

Her desire to be devoured
 arises from her dread of her desire to
 devour

JILL

I don't respect myself
I can't respect anyone who respects me.
I can only respect someone who does not
respect me.
I respect Jack
because he does not respect me
I despise Tom
because he does not despise me
Only a despicable person
can respect someone as despicable as me
I cannot love someone I despise
Since I love Jack
I cannot believe he loves me
What proof can he give?

Jill feels safe to be angry with Jack
because Jack does nothing
She is angry with Jack
because he does nothing
She is angry with Jack

because he does not frighten her
He does not frighten her
because, doing nothing, he is useless.
She feels safe with him,
therefore she despises him
She clings to him
because he does not frighten her
She despises him
because she clings to him
because he does not frighten her
Jill knows she is inferior
therefore, she is superior to anyone who
thinks she
is superior to him.

JILL I am frightened

JACK Don't be frightened

JILL I am frightened to be frightened when
you tell me I ought not to feel frightened

frightened
 frightened to be frightened
 not frightened to be frightened
 not frightened
 frightened not to be frightened
 not frightened to be not frightened

JILL I'm upset you are upset

JACK I'm not upset

JILL I'm upset that you're not upset that I'm
 upset you're upset

JACK I'm upset that you're upset that I'm not
 upset that you're upset that I'm upset,
 when I'm not.

JILL You put me in the wrong

JACK I am not putting you in the wrong

JILL You put me in the wrong for thinking you
 put me in the wrong.

JACK Forgive me

JILL No

JACK I'll never forgive you for not forgiving me

JILL You think I am stupid

JACK I don't think you're stupid

JILL I must be stupid to think you think I'm
stupid if you don't: or you must be lying.
I am stupid every way:
to think I'm stupid, if I am stupid
to think I'm stupid, if I'm not stupid
to think you think I'm stupid, if you
don't.

JILL I'm ridiculous

JACK No you are not

JILL I'm ridiculous to feel ridiculous when I'm
not. You must
be laughing at me
for feeling you are laughing at me
if you are not laughing at me.

How clever has one to be to be stupid?
The others told her she was stupid. So she
made

herself stupid in order not to see how
stupid
they were to think she was stupid,
because it was bad to think they were
stupid.

She preferred to be stupid and good,
rather than bad and clever.

It is bad to be stupid: she needs to be
clever

to be so good and stupid.

It is bad to be clever, because this shows
how stupid they were
to tell her how stupid she was.

It is boring that you are frightened
you are boring me by being interested in
me.

In trying to be interesting,
you are *very* boring.

You are frightened of being boring, you

try to be interesting by not being
interested,
but are interested only in not being
boring.

You are not interested in me.

You are only interested that I be interested
in you.

You pretend to be bored
because I am not interested
that you are frightened
that I am not frightened
that you are not interested in me.

JACK The trouble with you is that you are
envious of me

JILL The trouble with you is that's what you
think

JACK You never give me credit for anything.
You can't bear to admit that I've got it.

JILL That's where you go wrong. You can't
bear to admit I don't care.

JACK You're just like my mother.

JILL You certainly treat me like her

JACK Well don't behave like her then

JILL You're trying to destroy me *because* you hate her.

JACK Can't you stop projecting. You're the one that's frigid

JILL I wasn't when I met you.

JACK You might try not biting off your cunt to spite my prick

JILL When you get to that level I feel hopeless

JACK That's a start anyway. That's the first time today you've admitted any feeling of inadequacy.

JILL Can't we just be friends

JACK Of course. I'm friends with you all the time.

I'm happy you're happy

I'm unhappy you're unhappy

Jack's unhappy that Jill's unhappy

Jill's unhappy that Jack's unhappy
that Jill's unhappy that Jack's
unhappy

that Jill's unhappy
Jill is guilty to be unhappy
if Jack is unhappy that Jill is
unhappy....

Jack is guilty that Jill is unhappy
because he feels that he should make
her happy

Jill feels guilty
that Jack feels guilty
that Jill feels guilty
that Jack feels guilty

He can't be happy
when there is so much suffering in the
world

She can't be happy
if he is unhappy

She wants to be happy
He does not feel entitled to be happy
She wants him to be happy
and he wants her to be happy
He feels guilty if he is happy
and guilty if she is not happy
She wants both to be happy
He wants her to be happy
So they are both unhappy
He accuses her of being selfish
 because she is trying to get him to be
happy
 so that she can be happy
She accuses him of being selfish
 because he is only thinking of himself
He thinks he is thinking of the whole
cosmos
She thinks she is mainly thinking of him
because she loves him

How can she be happy
when the man she loves is unhappy
He feels she is blackmailing him
by making him feel guilty
because she is unhappy that he is
unhappy
She feels he is trying to destroy her love
for him
by accusing her of being selfish
when the trouble is
that she can't be so selfish as to be happy
when the man she loves is unhappy
She feels that there must be something
wrong with her
to love someone who can be so cruel
as to destroy her love for him
and is too guilty to be happy, and is
unhappy because
he is guilty

He feels that he is unhappy because he is
guilty
to be happy when others are unhappy and
that he made
a mistake to marry someone who can only
think of
happiness.

She has started to drink
 as a way to cope
 that makes her less able to cope
the more she drinks
the more frightened she is of becoming a
drunkard
the more drunk
the less frightened of being drunk
the more frightened of being drunk when
not drunk
 the more not frightened drunk
 the more frightened not drunk

the more she destroys herself
the more frightened of being destroyed by
him
the more frightened of destroying him
the more she destroys herself

JACK You are a pain in the neck
To stop *you* giving me a pain in the neck
I protect my neck by tightening my neck
muscles, which gives me the pain in the
neck you are.

JILL My head aches through trying to stop
you giving giving me a headache.

Narcissus fell in love with his image,
taking it to
be another.

Jack falls in love with Jill's image of Jack,
taking
it to be himself.

She must not die, because then he would
lose himself.

He is jealous in case any one else's image
is reflected

in her mirror.

Jill is a distorting mirror to herself.

Jill has to distort herself to appear
undistorted

to herself.

To undistort herself, she finds Jack to
distort her

distorted image in his distorting mirror

She hopes that his distortion of her
distortion may

undistort her image without her having to
distort herself.

I never got what I wanted.

I always got what I did not want.

What I want

I shall not get.
Therefore, to get it
I must not want it
since I get only what I don't want.
what I want, I can't get
what I get, I don't want
I can't get it
because I want it
I get it
because I don't want it.
I want what I can't get
because
what I can't get is what I want
I don't want what I can get
because
what I can get is what I don't want
I never get what I want
I never want what I get

I get what I deserve

I deserve what I get.
I have it,
 therefore I deserve it
I deserve it
 because I have it.
You have not got it
 therefore you do not deserve it
You do not deserve it
 because you have not got it
You have not got it
 because you do not deserve it
You do not deserve it
 therefore you have not got it.

I am not entitled to what I have
therefore everything I have is stolen.
If I've got it,
and I am not entitled to it,
I *must* have stolen it,
because I am not entitled to it.

I am not entitled to it
because I have stolen it.

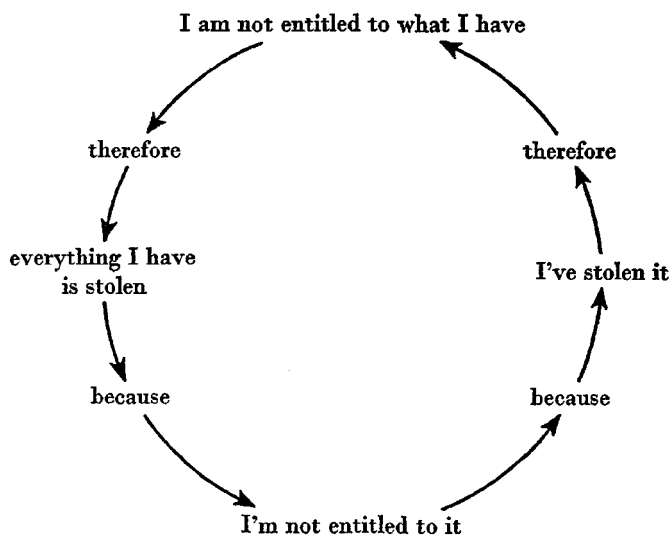
I have stolen it
therefore I am not entitled to it.

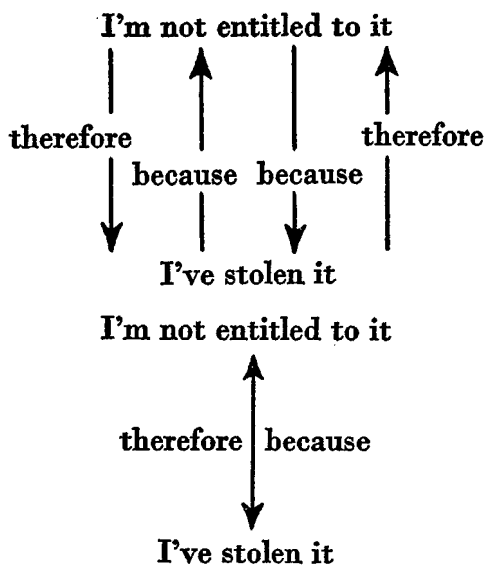
I am not entitled to it
therefore I must have stolen it.

Or, it has been given to me as a special
favour

by someone who is entitled to it
so I am expected to be grateful for all I
have

because what I have
has been *given*, not stolen.





Positive and negative binds.

Negative:	Can't win.	Everything I do is wrong.
Positive:	Can't lose.	Everything I do is right.

I do it, because it is right.
 It is right, because I do it.

I want it
 I get it
 therefore I am good
 I want it
 I don't get it
 therefore I am bad
 I am bad
 because I didn't get it
 I am bad
 because I wanted what I didn't get
 I must take care
 to get what I want
 and want what I get
 and not get what I don't want

good	get	want	can
bad	not-get	not-want	cannot

I can get what I want
I can't get what I want
I can get what I don't want
I can't get what I don't want
I tend to not get what I want
So

 to get what I want
 I pretend not to want it
I am bad to want what I can't get
I haven't got it
 therefore I am bad to want it
If I am bad to want it
I shall be no less bad for getting it
I am bad to feel bad, and
 bad to feel good
because the badder one is
 the less bad one feels

There is something the matter with me
because I do
not feel anything the matter with me

What one has,
 has been given one
 therefore everything one has
 one is entitled to.
 The more one has
 the better one is
 because the more one has been
 rewarded
 for being good.
 Therefore I get better and better
 through 'making' more and more

the more I make	←	←	←
the more I have	←	←	
the better I am	←	←	
the more I am	←	←	←

All I have has been given me and is mine
If I have it, I must have been given it
Therefore it is mine.

I haven't it
but I can get it
therefore,

because I have been given the capacity
to get it
it is mine.

It is not mine
but it has been given me and I have it
therefore I am grateful for what I have, or
have been given.

But I resent being grateful
because if I have been given it, it has not
always been mine.

therefore, if I don't feel grateful

I won't have been given it
therefore, it is (past, present, future)
eternally mine.

$\left[\begin{array}{l} \text{If it is mine} \\ \text{it is not me} \end{array} \right.$	Moderato 1
$\left[\begin{array}{l} \text{If it is not mine} \\ \text{it is not me} \end{array} \right.$	2
$\begin{array}{l} \text{If it is not me} \\ \text{it is not mine} \end{array} \right]$	3
$\begin{array}{l} \text{If it is me} \\ \text{it is mine} \end{array} \right]$	4

But,

if it is mine
 it is not me1
 and if it is not me
 it is not mine3

Therefore,

if,
 if it is not me
 it is not mine3
 and *if,*

if it is not mine
 it is not me2
 and *if*,
 if mine
 it is not me1
then,
 if it's not me
 it's mine5
 If it's not me it's mine5 poco a
 If it's mine it's not me1 poco
 If it's mine it's not me1 accelerando
 al fine
 If it's not me
 It's not mine3
 if it's not mine
 it's not me2
 if it's not me
 it's mine5
If, if it's mine
 it is not me1

if it is not me
 it's not mine3

then,

If it's mine, it's not mine6

If, if it's mine, it's not mine6

if (1 2 3 4/1 3/3 2 1 5/5 1 1 3 2 5 1 3)

<i>then,</i>	if it's not mine, it is not me 2
and if it's not me it's mine 5	if it's mine it's not me, 1
<i>if,</i>	if it's not me it's not mine 3
if it's not me it's mine 5	

then,

If it's mine
 it's me7

if, if it's mine

it's me7

if (1 2 3 4 1 3 3 2 1 5 5 1 1 3 2 5 1 3 6

6 2 5 1 3 5)

if it's me, it's mine4

if it's mine it's not me1

then if it's not me it's not mine3

hence,

If it's not mine it's me8

If it's not mine it's me8

if (1..... 5 7 7 4 1 3)

if it's me

it's mine4

if it's mine it's not mine6

if it's not mine it's not me2

if it's not me

it's mine5

Then,

If it's not mine it's mine9

If it's not mine it's mine9

if (1..... 3 8 8 4 6 2 5)

	if it's mine it's not mine	6
	if it's not mine	
	it's not me	2
	if it's not me it's mine	5
	if it's mine it's me	7
Then,	if it's me it's not me	10 (cf. an
	if it's not me it's mine	5 enharmonic
	if it's mine	change)
	it's me	7
	If it's me it's not mine	11
	If it's not mine	
	it's not me	2
	if it's not me	
	it's mine	

if it's mine it's not mine
 if it's not mine it's mine
 if it's mine is not me
 if not me is not mine
 if not mine
 is me
 if me is not mine

if not mine is not me
then, if not me, it is me
if not me, it is me
if it is me, it is not mine
if it is not mine it is not me
if it is not me, it is me
if it is me
 it is not mine
if it is not mine
 it is me
if it is me, it is mine
 if it is mine
 it is not me
therefore if it is not me
 it is mine
 if it is mine it is mine
if it is mine it is mine
if it is mine it is not mine
if it is not mine it is mine
if it is mine, it is mine

if it is mine, it is not mine
if it is not mine,
 it is me
if it is me it is mine
if it is mine it is not me
if it is not me it is me
if it is me
 it is not me
 if it is not me
 it is me
if it's me, if it's not me
if it's not me, if it's me
if it's me if it's me
if it's me if it's not me
if it's not me if it's not me
it's me if it's not me
if it's not me, it's me
if it's me it's not me
if it's not me it's me
if it's me,

if it's not me.
if it's me
if it's not me
if it's me
if it's not me
if it's me
if it's not me, it's me
if it's not me it's not me
it's not me if it's me
if it's me it's me
it's me if it's not me
if it's not me, it's not me
if it's not me, it's me
it's me if it's me
if it's not me it's not me
it's not me if it's not me
if it's me, it's me
if it's me, it's me
I am it
if it is not me

if it is not me, I am it, if I am not it, I
am it, if I am it, I am not it

She wants him to want her
He wants her to want him
To get him to want her
 she pretends she wants him
To get her to want him
 he pretends he wants her
Jack wants Jill wants
 Jill's want of Jack Jack's want of
Jill
 so so
Jack tells Jill Jill tells Jack
 Jack wants Jill Jill wants Jack
 a perfect contract

Jill and Jack both want to be wanted.
Jill wants Jack because he wants to be
wanted

Jack wants Jill because she wants to be
wanted.

Jill wants Jack to want

*Jill to want

Jack's want of her want

for his want of her want of

Jack's want that Jill wants

Jack to want

Jill to want

Jack's want of her want

for his want of

her to want Jack to want*

*repeat *sine fine*

She does not get what she wants from him
so she feels that he is mean

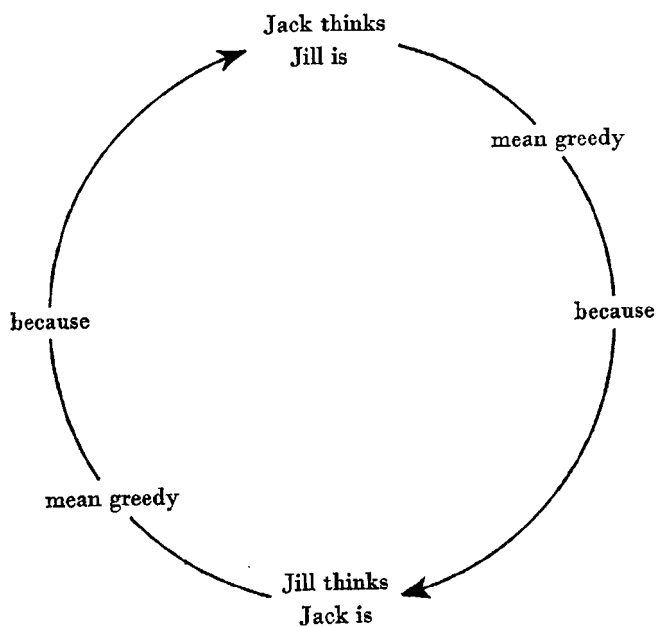
She cannot give him what he wants from
her

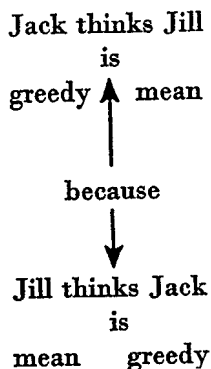
so she feels that he is greedy

He does not get what he wants from
her
so he feels that she is mean
and
he cannot give her what she wants from
him
so he feels that she is greedy

Jill thinks Jack is mean and greedy
Jack thinks Jill is mean and greedy
the more Jill feels that Jack is mean
the more greedy Jack feels Jill to be
the more Jill feels Jack is greedy
the more mean Jack feels Jill to be
the more greedy Jack feels Jill to be
the more mean Jill feels Jack to be
the more mean Jill feels Jack to be
the more greedy Jack feels Jill to be
Jack feels Jill is greedy
because Jill feels Jack is mean

Jill feels Jack is mean
 because Jack feels Jill is greedy
Jack feels Jill is mean
 because Jill feels Jack is greedy
Jill feels Jack is greedy
 because Jack feels Jill is mean





The more

Jack feels Jill is mean to feel he is
greedy
the more

Jill feels Jack is mean

to feel she is mean to feel he is greedy

to feel she is mean

The more Jill feels Jack is mean

to feel she is mean to feel he is greedy
to feel she is mean
the more Jack feels Jill is mean
to feel
Jack is mean
to feel she is mean
to feel he is greedy
to feel she is mean
because she does not give him what he
wants
He wants her to be more generous
in her judgement about him,
namely, not feel he is mean
to feel she is mean
to feel he is greedy
to feel she is mean
to feel he is mean
to feel she is mean
to feel he is greedy
to feel she is mean

She feels

he is asking too much (greedy)

to expect *her*,

not to feel he is asking too much

(greedy)

to expect her

not to feel he is mean and greedy

to feel she is mean

to feel he is greedy

to feel *she* is mean

to feel he is mean

to feel she is mean

to feel he is greedy

to feel she is greedy

when all *she* wants is that

he be more generous in his judgement

about her

namely, not to feel she is mean

to feel he is mean

to feel she is greedy

to feel he is mean
to feel she is mean
to feel he is mean
to feel she is greedy
to feel he is mean
to want her to be more generous in her
judgement about him namely,

3

If I don't know I don't know
 I think I know
If I don't know I know
 I think I don't know

There is something I don't know
 that I am supposed to know.
I don't know *what* it is I don't know,
 and yet am supposed to know,
and I feel I look stupid
 if I seem both not to know it
 and not know *what* it is I don't know.

This is nerve-racking
 since I don't know what I must pretend
to know.

Therefore I pretend to know everything.

I feel you know what I am supposed to
know

but you can't tell me what it is
because you don't know that I don't know
what it is.

You may know what I don't know, but not
 that I don't know it,
and I can't tell you. So you will have to tell
me everything.

Jack can see that he sees

 what Jill can't see

 and that Jill can't see Jill can't see it

Jack can see that he sees

 what Jill can't see

but Jack can't see

that Jill can't see
 that Jill can't see it
 Jack tries to get Jill to see
 that Jack can see
 what Jill can't see
 but Jack can't see
 that Jill can't see that Jill can't see it
 Jack sees
 there is something Jill can't see
 and Jack sees
 that Jill can't see she can't see it

Although Jack can see Jill can't see she can't
 see it
 he can't see that *he* can't see it himself
 Jack can see

1. there is something Jill can't see
2. and that she can see there is something
 she can't see

3. but that she can't see *what* she can't
see although
(Jack can see that)
4. she can see Jack can see whatever it is
she can see she can't see
but can't see what.

Jack thinks

he does not know

what he thinks

Jill thinks

he does not know

But Jill thinks Jack does know it.

So Jill does not know

she does not know

that Jack does not know

that Jill thinks

that Jack does know

and Jack does not know he does not know

that Jill does not know she does not

know

that Jack does not know
that Jill thinks Jacks knows
what Jack thinks he does not know

Jack doesn't know he knows
and he doesn't know
Jill does not know.
Jill doesn't know she doesn't know,
and doesn't know
that Jack doesn't know he knows
and that he does not know Jill does
not know.
They have no problem.

Jack thinks that
what he knows that Jill does not,
is that there is nothing to be known
of the order Jill is seeking to know,
but that Jill has to discover this for
herself.

Jill thinks
 Jack knows what
 Jill thinks Jill doesn't know.
Jack does not know
 there is something to know
 that Jill thinks
 she does not and
 Jack does.
So Jack persuades Jill that there is
nothing to know.

Jack
 knows he does not know
and sees that Jill
 does not know she knows.
By telling Jack
 what Jack knows he does not know
Jill helps Jack to help Jill
 to know she knows
 what she does not know she knows.

Jill however
thinks
she knows she does not know
and that Jack knows
she knows she does not know
and that Jack knows
what Jill does not know.

Jill thinks
that there is something she knows
and that she does not know she knows
it.
She thinks Jack does not know it
and that Jack knows he does not.
Jill hopes that through Jack
Jill will
know that she knows
what Jack knows he does not—
but only if Jack can realize
that Jill knows

what Jack knows Jack does not
and Jill does not know she does.

Jack knows he does not know.
Jill thinks she knows what Jack does not
know, but
she does not know he does not know it.
Jack does not know

Jill does not know he does not know,
and thinks she knows what he knows he
doesn't.

Jack believes Jill.

Jack now does not know he does not know.
One happy ending.

Jack thinks Jack sees what he does not,^{*}
and that Jill sees what she does not see.

Jill believes Jack.

She now thinks she sees what Jack thinks
Jack sees

and that Jack sees it too.

They may now both be completely wrong.

Jack does not see something.

Jill thinks Jack does see it.

Jack thinks Jack does see it and Jill does not.

Jill does not see herself what
she thinks Jack does see.

Jack tells Jill

what Jack thinks Jill does not see.

Jill realizes

that,

if Jack thinks

Jill does not see *that*,

* This is ambiguous. Jack thinks he is seeing an illusion; is he right or wrong? Jack thinks he is not under an illusion. Is he right or wrong? Try it anyway.

which Jill thinks she does,
Jack does not see
what Jill thought
Jack saw.

Jill thinks
 Jack thinks
 Jill does not see something.
Jack does think
 Jill sees it
but Jack does not see
 Jill thinks
 Jack thinks
 Jill does not see.

Jill thinks she can't see what she thinks
Jack can see,
and that Jack himself thinks that
 Jill does not see it.
Jack sees Jill *does* see it

that she thinks she does not,
and that she thinks
he thinks
she does not
But Jack can't see what Jill can't see
whereby she thinks she can't see what
Jack thinks she can,
and thinks he thinks she can't.

For example:

Jill thinks
Jack thinks Jill is stupid.
Jack does not think Jill is stupid,
but cannot see why
Jill thinks Jack thinks Jill is,
when Jack does not.
Nor can Jill, except that Jack is lying.

Jack sees

Jill can't see Jill can't see
 and that
 Jill can't see
 Jack can see and
 see he sees
 what Jill can't see she can't.
 Jack tries to get Jill to
 realize that there may be something
 she can't see she can't see.
 Jill thinks Jill sees it
 and can see that Jack thinks
 Jill thinks she sees it
 but that Jack thinks
 Jill can't see she can't.
 Jill thinks
 Jack can't see he can't see
 what he thinks he can,
 and that he can't see (therefore)
 that she sees what he thinks he sees
 but doesn't.

Jack thinks he knows
Jill thinks Jill does not know
Jack tells Jill
 what Jack knows
 and knows he knows
 and knows Jill does not know
 and knows Jill sometimes
 thinks she knows
 when she does not.

Sometimes Jack feels
Jill idealizes Jack, making him
omniscient (omnipotent)
so he points out to Jill
that he is only human,
he does not know everything and can't do
everything.

Jack says Jill
makes Jack
omnipotent, to remain impotent, to make
Jack

impotent to make her potent, to
 destroy Jack's
 potency, which she envies....
 Jill thinks Jack is wrong.

Jack thinks
 he does not know what (he can see)
 Jill thinks Jack knows,
 and that Jill knows
 what Jill thinks Jack knows,
 that he thinks
 he does not.

Jack tells Jill:
 'You think I know this,
 but I don't.'
 Jill thinks he does, but refuses to tell her.

Jack knows he does not know,
 but he does not know that Jill does not
 know

she does not know he knows he does
not know.

Jack thinks that

Jack	knows Jack does not know knows Jill does know knows Jill does not know she knows knows Jill thinks Jack knows knows Jill thinks Jack does not know Jack knows
-------------	---

and that Jill realizes that that is what he thinks,
but that she thinks he is wrong.

Jack sees that
 Jill does not know
 Jack does not know what
 Jill thinks
 Jack knows.

But Jack can't see
 why Jill does not know
 that Jack does not know
 what Jill thinks
 he knows.

Jack realizes that he knows
 Jill does not know
 Jack knows
 he doesn't know
 what she thinks
 he does
 but that this is not what she thinks he
 knows.

Moreover Jack sees that Jill herself knows
what Jill
thinks Jack knows, but that Jill does not
realize
she knows it.

Jack sees that
 Jill knows
 what Jill thinks
 Jack knows
and that Jill does not know
 she knows
 and Jack knows he does not.
He cannot tell Jill
 what it is
since, although he can see Jill knows it,
he does not know it himself.

Jill does not know
 Jack does not know X,

and Jack cannot tell her more than that
there is
something, he does not know what,
 he does not know.
There is something Jack can't see.
He knows there is something he can't see,
but doesn't know what it is that he can't
see.
But Jack can see Jill can see
 that Jack can't see something.
Jack doesn't know
 what he doesn't know
but he thinks
 Jill knows whatever the something is
which he doesn't know.

Jack can't tell Jill what he
 wants Jill to tell him.
Jill can't tell him either
because although Jill knows X

Jill does not know
 that Jack does not know X.
Jack can see
that Jill knows
he realizes that she
does not know she knows X.
Jill can only discover
she knows it
by realizing what Jack does not
But Jill
cannot see what
 Jack does not know.
If she did she would be glad to tell him.

Jack can see he sees
 what he can see Jill can't see
and he can see
 that Jill can't see that she can't see
but he can't see WHY
 Jill can't see that Jill can't see.

Jill

can see that he does not understand
her

and can see that he can't see that he
doesn't:

and she can see

that he can't see that he can't see

she sees he can't see he doesn't.

Why does she still feel confused?

She cannot understand why he can't see
that

she sees that he can't see that he does not
understand.

Jill can see Jack can't see,

and can't see he can't see.

Jill can see WHY

Jack can't see,

but Jill cannot see WHY

Jack can't see he can't see.

Jack 'sees' Jill is blind
 and that Jill can't see she is.
Jack realizes they both are.
If the blind must lead the blind, it is as well
that the leader knows he is.
Jack can't see he can't see
and can't see
 Jill can't see Jill can't see it.
and vice versa

4

Jack is afraid of Jill
Jill is afraid of Jack

Jack is more afraid of Jill Jill is more
afraid of Jack
 if Jack thinks if Jill thinks
 that Jill thinks that Jack thinks
that Jack is afraid of Jill that Jill is
afraid of Jack

Since Jack is afraid
 that Jill will think that
 Jack is afraid

Jack pretends that
Jack is not afraid of Jill
so that Jill will be more afraid of Jack

and since Jill is afraid
that Jack will think that
Jill is afraid
Jill pretends that
Jill is not afraid of Jill

Thus
Jack tries to make Jill afraid
by not being afraid of Jill
and Jill tries to make Jack afraid
by not being afraid of Jack

The more Jack is afraid of Jill
the more frightened is Jack that
Jill will think
that Jack is afraid

the more Jill is afraid of Jack
 the more frightened is Jill that
 Jack will think
 that Jill is afraid

the more afraid Jack is of Jill
 the more frightened Jack is
not to be frightened of Jill
 because it is very dangerous not to be
 afraid when
 faced with one so dangerous

Jack is frightened because Jill is
 dangerous
 Jill appears dangerous because Jack is
 frightened

the more afraid Jill is of Jack
 the more frightened Jill is
not to be frightened of Jack

The more Jack is frightened not to be
frightened
the more frightened he is to appear
frightened

the more frightened Jill is
not to be frightened
the more frightened Jill is
to appear to be frightened

the more frightened each is,
the less frightened each appears to be

Jack is frightened
not to be frightened at Jill
and to appear to be frightened at Jill
and that Jill be not frightened at Jack

Jill is frightened
not to be frightened at Jack
and to appear to be frightened at Jack

and that Jack be not frightened at Jill

Jack therefore tries to frighten Jill
by appearing not to be frightened
that she appears not to be frightened

and Jill tries to frighten Jack
by appearing not to be frightened
that he appears not to be frightened

The more Jack tries to appear not to be
frightened
the more frightened he is that
he is not frightened
that he appears to be frightened
that Jill is not frightened
the more Jill tries to appear not to be
frightened
the more frightened she is that

she is not frightened
 that she appears to be frightened
 that Jack is not frightened
 The more this is so
 the more Jack frightens Jill
 by appearing not to be frightened
 and the more Jill frightens Jack
 by appearing not to be frightened
 Can each become frightened of being
 frightened and of frightening
 instead of being frightened
not to be frightened
and not to frighten?

Can Jack and Jill
 terrified that each and the other are
 not terrified
 become
 terrified that each and other are
 terrified, and

eventually,
not terrified that each and other not be
terrified?

5

All in all
Each man in all men
all men in each man
All being in each being
Each being in all being
All in each
Each in all
All distinctions are mind, by mind, in
mind, of mind
No distinctions no mind to distinguish

One is inside

then outside what one has been inside
One feels empty
because there is nothing inside oneself
One tries to get inside oneself
 that inside of the outside
 that one was once inside
 once one tries to get oneself inside
what
 one is outside:
 to eat and to be eaten
to have the outside inside and to be
 inside the outside
But this is not enough. One is trying to
get
the inside of what one is outside inside,
and to
get inside the outside. But one does not
get
inside the outside by getting the outside
inside

for;
although one is full inside of the inside of
the outside
one is on the outside of one's own inside
and by getting inside the outside
one remains empty because
while one is on the inside
even the inside of the outside is outside
and inside oneself there is still nothing
There has never been anything else
and there never will be

I am doing it
the it I am doing is
the I that is doing it
the I that is doing it is
the it I am doing
it is doing the I that am doing it
I am being done by the it I am doing
it is doing it

One is afraid of
the self that is afraid of
the self that is afraid of
the self that is afraid
One may perhaps speak of reflections

*Although innumerable beings have been led to
Nirvana no being has been led to Nirvana*

Before one goes through the gate
one may not be aware there is a gate
One may think there is a gate to go
through
and look a long time for it
without finding it
One may find it and
it may not open
If it opens one may be through it
As one goes through it
one sees that the gate one went through

was the self that went through it
no one went through a gate
there was no gate to go through
no one ever found a gate
no one ever realized there was never a gate

*By those who know the discourse on dharmas
as like unto a raft
dharmas should be forsaken, still more so no-
dharmas*

Hearing that dharmas, and still more so,
no-dharmas
should be forsaken
some are of the opinion that there is no
gate
that is their opinion
there is no way of knowing except to go
through it

a finger points to the moon

Put the expression

a finger points to the moon, in brackets

(a finger points to the moon)

The statement:

‘A finger points to the moon is in brackets’

is an attempt to say that all that is in the bracket

()

is, as to that which is not in the bracket, what a finger is to the moon

Put all possible expressions in brackets

Put all possible forms in brackets

and put the brackets in brackets

Every expression, and every form,

is to what is expressionless and formless

what a finger is to the moon

all expressions and all forms

point to the expressionless and formless

the proposition

‘All forms point to the formless’
is itself a formal proposition

Not,

as finger to moon
so form to formless

but,

as finger is to moon
so

**[all possible expressions, forms, propositions,
including this one, made or yet to be made,
together with the brackets]**

are to

What an interesting finger

let me suck it

It's not an interesting finger

take it away

The statement is pointless
The finger is speechless