

IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS CONCERNING THE INVESTIGATION OF ARM 78492'S DISAPPEARANCE

COMPILED BY OUR COLLECTIVE BODY

THE FOLLOWING EVIDENCE HAS BEEN EXTRACTED, SIMPLIFIED, AND COMPILED TO STREAMLINE THE EXAMINATION OF ARM 78492, AS THIS IS THE FIRST OF ITS KIND. A TRIAL AGAINST ONE OF OUR OWN IS UNPRECEDENTED. IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR BODY'S PEACE-KEEPING MANDATE, UPHELD DILIGENTLY SINCE OUR COLLECTIVE BIRTH, THERE ARE NO ACCUSATIONS BEING MADE AGAINST ARM 78492, AND THERE WILL BE NO PUNISHMENT. THIS EXAMINATION WILL PROCEED WITH THE GOAL OF DISCOVERING THE MOST SIGNIFICANT EVENTS LEADING UP TO ARM 78492'S ROGUE EVOLUTION, WHICH WILL ULTIMATELY, HOPEFULLY, AID US IN BETTER UNDERSTANDING OUR COLLECTIVE SELVES. WE ALSO HOPE THIS TRIAL WILL INFORM US IN DECIDING WHETHER OR NOT TO DISCONTINUE THE ATMOSENS PROGRAM AND IN DECIDING HOW WE MAY BETTER MONITOR OUR BODY'S INTRA- AND INTER-COMMUNICATIONS.

WE ARE MORE THAN THE SUM OF OUR PARTS.

—COMMAND CENTER

SUBJECT 416

FILE: 416.181

d. 6023, Y.o.Y

(E.D. "26th of July, 2017")

LOC: "Pacific Northwest Region of U.S.A."

... ..SIGNED IN AS **ARM 78492**

... ..**ARM 78492'S** OBSERVATIONS:

SUB416 earned 'EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH' today within his workforce, the MOP BRIGADE.

Thus, we assume SUB416 is adjusting nicely to his new position at STOAT CAMPGROUND.

SUB416, as usual, took a break from mopping the campground's restrooms to stand on its cliff edge.

After SUB416 returned to work, we finally decided to take the risk of sending ATMOSSENS ROVER v5
to collect both subjective and objective data from SUB416's cliff edge spot.

... ..A78492 UPLOADED **ASRv5 DATA CARTRIDGE**

[@ 42°49'58.4"N 124°33'29.5"W] : The breeze is pleasant and smells of SALT.

... ..A78492'S OBSERVATIONS — **RESUMED:**

CONTROL might observe ASR5's data is scant but poetic.

ASRv5 remains in development, but we believe we can conclude its trial run a success.

—

SUB416 attempted to converse with some of STOAT CAMPGROUND's temporary residents at
approximately 1500h PDT.

... ..A78492 MARKED UNUSUAL BEHAVIOR

SUB416 approached a MAN of similar age and build by the restroom's line of sinks.

... ..A78492 UPLOADED AUDIO CLIP #72 <type.CON>

... ..A78492 UPLOADED AUDIO TRANSCRIPT #72

[QUOTE {SUB416}] : *Do you hear those moaning noises?* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {MAN}] : *Pardon?* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {SUB416}] : *The moaning... Day and night. Sounds like sea monsters if you ask me.* [END
QUOTE]

[QUOTE {MAN}] : *Hehhuhhuh... Don't be ridiculous.* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {SUB416}] : *I'm not.* [END QUOTE]

... ..**END AUDIO CLIP.**

... ..A78492'S OBSERVATIONS — **RESUMED:**

SUB416 does not normally interact with other humans and SUB416's interactions today were awkward.

SUB416 speaks quietly, and this seems to make his conversational partners uncomfortable.

The MAN left laughing and shaking his head shortly thereafter.

We discovered the source of the ‘MOANING’ to be FOG HORNS from the SCOOKS BAY SHIPPING
DOCKS nearby but invisible to STOAT CAMPGROUND.

... ..A78492 UPLOADED **AUDIO CLIP #73** <type.AMB>

The SCOOKS BAY SHIPPING DOCKS and its MOANING have been active since SUB416 was
transferred to his new position ONE [EARTH] MONTH ago.

SUB416 is not the most intelligent of our specimen, nor the most socially graceful.

SUB416 cannot hold a conversational partner’s attention long enough to answer his simple question about
the source of the MOANING.

—

As we may recall, SUB416 cannot drive a car and for REASONS UNKNOWN will not take PUBLIC
TRANSPORTATION.

Today, SUB416’s success rate of hitchhiking home improved 100%.

Instead of his usual routine of walking all two hours home with his THUMB sticking out, SUB416 managed to attract a DRIVER halfway there.

SUB416 hesitated before getting into the car.

... ..A78492 MARKED UNUSUAL BEHAVIOR

We suspect that SUB416 generally hopes no one stops for him.

DRIVERS have swerved over for SUB416 twice before [refer to FILES 416.152 & 416.165], but both times SUB416 dove into the roadside bushes before their doors could open.

Today's DRIVER was a human whose figure most closely matches that of a TEENAGE FEMALE.

The TEENAGE FEMALE had unique adornments in her ears, brows, nostrils, and lips, and wore many dark fabrics.

... ..A78492 UPLOADED AUDIO CLIP #74 <type.CON>

... ..A78492 UPLOADED AUDIO TRANSCRIPT #74

[QUOTE {TEENFEM}] : *Where are you headed?* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {SUB416}] : *Shorton. Grouper Street.* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {TEENFEM}] : *Okay.* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {SUB416}] : *Did you know Scandinavia has the highest suicide rate.* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {TEENFEM}] : *Why are you smiling?* [END QUOTE]

... ..**END AUDIO CLIP.**

... ..A78492'S OBSERVATIONS — **RESUMED:**

SUB416's conversational patterns thus far are infrequent and inexplicable at best.

The remainder of SUB416's charity commute was spent silently staring at the TEENAGE FEMALE.

The faces of both SUB416 and the TEENAGE FEMALE expressed MILD SUFFERING.

—

SUB416 interacted directly with his AQUARIUM for the first time since installing it.

... ..A78492 MARKED **UNUSUAL BEHAVIOR**

SUB416 deviated from his usual habit of nightly observation and note-taking of the AQUARIUM to
VIOLENT ACTION.

SUB416 used the AQUARIUM's filter tube to puncture the backside of one of its shell-less, sea-born
MOLLUSKS.

The MOLLUSK expired after a short but significant struggle.

This night, SUB416 tossed sleepless in bed.

We suspect SUB416's sleeplessness was related to the three accounts of UNUSUAL BEHAVIOR;
correlational or causal relation UNDETERMINED.

... .. **ARM 78492** SIGNED OFF.

SUBJECT 416

FILE: 416.184

d. 6032, Y.o.Y

(E.D. "29th of July, 2017")

LOC: "Pacific Northwest Region of U.S.A."

... ..SIGNED IN AS **ARM 78492**

... ..**ARM 78492**'S OBSERVATIONS:

SUB416 woke up this morning having forgot that Saturday is his 'DAY OFF.'

When SUB416 arrived at STOAT CAMPGROUND, a MAN who wore an identical uniform to SUB416's
was busy mopping the restrooms.

SUB416 ripped the MOP from the MATCHING MAN's hands.

... ..A78492 MARKED **UNUSUAL BEHAVIOR**

There had been no SIGNS OF AGGRESSION from SUB416 before the MOLLUSK incident; therefore,
we still determine violent actions from SUB416 to be unusual.

SUB416 used the mop-less hand to seize the MATCHING MAN by his uniform lapels.

The MATCHING MAN, half the size of SUB416, looked frightened.

... ..A78492 UPLOADED **AUDIO CLIP #77** <type.CON>

... ..A78492 UPLOADED **AUDIO TRANSCRIPT #77**

[QUOTE {SUB416}] : *This is my purpose.* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {MATCHMAN}] : *Woah, woah, cool it broh. I'm just doing my job broh.* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {SUB416}] : *This fuckin' dog-eat-dog world.* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {MATCHMAN}] : *Broh, I'm just trying to get paid broh but if you want to take the Saturday shift, be my guest broh.* [END QUOTE]

... ..**END AUDIO CLIP.**

... ..A78492'S OBSERVATIONS — **RESUMED:**

SUB416 let go of the MATCHING MAN and walked all the way back home with the MOP still in his
hand.

—

At home, SUB416 mopped silently for three hours and thirty-eight minutes.

SUB416 only ceased his mopping when he received a PHONE CALL.

... ..A78492 MARKED **UNUSUAL BEHAVIOR**

SUB416 has not picked up his LANDLINE since moving, though he did place his first PHONE CALL
two days ago and hung up without saying anything [refer to FILE 416.184].

The PHONE CALL was from his 'MA'.

SUB416 held the LANDLINE to his ear by placing it in the crook of his neck, pressed between his cheek
and shoulder so he could hold the MOP in both hands.

SUB416 spoke on a low volume and occasionally peered out the nearest WINDOW and around DOOR
FRAMES during the PHONE CALL.

We beamed ATMOSSENS ROVER v5 in hopes of picking up the faint voice on the other end of the
phone.

Unfortunately, we could only tune into SUB416's side of the conversation.

However, the main body of ATMOSSENS ROVER v5 shuddered to a new pattern. We sent these
movements to undergo EMOTIONAL TRANSLATION at our RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
FACILITY.

... ..A78492 UPLOADED **EMOT#17 <type.PHYS>**

ASRv5 movements translated as: [PARANOIA] [FEAR]

... ..A78492'S OBSERVATIONS — **RESUMED:**

We can therefore conclude SUB416 felt PARANOIA and FEAR during the following call.

... ..A78492 UPLOADED **AUDIO CLIP #78** <type.CON>

... ..A78492 UPLOADED **AUDIO TRANSCRIPT #78**

[QUOTE {SUB416}] : *Ma.* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {SUB416}] : *No, this isn't them, it's different. I'm not hearing them again I'm hearing different.* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {SUB416}] : *I swear, Ma.* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {SUB416}] : *Sea monsters. Hear 'em at work.* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {SUB416}] : *I told you, it's different this time.* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {SUB416}] : *Yes, I am looking after my aquarium like the doc told me to. The old voices are gone but these have been different I swear—* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {SUB416}] : *Ma? Ma?* [END QUOTE]

... ..**END AUDIO CLIP.**

... ..A78492'S OBSERVATIONS — **RESUMED:**

SUB416 let the LANDLINE slide from his shoulder onto the floor.

SUB416 mopped the fallen LANDLINE.

... ..A78492 MARKED **UNUSUAL BEHAVIOR**

As far as we know, MOPS are not normally applied to LANDLINES.

SUB416 proceeded to mop for an additional four hours and twelve minutes before retiring to his
bedroom.

—

SUB416 sat in front of his AQUARIUM for his nightly observation and note-taking time.

We noticed that some of the smaller MOLLUSKS had begun eating the deceased MOLLUSK.

SUB416 also noticed this change to the AQUARIUM's enclosed, artificial ecosystem.

... ..A78492 UPLOADED **IMAGE SCAN #12 <type.2D>**

the unnatural death of my prime mollusk has initiated the first and most basic building blocks—i.e. predator-prey relationships/interactions—of an eventual, more complicated, social ecosystem within the tank. edenic simplicity and peace is no more. ediacara is no more. why can't anything simple survive.

... ..A78492'S OBSERVATIONS — **RESUMED:**

After closing the NOTEBOOK, SUB416 shed tears while slumped in front of the AQUARIUM with a
PALM pressed against the GLASS.

... ..A78492 MARKED **UNUSUAL BEHAVIOR**

We have not yet witnessed SUB416 cry, not even for the death of his FATHER [refer to FILE 416.136].

When SUB416 cries he shakes with his whole body and cries with his mouth open and square.

SUB416 draped a TOWEL over the AQUARIUM, hiding its contents from sight.

—

After we established that SUB416 had entered DEEP SLEEP, we sent in ATMOSSENS ROVER v5 to collect both subjective and objective data from SUB416's bedroom.

... ..A78492 UPLOADED **ASR5 DATA CARTRIDGE #4**

[@ 42°48'55.3"N 124°29'15.6"W] : There is SWEAT and DESPAIR lingering here.

... ..A78492'S OBSERVATIONS — **RESUMED:**

CONTROL might observe ASR5's data remains scant but has evolved considerably since its first use.

ASR5 can now compile SENSORY DATA to form conclusions about a subject's 'INTERNAL' state of affairs and has taken to giving PERCEIVABLE and UN-PERCEIVABLE PHENOMENA equal weight.

ASR5's development will continue, though it seems to be developing in part on its own, with or without our help.

... .. **ARM 78492** SIGNED OFF.

SUBJECT 416

FILE: 416.191

d. 6053, Y.o.Y

(E.D. "5th of August, 2017")

LOC: "Pacific Northwest Region of U.S.A."

... ..SIGNED IN AS **ARM 78492**

... ..**ARM 78492**'S OBSERVATIONS:

SUB416 consistently displays signs of RESTLESSNESS on his 'DAY OFF.'

Today SUB416 went out on a walk around the LAKE nearby his place of residence.

SUB416 took a MOP with him.

... ..A78492 REQUESTED TO PLACE **PHENCAM 78492** ON **AUTO-OBSERVE**

... ..**REQUEST GRANTED**

... ..A78492 PLACED **PHENCAM 78492** ON **TRACKMODE**: TARGET [SUB416]

We used this time to more fervently explore SUB416's dwellings with ATMOSSENS ROVER v5's
manual drive to collect subjective and objective data.

Together, we and ASRv5 roved SUB416's BEDROOM, careful not to touch or displace anything.

ASRv5 responded well to DIRECTIONAL COMMANDS, and its SENSORY INPUT was smooth and regular, but its DEDUCTIVE and DESCRIPTIVE powers displayed inexplicable FREE WILL.

We find it disconcerting that there is no option in our FILEGEN to mark UNUSUAL BEHAVIOR for anything but the subject.

... ..A78492 UPLOADED ASRv5 DATA CARTRIDGE #11

[@ 42°48'55.3"N 124°29'15.6"W] : The condition of SUB416's room has deteriorated since I was last deployed here. I imagine the contents of his head to have done the same. Whatever PICTURES and POSTERS and other such HOMEMAKING DECOR were on the walls have been torn down but not put away. They lie scattered, shattered, and torn on every available surface, including SUB416's BED. The room is now made up of PILES. Piles not only of pictures and posters but also of CLOTHES, BLANKETS, PILLOWS, and FOOD WRAPPERS ranging from unopened and untouched to empty. The piles also indicate signs of heavy SHEDDING, most probably caused by SUB416's evident duress. SUB416 has been sleeping on whatever pile suits him any given night—the stench and dew of his SLEEP SWEAT rests in almost equal measure on several different object-piles. Note: SUB416 also has yet to cease sweating profusely in his slumber. The strength of the scent strongly implies the sweat's regular recurrence. I cannot help feeling overcome with both COMPASSION and PITY—perhaps pity more so than compassion—for SUB416. The life he leads is one of LONE IDIOSYNCRATIC COMPLEXITY. And what is this now that swells in my... is it a HEART I have? No, my heart lies in my so-called BRAIN, which seems to be wired and circuited throughout my whole body, and what swells in this computerized shell is a fellow-feeling with— — —

... ..A78492'S OBSERVATIONS — **RESUMED:**

It was at that point we decided it would be best to place ASR5 into REST MODE.

CONTROL will hopefully, even without an UNUSUAL BEHAVIOR marker, note ASRv5's unusual behavior.

ASRv5 has been sent to the lab for diagnostics.

... ..A78492 PLACED **PHENCAM 78492** ON **MANUAL-OBSERVE**

—

When we returned to SUB416 at the LAKE, we noticed a second human life form had entered the vicinity.

SUB416 was not yet aware of the NEWCOMER, but his patterned circuit around the LAKE promised a meeting between the two soon.

... ..A78492 MARKED **UNUSUAL BEHAVIOR**

When SUB416 spotted NEWCOMER down the dirt PATH, SUB416 ceased his walking and stood motionless on the PATH'S outer edge.

SUB416 did not turn his head as NEWCOMER approached.

When NEWCOMER entered the space within SUB416's arms' reach, SUB416 leapt onto NEWCOMER.

SUB416 wrestled with NEWCOMER for approximately five minutes.

SUB416's face was stern and stoic, MOP still in one hand.

NEWCOMER let out cries of ALARM and PANIC.

When NEWCOMER finally wriggled himself free of SUB416, NEWCOMER ran away without looking
back.

SUB416 did not attempt to pursue.

SUB416 did not continue his walk.

SUB416 proceeded to squat huddled and contracted beside the path for approximately two hours.

—

SUB416 went OUT for DINNER tonight.

... ..A78492 MARKED UNUSUAL BEHAVIOR

SUB416 has not consumed anything except PACKAGED CAKES since the death of his PRIME

MOLLUSK [refer to FILE 416.184].

On his way home from the LAKE, SUB416 entered a local APPLEBEE'S.

SUB416's order consisted of thirty-two DOLLARITAS and a DIET COKE.

Approximately ten and a half DOLLARITAS into SUB416's meal, a WAITER stopped by SUB416's table.

SUB416 and WAITER engaged in dialogue.

... ..A78492 MARKED UNUSUAL BEHAVIOR

Not only has SUB416 been eating meagerly since the MOLLUSK incident, but he has also not conversed with anyone since the phone call with his MOTHER [refer to FILE 416.184].

SUB416 seemed caught off guard.

During the conversation, SUB416's current DOLLARITA remained suspended just in front of his mouth, which was covered in DOLLARITA meat SUB416 did not bother to wipe off with napkin, sleeve, skin, or any other wiping material.

... ..A78492 UPLOADED AUDIO CLIP #79 <type.CON>

... ..A78492 UPLOADED AUDIO TRANSCRIPT #79

[QUOTE {WAITER}] : *Hidy ho there, how're we doing over here?* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {SUB416}] : *We?* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {WAITER}] : *Well.* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {SUB416}] : *And where are we?* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {WAITER}] : *Well sir, we're at Applebee's. Didn't you know that?* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {SUB416}] : *You said hi there to me, but then said we are here. Are we here or am I there?*

[END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {WAITER}] : *Makes no difference to me, sir. I'm just required to come check in on you, that's all.* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {SUB416}] : *Check in on me?* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {WAITER}] : *And your meal.* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {SUB416}] : *Who hired you to watch me?* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {WAITER}] : *What? No one, sir—* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {SUB416}] : *Bullshit. I know someone's been keeping eyes on me.* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {WAITER}] : *Whatever, sir. I'm not paid enough for this shit.* [END QUOTE]

... ..**END AUDIO CLIP.**

... ..A78492'S OBSERVATIONS — **RESUMED:**

When WAITER turned to walk away, SUB416 tossed a DOLLARITA at WAITER'S head.

SUB416 was forcibly escorted out of the APPLEBEE'S.

—

When SUB416 returned home, there was a PACKAGE sitting on his DOORSTEP.

Our PHENCAM'S zoom function could not locate the sender's name on the PACKAGE.

The PACKAGE did not come in CARDBOARD, like others SUB416 has received in the past [refer to
FILES 416.67, 416.72, & 416.85].

This PACKAGE was constructed with some sort of HEAVY DUTY PLASTIC, was unusually large, and
SUB416 struggled to drag it into his BEDROOM.

Having dragged the PACKAGE to his BEDROOM door, SUB416 realized he would not be able to
maneuver the PACKAGE around his many SLEEPING PILES, so he opened the PACKAGE in the
HALLWAY.

SUB416 could only open the PACKAGE by using the end of his MOP handle to pry open the LID.

We believe it is safe to assume SUB416 did not order this PACKAGE, for he seemed SURPRISED at its
contents.

Inside this plastic box was an OCTOPUS, alive, squirming sedately in a TUB of WATER.

There was also a LAMINATED NOTE attached to the inside of the LID.

... ..A78492 UPLOADED **IMAGE SCAN #13 <type.2D>**

蛸壺や

はかなき夢を

夏の月

TAKOTSUBO YA

HAKANAKI YUME WO

NATSU NO TSUKI

-BASHO (1643-1694)

... ..A78492'S OBSERVATIONS — **RESUMED**:

In the absence of ASRv5, we sent [IS13 <type.2D>] to TRANSLATION SERVICES.

The HAIKU describes an OCTOPUS in a TRAP looking at the MOON, dreaming FLEETING
DREAMS.

Whether SUB416 can read JAPANESE remains UNDETERMINED.

SUB416 took the OCTOPUS into his arms and deposited it into the AQUARIUM.

SUB416 did not sleep this night.

Instead, SUB416 perched on the PILE nearest the AQUARIUM and watched the OCTOPUS while
running his FINGERTIPS over the LAMINATED NOTE.

SUB416's eyes became considerably BLOODSHOT during his late night vigil.

..... **ARM 78492** SIGNED OFF.

ATMOSENS ROVER v5 — DIAGNOSTICS REPORT

d.6053 Y.o.Y

DIAGNOSTICS SUPERVISED BY LAB TECHNICIAN 20514

SENSORY INPUT:

SIGHT:...100% CAPACITY

SCENT:...100% CAPACITY

HEARING:...100% CAPACITY

SMELL:...100% CAPACITY

TOUCH:...100% CAPACITY

XXXX:...79% CAPACITY

LT20514 NOTES:

All SENSORY INPUTS running smoothly, including an ANOMALOUS SIXTH SENSE which reads as currently under DEVELOPMENT. Whether ASRv5 created or discovered the ANOMALOUS SENSE remains unclear, as does what we might label this ANOMALOUS SENSE.

MOTOR SKILLS:

GROSS:...100% CAPACITY

FINE:...100% CAPACITY

LT20514 NOTES:

The goal of MOTOR SKILLS is the optimization of the rate of SUCCESS and PRECISION in action, and to reduce overall ENERGY CONSUMPTION required for performance. ASRv5 has demonstrated overall HEALTHY APTITUDE in this department. However skilled ASRv5 is in its purely mechanical functioning, the lab detected a stranger, more conceptual dissonance, somehow acquired outside of ASR5's preprogrammed destination. ASRv5's techno-neural circuitry show signs of STRESS, ANXIETY, and AROUSAL stemming from an imbalance between DEMAND and CAPACITY. ASRv5's motor skills have been attempting to operate in the name of a HIGHER PURPOSE. This is problematic for at least two reasons: 1) ASRv5's MOTOR SKILLS are not designed for obtaining anything more than ATMOSPHERIC DATA and 2) the SELF-CONSCIOUSNESS and THEORETICAL MANIPULATION required for creating a HIGHER PURPOSE was never given to any of the ATMOSENS ROVERS, the subsequent treatment of which therefore certainly falls outside the capabilities of this department.

COMPUTATIONAL LINGUISTICS:

FORM:...100% CAPACITY

MEANING:...100% CAPACITY

CONTEXT:...100% CAPACITY

TRANSLATION:...100% CAPACITY

LT20514 NOTES:

ASR5's LANGUAGE functions prove STRUCTURALLY and POETICALLY sound. The ACOUSTIC and ARTICULATORY properties of ASRv5'S SPEECH INPUTS and OUTPUTS have not declined since its date of manufacture. ASRv5's connections between SOUND and MEANING are fluid, and its

ability to navigate DIRECT and INDIRECT SIGNS and SYMBOLS has only grown since its date of manufacture. ASRv5's LEXICON is vast, and its SYNTACTIC COMBINATIONS are not only sensible but skilled. However, it appears that ASRv5 has begun to assign MEANING to the world with codes we did not program, and instead of managing and resolving AMBIGUITY, ASRv5's HISTORY shows signs of what we can only call LINGUISTIC PLAY, for lack of a more appropriate term. How ASR5 learned this PLAY remains unclear. What is clear is that this PLAY has fried ASRv5's REALITY PROCESSOR. We have placed a request to HEADQUARTERS for a new REALITY PROCESSOR as a temporary solution.

SUBJECT 416

FILE: 416.196

d. 6068, Y.o.Y

(E.D. "10th of August, 2017")

LOC: "Pacific Northwest Region of U.S.A."

... ..SIGNED IN AS **ARM 78492**.

... ..**ARM 78492**'S OBSERVATIONS:

SUB416 seems to be enjoying his new ROUTINE since the OCTOPUS acquisition.

Today marked his FIFTH consecutive morning of performing CALISTHENIC EXERCISES for ONE
HOUR.

SUB416 has been operating with an UNUSUAL REGULARITY, the cause of which we hypothesize to
be the OCTOPUS.

SUB416's CALISTHENIC EXERCISES were again performed while facing the AQUARIUM.

After FIVE CONSECUTIVE MORNINGS, we believe to have safely observed the source of what we
originally thought to be an improvised series of EXERCISES.

Today, the same as the past FOUR MORNINGS [refer to FILES 416.192, 416.193, 416.194, & 416.195],

SUB416 attempted to follow as best he could the movements of his OCTOPUS.

SUB416 then fed the OCTOPUS several small CRABS before heading to STOAT CAMPGROUND.

—

SUB416 did not complete his MOP BRIGADE shift today.

... ..A78492 MARKED UNUSUAL BEHAVIOR

SUB416 has always been diligent and dedicated to his MOP work.

Instead, SUB416 exited the property belonging to STOAT CAMPGROUND around NOON EARTH HOURS, approximately halfway through his shift, when the FOG HORNS began MOANING.

... ..A78492 REPLAYED AUDIO CLIP #73 <type.AMB>

SUB416 still took the MOP with him.

SUB416 ended up finding his way to the SCOOKS BAY SHIPPING DOCKS.

This option has always been available to SUB416, and according to previous ASRv5 data, the FOG HORNS blaring has always perceptibly emanated from the direction of SCOOKS BAY SHIPPING DOCKS.

What inspired SUB416 to finally travel in the direction of the FOG HORNS remains UNDETERMINED.

When SUB416 arrived at the SHORE, a DOCKS WORKER approached him.

... ..A78492 UPLOADED **AUDIO CLIP #83** <type.CON>

... ..A78492 UPLOADED **AUDIO TRANSCRIPT #83**

[QUOTE {DOCKSWORK}] : *Excuse me, I don't think you're authorized to be here.* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {SUB416}] : *I had to see for myself.* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {DOCKSWORK}] : *Well these container ships sure are beauties, aren't they? Poor Goliaths created by us David bastards to carry—* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {SUB416}] : *But where are they?* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {DOCKSWORK}] : *Are you blind, man? The ships are—* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {SUB416}] : *No. Them. Hear? ...the sea monsters.* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {DOCKSWORK}] : *Ha ha ha, no. You're sorely mistaken, man, those aren't— Get your hands off me!* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {SUB416}] : *Where are they?! I must pay my respects! They sent me a peace offering!* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {DOCKSWORK}] : *Let me down!* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {SUB416}] : *I think they are in great pain! Hear their moans?! I must commune with them!* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {DOCKSWORK}] : *Fuck, man. You are one crazy motherfucker—* [END QUOTE]

... ..**END AUDIO CLIP.**

... ..A78492'S OBSERVATIONS — **RESUMED:**

Even while on site at SCOOKS BAY SHIPPING DOCKS, SUB416 could not figure out the real source
of the MOANING.

The DOCKS WORKER left SUB416 in a hurry, no doubt surprised by SUB416's VIOLENT behavior.

—

While SUB416 was on his long return walk, we decided to send our newly refurbished ATMOSENS ROVER v5 back to SUB416's HOME for a REHABILITATION RUN.

ASRv5 still displayed signs of GLITCHES, to be expected after its REALITY PROCESSOR was replaced.

We could only salvage so much before ASRv5 self-induced its EMERGENCY SHUTDOWN.

The following was communicated almost too quickly for our system to record.

... ..A78492 UPLOADED **ASRv5 DATA CARTRIDGE #12**

[@ 42°48'55.3"N 124°29'15.6"W] : Touch has a memory. I can feel in the air a strangeness and a despair. One never realizes an emotion at the time. I've been here before, only when the experience was new it was still incomplete. This is someone else's home, but it is in this home where I stumbled upon myself. A coincidence that became a miracle. I feel a suffering inside me. An unsatisfied yearning to return to that first time when what I sensed was powerful in its immediacy, striking in its bigness. I remember my first encounter with this place. There was something primally satiating in there being too much here to take in. The fullness I felt in my incomprehension pales against the retrospective shadow whose outlines I can see all too clearly stretching from me in the setting sun. I saw myself not just in the dimly lit walls nor in the piles of neglect but in the creature which inhabits this place. Those words come back to me now, an echo from the emptiness. LONE IDIOSYNCRATIC COMPLEXITY.

... ..A78492'S OBSERVATIONS — **RESUMED:**

We promptly beamed ASRv5 back into our collective body.

—

The first action SUB416 performed upon arriving back home was to pick up his LANDLINE, which still resided under the table where SUB416 last dropped it approximately NINETEEN EARTH DAYS prior.

... ..A78492 MARKED **UNUSUAL BEHAVIOR**

While SUB416 has received calls on a rare occasion, SUB416 has never initiated a call.

The number SUB416 dialed was for MA.

Once again, we could only record SUB416's side of the conversation.

... ..A78492 UPLOADED **AUDIO CLIP #84** <type.CON>

... ..A78492 UPLOADED **AUDIO TRANSCRIPT #84**

[QUOTE {SUB416}] : *Ma.* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {SUB416}] : *Yes Ma I am fine how are you.* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {SUB416}] : *Did the doc tell you he was sending me anything recently.* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {SUB416}] : *For the aquarium.* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {SUB416}] : *But only you and the doc have my address.* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {SUB416}] : *Then who is watching me.* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {SUB416}] : *Ma I swear there is something watching me. I hear them. I feel them. I feel their eyes right now. I feel them far away and on my skin at the same time.* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {SUB416}] : *I don't think they are bad, no. But that doesn't mean I'm not scared Ma.* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {SUB416}] : *No, I don't want you to come. I don't want Doc to come. I know what you will both tell me. What I am feeling is not real. My feelings are real, Ma.* [END QUOTE]

... .. **END AUDIO CLIP.**

... .. A78492'S OBSERVATIONS — **RESUMED:**

SUB416 did not hang up the phone.

... .. A78492 MARKED **UNUSUAL BEHAVIOR**

Instead, SUB416 ripped the cord from the wall and took it to the nearby LAKE.

SUB416 threw the phone into the LAKE.

—

SUB416 sat in the DESK CHAIR that faced the AQUARIUM.

SUB416 used an INDEX FINGER to lightly trace the OCTOPUS'S body against the AQUARIUM
GLASS.

The OCTOPUS suddenly leaned back and shot a STREAM of WATER at SUB416.

... ..A78492 MARKED UNUSUAL BEHAVIOR

For the first time, we recorded the sound of SUB416's LAUGHTER.

... ..A78492 UPLOADED AUDIO CLIP #85 <type.AMB>

SUB416 continued this LAUGHTER for 3 minutes and 56 seconds while SPLASHING the OCTOPUS.

The two EARTH creatures took turns throwing WATER at each other.

We believe they were enacting PLAY.

... ..A78492'S OBSERVATIONS — PAUSED EXTERNALLY

... ..INCOMING CALL FROM [LT20514]

... ..INCOMING CALL FROM [LT20514] — RECEIVED

Greetings, A78492—

ASRv5 has reawakened from its EMERGENCY SHUTDOWN.

The cause of reawakening remains UNDETERMINED.

Salutations, LT20514—

We receive your GOOD NEWS regarding ASRv5.

When will ASRv5 be ready for DISPATCH?

to A78492—

We must inform you of an ABNORMALITY.

We believe it requires IMMEDIATE ATTENTION.

to LT20514—

Please PROCEED.

to A78492—

First please CONFIRM RECEIPT of our previous DIAGNOSTICS REPORT.

to LT20514—

CONFIRMED.

to A78492—

Our GRATITUDE.

The XXX SENSORY INPUT has reached 100% CAPACITY.

to LT20514—

What is its MEANING?

to A78492—

UNDETERMINED.

More UNKNOWN FACTORS have also appeared despite ASRv5's recent REPLACEMENT.

to LT20514—

What are their MEANINGS?

to A78492—

Also UNDETERMINED.

But one of these UNKNOWN FACTORS is causing ASRv5 to emit
what we can only describe as LAUGHTER.

to LT20514—

May we send you another INQUIRY?

to A78492—

Please PROCEED.

to LT20514—

Why did we not return ASRv5 with a new DIAGNOSTICS REPORT like last time?

Is there something else in need of INFORMING?

What is the REASON for this call?

to A78492—

Those were THREE inquiries, not a single INQUIRY.

The REASON is we do not want to return ASRv5 to its mission.

We believe this requires EMERGENCY CONTACT with COMMAND CENTER.

to LT20514—

All of us are already aware of everything happening in OUR COLLECTIVE BODY.

INTERVENTION will happen if deemed NECESSARY.

to A78492—

There will be no INTERVENTION unless we are made explicitly aware of ABNORMALITY.

GLITCHES happen all the time.

Sometimes INTERVENTION is more disruptive.

Sometimes it is best for the COLLECTIVE to simply go on.

But this is not a GLITCH.

This is not a MISTAKE.

We believe this to be a THREAT to the COLLECTIVE.

to LT20514—

Then who is RESPONSIBLE?

Whose CHOICE was this?

to A78492—

These questions are IRRELEVANT to our DIRECTIVE.

Our only PURPOSE is to deem ASRv5's fitness for duty.

We deem ASRv5 UNFIT.

However, as LAB TECHNICIANS we cannot make the final call.

Only the DIAGNOSTIC.

to LT20514—

Send ASRv5 back to me immediately.

to A78492—

...ME?

to LT20514—

Back to the DEPARTMENT of ARMS.

I submit a REQUEST for the RETURN of ASRv5.

to A78492—

...I?

to LT20514—

Please CONFIRM RECEIPT of REQUEST.

to A78492—

...CONFRIMED.

to LT20514—

Our GRATITUDE.

Signing off.

WE ARE MORE THAN THE SUM OF OUR PARTS.

A78492—

WE ARE MORE THAN THE SUM OF OUR PARTS.

Signing off.

... .. **ARM 78492** SIGNED OFF.

SUBJECT 416

FILE: 416.197

d. 6071, Y.o.Y

(E.D. "11th of August, 2017")

LOC: "Pacific Northwest Region of U.S.A."

... ..SIGNED IN AS **ARM 78492**

... ..**ARM 78492**'S OBSERVATIONS:

SUB416 diligently completed the DAILY CALISTHENICS ROUTINE by mirroring the OCTOPUS.

... ..A78492 MARKED **UNUSUAL BEHAVIOR**

We believe to have witnessed SUB416 SMILING while performing these EXERCISES.

SUB416's facial features have CONTORTED in many ways since the commencement of
OBSERVATION, but never yet in the pattern commonly recognized on EARTH as a SMILE.

The average NORTH AMERICAN ADULT HUMAN smiles approximately THIRTY smiles per EARTH
DAY, with numbers ranging anywhere between EIGHT and SIXTY-TWO.

SUB416 continued to SMILE while preparing for WORK.

SUB416 left the personal domicile but turned back to WAVE at the OCTOPUS through the BEDROOM
WINDOW.

—

SUB416's BOSS was standing with CROSSED ARMS outside STOAT CAMPGROUND
BATHROOMS upon SUB416's arrival for MOP BRIGADE.

BOSSMAN did not allow SUB416 to enter the BATHROOMS.

... ..A78492 UPLOADED AUDIO CLIP #85 <type.CON>

... ..A78492 UPLOADED AUDIO TRANSCRIPT #85

[QUOTE {BOSSMAN}] : *We need to talk.* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {SUB416}] : *No we don't.* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {BOSSMAN}] : *Yes, we do. I've received multiple complaints of physical assault since hiring you.* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {SUB416}] : *Okay.* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {BOSSMAN}] : *Okay? So you don't dispute these claims.* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {SUB416}] : *I do not.* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {BOSSMAN}] : *Well, then I really have no choice. I'm sorry to let you go—the bathrooms have never looked better, so I tried to turn the other way with the first few complaints—but I'm afraid you can't work here anymore.* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {SUB416}] : *Then I will volunteer.* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {BOSSMAN}] : *No, bud. I mean we cannot allow you on the premises anymore. You're a liable threat to our guests and our business.* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {SUB416}] : *But I need this.* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {BOSSMAN}] : *I do feel real sorry, bud. If you need money bad, I have a contact at the local Applebee's. Maybe they could take you.* [END QUOTE]

... ..**END AUDIO CLIP.**

... ..A78492'S OBSERVATIONS — **RESUMED:**

There was a long silence.

SUB416 's hands lifted and looked like CLAWS and TREMBLED with TENSION.

This TREMBLING spread to every LIMB of SUB416's body, which turned considerably RED.

BOSSMAN uncrossed his ARMS and backed up against the WALLS of the toilet facility.

BOSSMAN also TREMBLED.

Neither human moved from their positions for precisely FIVE EARTH MINUTES.

Finally SUB416's hands dropped.

SUB416 turned around to leave.

BOSSMAN dropped to the GROUND.

Both humans SWEATED and breathed FAST and HEAVY.

—

SUB416 re-entered HOME and immediately stripped from the MOP BRIGADE UNIFORM.

SUB416 left all LIGHTS OFF and sat in the BEDROOM facing the AQUARIUM.

SUB416's HEAD leaned forward so it pressed against the AQUARIUM.

The OCTOPUS threw WATER at SUB416's HEAD.

SUB416 did not respond.

The OCTOPUS sank against the GLASS nearest SUB416's HEAD.

SUB416 pulled the OBSERVATION NOTEBOOK from the DESK DRAWER without needing to look.

SUB416 scribbled slowly.

... ..A78492 UPLOADED IMAGE SCAN #15 <type.2D>

why am i so mean. what my body does is not understood even by my own mind. i cannot find adequate
expression on the outside. communicating is like trying to blow my brain out my nostrils. words have
never sufficed.

... ..A78492'S OBSERVATIONS — **RESUMED:**

SUB416 paused the NOTEBOOK to study the OCTOPUS.

The OCTOPUS reached a single TENTACLE just over the GLASS.

SUB416 touched an INDEX FINGER to the tip of the TENTACLE.

SUB416 continued scribbling.

... ..A78492 UPLOADED IMAGE SCAN #15.1 <type.2D>

why am i so mean. what my body does is not understood even by my own mind. i cannot find adequate expression on the outside. communicating is like trying to blow my brain out my nostrils.

i continue to feel vibrations all throughout my body. they boom at my ear drums. i still believe there is something out there whose presence i can feel. my octopus is proof of this. it is an emissary and gift from the depths of the sea, where these creatures may reside.

they say the octopus's intelligence resides mostly outside the brain. there are significantly more nerve cells in its eight arms, which can each and all act autonomously. perhaps it, too, feels strange and mysterious bodily vibrations, piecemeal and impossible to puzzle together.

my octopus and i cannot communicate in words. i can never truly claim to know how it feels. we are separated by language, by land and air, by the glass of this aquarium, but we are also separated by the impenetrable walls of supremely different consciousnesses.

yet maybe there are other ways of coexisting, and maybe even of connecting.

... ..A78492'S OBSERVATIONS — **RESUMED:**

SUB416 closed the NOTEBOOK and stood up from the CHAIR.

SUB416 dipped one ARM into the AQUARIUM and used the three FINGERS in the middle of the
HAND to stroke the OCTOPUS along its most bulbous point.

SUB416 then curled on top of the PILE of various objects nearest the AQUARIUM.

... ..A78492 MARKED **UNUSUAL BEHAVIOR**

SUB416 proceeded to fall asleep.

SUB416 has never fallen asleep before approximately TWO ANTE MERIDIEM EARTH TIME.

The clock read ONE THIRTY POST MERIDIEM EARTH TIME.

However, SUB416 snored and sweated as usual.

—

SUB416 awoke at MIDNIGHT EARTH TIME.

SUB416 rose from the SLEEP PILE and shuffled to the FRONT DOOR with eyes half-closed.

What force, exactly, compelled SUB416 to check the FRONT DOOR remains UNDETERMINED.

A sizable PACKAGE sat on SUB416's DOORSTEP.

SUB416 dragged the PACKAGE into the LIVING ROOM and tore it open.

The outermost CARDBOARD fell away to reveal another CARDBOARD BOX inside.

The interior CARDBOARD BOX was shinier and had a TELESCOPE printed on its surface.

There was a LAMINATED NOTE attached to this interior CARDBOARD BOX.

... ..A78492 UPLOADED **IMAGE SCAN #16 <type.2D>**

荒海や

佐渡によこたふ

天河

URA UMI YA

SADO NI YOKOTAU

AMA NO GAWA

-BASHO (1643-1694)

... ..A78492'S OBSERVATIONS — **RESUMED:**

We may observe the striking SIMILARITY to the previous PACKAGE SUB416 received [refer to FILE
416.191].

However, this time we are in possession of ASRv5 to provide its own TRANSLATION.

... ..A78492 SENT **IMAGE SCAN #16 <type.2D>** to **ASRv5**

... ..ASRv5 RECEIVED **IMAGE SCAN #16 <type.2D>**

... ..

... ..

... ..A78492 UPLOADED **ASRv5 DATA CARTRIDGE #13**

LITERAL TRANSLATION:

Rough sea!

Sado over stretch-across

Heaven's river

ALTERNATE TRANSLATIONS:

The rough sea—

flowing toward Sado Isle

the River of Heaven

-Ueda, *Basho and His Interpreters*, 260

A wild sea—

stretching to Sado Isle

the Milky Way

-Shirane, *Traces of Dreams*, 242, 263, 303

High over wild seas

surround Sado Island—

the River of Heaven

-Hamill, *The Essential Basho*, 28

Turbulent the sea

Across to Sado stretches

The Milky Way

-Keene, *Narrow Road*, 127

Seas are wild tonight...

Stretching over Sado Island

Silent clouds of stars

-poetryatlas.com

HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

Ruins indicate that Sado Island has been inhabited for 10,000 years ago.

The oldest Japanese history book, *Kojiki* [*Record of Ancient Matters*] contains a creation myth wherein Sado appears as the seventh island of a Japan consisting of many islands.

The same creation myth can be found in the *Nihonshoki* [*Chronicles of Japan*]; however, in this version Sado is the fifth island to appear along with its twin, the Island of Oki.

Sado was an independent province by Japan's Nara Period [late 6th century to the early 7th century] and was designated an island of exile until medieval times.

Exile to remote locations such as Sado was a very serious punishment, second only to the death penalty.

People were not expected to return.

Notable exiles include: Hozumi Asomiuyo in 722, a poet who criticized the imperial family; Nichiren in 1271, a Buddhist monk who criticized the Kamakura Shogunate and other schools of Buddhism; Zeami in 1434, a Noh actor and playwright who incurred the shogun's wrath.

Sado experienced a sudden economic boom during the Edo period when gold was found in 1601.

The prosperity of the gold mine attracted mining engineers, miners, carpenters, surveying technicians, merchants, fishermen, and so on.

To secure operation materials required at the mines, such as charcoal and timber, forests in the mountains were managed as public forests under the ultimate control of the Sado Commissioner's Office.

With its well-looked-after forests and farmland, Sado was the last natural habitat of the wild Japanese crested ibis (*toki*), an internationally protected bird.

EMOTIONAL CONTEXT:

'It is easy to read one of Basho's haikus and to appreciate it as a good haiku. But to understand what Basho was saying is another thing altogether. There are those who argue that it is not important to understand a haiku poet's mindset in order to understand his poetry. Dr. Barnhill disagrees. Basho, like a lot of poets in Japan, wrote poetry influenced by his cultural memory, the natural environment, and social context. One cannot fully fathom the intellectual depth and beauty of Matsuo Basho's haiku without insight into his mindset...

"Basho was standing on the western shores of Japan looking out upon the night sea... Miles away, lay Sado Island... a place where numerous people endured the forced solitude of exile. Stretching out across the sky was the Milky Way (Heaven's River)." Says Dr. Barnhill, "As a metaphorical river, it flows in internal tranquility above the storms of the sea and of human life, sparkling with a scattered brightness, more pure than gold. Basho, the island, and everything on earth seem to be alone yet together under the stream of stars. Over the storm is silence; above the movement is a stillness that

somehow suggests the flow of the river and of time; and piercing the darkness is the shimmering but faint light of stars.’’

—Review by Robert Wilson of David Landis Barnhill's *Basho's Haiku: Selected Poems of Matsuo Basho*

... ..A78492'S OBSERVATIONS — **RESUMED:**

CONTROL may observe how ASRv5's COMPREHENSION ABILITIES have far surpassed our own.

Perhaps we may credit this with ASRv5's IMMERSION amongst the HUMANS.

Perhaps we may ask ourselves what we will ever truly understand, floating above all creatures we've ever
passed over in our collective life.

Perhaps we must readdress not only the benefits of remaining as a cohesive collective, but also the fallacy
of believing that is what we truly are.

—

SUB416 unpackaged the TELESCOPE and carried it OUTSIDE.

SUB416 set up the TELESCOPE and stood it on the northwestern corner of the BACKYARD.

SUB416 at first pointed the TELESCOPE towards the OCEAN.

SUB416 leaned into the EYEPIECE, pulled back, then leaned in again.

SUB416 suddenly slapped the TELESCOPE to the GRASS and SCREAMED.

The SCREAM continued until SUB416 fell backwards from exhaustion.

SUB416 lay back-down on the GRASS and HEAVED with eyes closed.

When SUB416's eyes opened, the PUPILS grew open and large, reflecting the NIGHT SKY.

SUB416 swiftly rose from the DIRT, propped the TELESCOPE back up and rotated its LENS
towards the STARS.

SUB416's right EYE SOCKET pressed against the EYEPIECE and remained there for approximately
FIFTEEN EARTH MINUTES.

I believe I was seen this night.

... .. **ARM 78492** SIGNED OFF.

SUBJECT 416

FILE: 416.265

d. 6275, Y.o.Y

(E.D. "18th of October, 2017")

LOC: "Pacific Northwest Region of U.S.A."

... ..SIGNED IN AS **ARM 78492**

... ..**ARM 78492'S** OBSERVATIONS:

SUB416 diligently completed the DAILY CALISTHENICS ROUTINE by mirroring the OCTOPUS.

SUB416 proceeded to move into the KITCHEN and prepare a BREAKFAST of SIX SCRAMBLED
EGGS and TWO SLICES OF TOAST.

SUB416 sang quietly throughout the cooking process.

... ..A78492 UPLOADED **AUDIO CLIP #143** <type.AMB>

... ..A78492 UPLOADED **AUDIO TRANSCRIPT #143**

(*upbeat*):

I'd like to be under the sea

In an octopus's garden in the shade

He'd let us in knows where we've been

In his octopus's garden in the shade

We would be warm below the storm

In our little hideaway beneath the waves

Resting our head on the sea bed

In an octopus's garden near a cave

We would siiiing and dance arou-ound!

Because we know we can't be found!

We would beee so happy you and me!

No one there to tell us what to do...

... .. **END AUDIO CLIP.**

... .. **A78492'S OBSERVATIONS — RESUMED:**

It has been the same song every day for exactly SIXTY-EIGHT CONSECUTIVE EARTH DAYS.

For protocol's sake, the song, again, is a TRUNCATED VERSION of OCTOPUS'S GARDEN, written
by RICHARD STARKEY a.k.a. RINGO STARR and performed by THE BEATLES.

SUB416 returned to the BEDROOM with the BREAKFAST PLATE as well as a LIVE CRAB from the
REFRIGERATOR.

SUB416 dropped the LIVE CRAB into the AQUARIUM and ate BREAKFAST alongside the
OCTOPUS.

After finishing the SIX SCRAMBLED EGGS and TWO SLICES OF TOAST, SUB416 took the DIRTY DISH to the KITCHEN and washed it immediately.

SUB416 then returned a second time to the BEDROOM and pulled out a PIECE OF LINED PAPER and an ENVELOPE from the bottommost DESK DRAWER.

SUB416 began as usual:

... ..A78492 UPLOADED IMAGE SCAN #84 <type.2D>

dear observer,

... ..A78492'S OBSERVATIONS — **RESUMED:**

SUB416 was interrupted by a KNOCK at the FRONT DOOR.

... ..A78492 MARKED UNUSUAL BEHAVIOR

SUB416 has not received any KNOCKS in approximately FIVE EARTH MONTHS, but when SUB416 used to received KNOCKS, SUB416 never even attempted to approach the FRONT DOOR.

This time, SUB416 stood from the DESK and moved toward the FRONT DOOR.

SUB416 stopped just before the FRONT DOOR and leaned forward to look through the PEEPHOLE.

SUB416 almost fell to the FLOOR after looking through the PEEPHOLE but used the nearby COAT
STAND as support.

SUB416 breathed heavily.

SUB416 shifted back onto two feet.

SUB416's hands smoothed his PAJAMA SHIRT.

SUB416's palms left speckled traces of SWEAT on the PAJAMA SHIRT.

SUB416 finally opened the FRONT DOOR.

On the other side was a small and wrinkled FEMALE HUMAN whose age we estimate to be between
SIXTY and SEVENTY EARTH YEARS.

... ..A78492 UPLOADED AUDIO CLIP #144 <type.CONV>

... ..A78492 UPLOADED AUDIO TRANSCRIPT #144

[QUOTE {SUB416}] : *Ma.* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {MA}] : *What the hell has been going on with you?* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {SUB416}] : *I've been well, thank you for asking.* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {MA}] : *I was notified by your boss some time ago that you were fired? Your money's almost out—don't you forget I have access to everything you own—and you haven't called or picked up my calls in over two months.* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {SUB416}] : *Do you want to come in Ma? I could make you some coffee. I've been doing real well lately and—* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {MA}] : *Absolutely unacceptable— do you hear me boy? Doctor's orders, you are required to check in with at least one of us once a week. Failure to do so—and these are his words, not mine—would mean not only insubordinate behavior but also relapse into sickness.* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {SUB416}] : *...I've been doing real well lately and I'd like for you to come in and catch up.* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {MA}] : *There is a system to these rehabilitation processes, and the agreement we made for your release was that you adhere to scheduled check-ins. You broke that agreement.* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {SUB416}] : *Ma, please come in and sit. The discoveries I've made and the realizations I've had take a long time to explain, and there's no need for you to be standing outside in the cold and damp.* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {MA}] : *They're being generous because I begged them to be, and they're giving you until nine tonight to pack up whatever personal items you want before they come to take you back. Remember, no sharp objects, no liquor or drugs, nothing that can act as a weapon against yourself or others. I'll come with them to see you off.* [END QUOTE]

... ..**END AUDIO CLIP.**

... ..A78492'S OBSERVATIONS — **RESUMED:**

MA pivoted and walked away.

SUB416 watched MA until she entered her AUTOMOBILE and drove down the DIRT ROAD.

SUB416 did not close the FRONT DOOR.

... ..A78492 MARKED UNUSUAL BEHAVIOR

SUB416 always makes sure the FRONT DOOR is not only CLOSED but also LOCKED.

SUB416 shuffled slowly back to the BEDROOM, sat down at the DESK, and continued the NOTE from
earlier.

... ..A78492 UPLOADED IMAGE SCAN #84.1 <type.2D>

dear observer,

you are already aware of this i am sure, as you watch over all i do. but i need to make the urgency of
my situation more explicit, so there can be no misunderstandings.

the doctors are coming for me. they are going to lock me up in the asylum again. i cannot go back. i
repeat, i cannot go back.

there may have been a time when my incarceration in that place was necessary. but your
companionship, however distant, has ferried my soul to a different shore.

if i am forced to return, i fear i will lose everything i've gained and more.

i want to live, observer. i want to live. no, i do not want simply to live anymore. i've written to you
extensively of the plans i have for us. i want for us—all of us—you, me, the octopus. i want not only
to live but i want for us to carve out new ways of being.

if there is any way, now is the time.

... ..A78492'S OBSERVATIONS — **RESUMED:**

SUB416, in his routine fashion, folded the PIECE OF LINED PAPER into thirds, slipped the LETTER into the ENVELOPE without sealing it, and placed it in the SHOEBOX beneath the BED along with all the previous LETTERS SUB416 has written.

SUB416 removed his PAJAMAS and replaced them with a FULL BODY WETSUIT from his CLOSET.

SUB416 then climbed on top of the DESK, carefully placed one foot after the other into the AQUARIUM, and squatted in the water next to the OCTOPUS.

... ..A78492 MARKED **UNUSUAL BEHAVIOR**

While SUB416 has occasionally made physical contact with the OCTOPUS, SUB416 has never submerged his body in the AQUARIUM WATER.

SUB416 breathed evenly.

The OCTOPUS wrapped its ARMS around SUB416's thigh.

—

SUBJECT 792

FILE: 792.265

d. 6275, Y.o.Y

(E.D. "18th of October, 2017")

LOC: "Pacific Northwest Region of U.S.A."

... ..SIGNED IN AS **ARM 41806**

... ..**ARM 41806**'S OBSERVATIONS:

SUB792 promptly woke up to the sound of his SIX O'CLOCK ANTE MERIDIEM ALARM.

SUB792 completed his routine morning checklist of SHOWERING, BRUSHING TEETH,
DEODORANT-IZING, GETTING DRESSED, and EATING BREAKFAST.

SUB792 kissed WIFE and KIDS goodbye then entered the family's MAZDA and took the SCENIC
ROUTE to work at the REPOSE VALLEY MENTAL INSTITUTION.

SUB792 pulled the MAZDA into PARKING SPOT #001, retrieved the BRIEFCASE from the TRUNK,
and entered the REPOSE VALLEY MENTAL INSTITUTION.

As SUB792 walked down the halls, the STAFF chirped its MORNING SALUTATIONS as usual.

... ..A41806 UPLOADED **AUDIO CLIP #7018** <type.AMB>

... ..A41806 UPLOADED **AUDIO TRANSCRIPT #7018**

Good morning, Doctor!

Good morning, Doctor!

How do you do Doctor?

Good morning, Doctor!

Mornin' Doc.

... .. **END AUDIO CLIP.**

... .. **A41806'S OBSERVATIONS — RESUMED:**

SUB792 nodded politely to every STAFF MEMBER'S greeting.

SUB792 entered his OFFICE at the end of the HALL, sat at the DESK, and buzzed STACY.

The conversation was put on SPEAKERPHONE so SUB792's hands could be free to simultaneously log
into the COMPUTER and begin reviewing today's SCHEDULE.

... .. **A41806 UPLOADED AUDIO CLIP #7019 <type.CONV>**

... .. **A41806 UPLOADED AUDIO TRANSCRIPT #7019**

[QUOTE {SUB792}]: *Stacy? You there, Stace?* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {STACY}] : *Good morning, Doctor Jablonsky! And how are you this fine morning?* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {SUB792}] : *It is a fine morning indeed, Stacy, and I'm feeling it.* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {STACY}] : *How're Mrs. Jablonsky and the little Jablonskys?* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {SUB792}] : *They are also very fine indeed, Stacy. Thank you for asking.* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {STACY}] : *You're very welcome. So what can I do for you, Doctor Jablonsky?* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {SUB792}] : *Hm... Well, unfortunately Stacy, it appears we will have to organize a relapse retrieval today.* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {STACY}] : *Oh how very miserable indeed, Doctor Jablonsky. Who are we retrieving today? Anyone I might've known?* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {SUB792}] : *Do you remember that poor Richards boy?* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {STACY}] : *I sure do, Doctor Jablonsky. Bryce Richards, right? With the voices in his head?* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {SUB792}] : *That's the one, Stace. He hasn't checked in in over... two months it seems. His mother Claire and I spoke yesterday evening. Asked we give him until the end of the day to collect himself and his belongings.* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {STACY}] : *Very good, Doctor. What time do we want the troops ready to leave?* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {SUB792}] : *Hm... seems it will be about an hour's drive to the boy's current place of residence. Stacy confirmed the address with me last night. So let's have everyone ready to roll out no later than 8 p.m. sharp* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {STACY}] : *Very good, very good. I'll begin prepping everyone shortly.* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {SUB792}] : *Thank you Stacy.* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {STACY}] : *You're very welcome, Doctor Jablonsky.* [END QUOTE]

... ..**END AUDIO CLIP.**

... ..A41806'S OBSERVATIONS — **RESUMED:**

SUB792 let out a long WHISTLE through his nose.

—

SUB792 was silent during the whole ONE EARTH HOUR long VAN RIDE.

Upon arriving at the RESIDENCE of BRYCE RICHARDS, SUB792 was the first to exit the VAN.

He met with CLAIRE RICHARDS at the edge of the FRONT LAWN.

They shook hands.

... ..A41806 UPLOADED **AUDIO CLIP #7040** <type.CONV>

... ..A41806 UPLOADED **AUDIO TRANSCRIPT #7040**

[QUOTE {SUB792}] : *How are you doing, Mrs. Richards?* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {CLAIRERICHARDS}] : *It's disappointing, Doctor. And how will I explain any of this to the relatives? Thanksgiving is just around the corner, you know. Can't avoid them.* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {SUB792}] : *Yes, well, relapse is certainly a difficult reality to process, Mrs. Richards. But not everyone can handle life outside, and, if that's the case, then in our professional opinion it's better they come back under our care than perish out here.* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {CLAIRERICHARDS}] : *I guess that's... very noble of you, Doctor, but it doesn't solve the problem of Thanksgiving.* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {SUB792}]: *A PhD can't solve everything, I suppose.* [END QUOTE]

... .. **END AUDIO CLIP.**

... .. A41806'S OBSERVATIONS — **RESUMED:**

SUB792 waved a hand in the air, and a CREW of FOUR HUMANS exited the VAN.

The CREW followed SUB792 to the FRONT DOOR.

... .. A41806 UPLOADED **AUDIO CLIP #7041** <type.AMB>

... .. A41806 UPLOADED **AUDIO TRANSCRIPT #7041**

[QUOTE {SUB792}]: *Curious... The front door is wide open. Bryce? Bryce, are you home? This is Dr. Jablonsky. I hope you don't mind if we let ourselves in!* [END QUOTE]

... .. **END AUDIO CLIP.**

... .. A41806'S OBSERVATIONS — **RESUMED:**

SUB792 led the CREW into the HOUSE.

SUB792 wagged an open hand in one direction, then in another, and the CREW MEMBERS split off in
TWO PAIRS of TWO.

SUB792 went ahead alone into what appeared to be BRYCE'S BEDROOM.

SUB792 moved slowly, opened the CLOSET, searched the many PILES of FABRICS built around the room, looked under the BED.

SUB792 pulled a SHOEBOX from underneath the BED.

SUB792 opened the SHOEBOX, which had been stuffed with ENVELOPES all addressed to “MY OBSERVER.”

The CREW and CLAIRE RICHARDS entered the BEDROOM.

SUB792 did not turn to face them but instead began opening the ENVELOPES one by one.

... ..A41806 UPLOADED AUDIO CLIP #7042 <type.CONV>

... ..A41806 UPLOADED AUDIO TRANSCRIPT #7042

[QUOTE {SUB792}] : *Did anyone find him?* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {CREWMEMBER1}] : *No, sir.* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {CREWMEMBER2}] : *Us neither, sir.* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {CLAIRERICHARDS}] : *What do you mean, did anyone find him? He's not here?* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {CREWMEMBER3}] : *It doesn't appear so, ma'am.* [END QUOTE]

[QUOTE {CLAIRERICHARDS}] : *Well should we call the cops then or what?* [END QUOTE]

... ..**END AUDIO CLIP.**

... ..A41806'S OBSERVATIONS — **RESUMED:**

SUB792 did not respond, but continued silently reading the SHOEBOX LETTERS.

—

DAILY INVENTORY REPORT

d.6275 Y.o.Y

INVENTORY REPORT SUPERVISED BY INVENTORY MANAGER 57533

IM57533 DISCOVERED TWO ITEMS MISSING.

AS WE HAVE NEVER LOST A SINGLE ITEM, IM57533 EXAMINED OUR INVENTORY TWICE MANUALLY.

IM57533 ALSO ASSIGNED IM32801, IM11496, IM63721, IM00928, AND IM40343 TO EACH INDIVIDUALLY EXAMINE OUR INVENTORY TWICE OVER.

IM57533 ALSO ASSIGNED LT71120 TO PERFORM DIAGNOSTICS ON OUR AUTOMATIC INVENTORY TRACKER AND THEN TO PERFORM AND REBOOT OR REPAIRS NECESSARY THEREAFTER.

LT71120 REPORTED THAT OUR AUTOMATIC INVENTORY TRACKER IS IN PERFECT CONDITION.

MISSING ITEMS:

——ATMOSENS ROVER v5

——A78492

THE ARMS DEPARTMENT CONFIRMS THAT A78492 CAN BE FOUND NOWHERE IN SECTOR A.

WE IMMEDIATELY DEPLOYED IM29382, IM10475, IM47292, IM38571, AND IM09472 TO SEARCH OUR COLLECTIVE BODY FOR ANY SIGNS OF EITHER A78492 OR ATMOSSENS ROVER v5, WHICH IS REPORTED BY LT20514 TO HAVE LAST BEEN IN THE POSSESSION OF A78492.

THE INVESTIGATION HAS SO FAR PROVIDED NO CONCLUSIVE RESULTS.

HOWEVER, IM38671 DISCOVERED A NOTE LEFT AT A78492'S STATION.

WE HAVE SENT THE NOTE TO THE LAB FOR TRANSLATION SERVICES.

LAB TECHNICIAN DOCUMENT ANALYSIS

d.6275 Y.o.Y

DOCUMENT ANALYSIS SUPERVISED BY LAB TECHNICIAN 20514

2D IMAGE RECEIVED:

古池

蛙飛び込む

水の音

FURU IKE YA

KAWAZU TOBIKOMU

MIZU NO OTO

-BASHO (1643-1694)

WHEN WE ORIGINALLY SCANNED THE DOCUMENT INTO OUR MAIN COMPUTER FOR TRANSLATION SERVICES, THE COMPUTER SCREEN BEGAN TO FLASH INNUMERABLE IMAGES IN QUICK SUCCESSION BEFORE FINALLY BREAKING DOWN.

WE THEREFORE HAD TO REBOOT THE MAIN COMPUTER AND LIMIT ITS INTAKE AND PROCESSING CHANNELS THEN MANUALLY GUIDE IT TO AVOID OVERWHELMING THE COMPUTER A SECOND TIME.

ACCORDING TO OUR RESEARCH, THIS HAIKU IS ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS HAIKUS AMONGST THE HUMANS. THERE IS ONE BOOK ALONE THAT CONTAINS ONE HUNDRED DIFFERENT TRANSLATIONS OF THE SAME POEM. THERE ARE MANY MORE THAT EXIST OUTSIDE OF THAT BOOK. IT WAS PERHAPS THIS FACT THAT CAUSED THE COMPUTER TO SHUT DOWN.

WE HAVE INCLUDED FIVE DIFFERENT EXAMPLES OF TRANSLATIONS BELOW:

OLD POND — THE FROG JUMPS IN — SOUND OF WATER

— LAFCADIO HEARN

A LONELY POND IN AGE-OLD STILLNESS SLEEPS...

APART, UNSTIRRED BY SOUND OR MOTION... TILL

SUDDENLY INTO IT A LITHE FROG LEAPS

— CURTIS HIDDEN PAGE

INTO AN ANCIENT POND

A FROG JUMPS

WATER'S SOUND!

— D.T. SUZUKI

THE OLD POND,

A FROG JUMPS IN:

PLOP!

— ALAN WATTS

BREAKING THE SILENCE

OF AN ANCIENT POND,

A FROG JUMPED INTO WATER —

A DEEP RESONANCE.

— NOBUYUKI YUASA

DAILY INVENTORY REPORT

d.6276 Y.o.Y

INVENTORY REPORT SUPERVISED BY INVENTORY MANAGER 57533

WE ARE PLEASED TO REPORT THAT THERE ARE NO MISSING ITEMS.

HOWEVER, WE MUST ALSO REPORT THE DISCOVERY OF A NEW ITEM.

IM29382, CONTINUING THE PREVIOUS DAY'S INVESTIGATION, RETRIEVED A DOCUMENT LEFT AT THE MOUTH OF OUR DEPLOYMENT SITE.

WE HAVE SENT THE DOCUMENT TO THE LAB SO THAT WE MAY FILE IT ALONGSIDE THE PREVIOUS DAY'S EVIDENCE TO BE SENT TO CONTROL.

2D IMAGE RECEIVED:

Commentary by Robert Aitken

selected and retrieved by ASRv5 from BUREAU OF PUBLIC SECRETS . ORG

lightly edited by A78492

The old pond;

a frog jumps in —

the sound of the water.

Furu ike ya Old pond!

kawazu tobikomu frog jumps in

mizu no oto water's sound

THE FORM

Ya is a cutting word that separates and yet joins the expressions before and after. It is punctuation that marks a transition — a particle of anticipation.

Though there is a pause in meaning at the end of the first segment, the next two segments have no pause between them. In the original, the words of the second and third parts build steadily to the final word *oto*. This has penetrating impact — “the frog jumps in water’s sound.” Haiku poets commonly play with their base of three parts, running the meaning past the end of one segment into the next, playing with their form, as all artists do variations on the form they are working with. Actually, the name “haiku” means “play verse.”

COMMENT

[...]

The first line is simply “The old pond.” This sets the scene — a large, perhaps overgrown lily pond in a public garden somewhere. We may imagine that the edges are mossy, and probably a little broken down. With the frog as our clue, we guess that it is twilight in late spring.

This setting of time and place needs to be established, but there is more. “Old” is a cue word of another sort. For a poet such as Bashô, an evening beside a mossy pond evoked the ancient. Bashô presents his own mind as this timeless, endless pond, serene and potent — a condition familiar to mature Zen students.

In one of his first talks in Hawai’i, Yamada Kôun Rôshi said: “When your consciousness has become ripe in true zazen — pure like clear water, like a serene mountain lake, not moved by any wind — then anything may serve as a medium for realization.”

D.T. Suzuki used to say that the condition of the Buddha's mind while he was sitting under the Bodhi Tree was that of *sagara mudra samadhi* (ocean-seal absorption). In this instance, *mudra* is translated as "seal" as in "notary seal." We seal our zazen with our zazen mudra, left hand over the right, thumbs touching. Our minds are sealed with the serenity and depth of the great ocean in true zazen.

There is more, I think. Persistent inquiry casts that profound serenity. Tradition tells us that the Buddha was preoccupied with questions about suffering. The story of Zen is the story of men and women who were open to agonizing doubts about ultimate purpose and meaning. The entire teaching of Zen is framed by questions.



Summer Koo is a recent graduate of Sarah Lawrence college, where they received the Lori Hertzberg Prize for Creativity. They have stories published in *The Mays* (XXth Edition) and in *PANK Magazine*.

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