

**Sings to Crows.** A short story by George Dalphin. December 2011.



## SINGS TO CROWS

(-66 to 54)

The fifteenth Dalai Lama, fifty-seventh President of the United States, and seventh Consul of the Free Noösphere, Sings to Crows died today in Turkeyturn, the location of the Oneida Indian Reservation in the New York region of North America where he was born in the year -66.

The lifelong advocate of happiness and Humanity began his life in a world closer in form to the Industrial Age than to our own, before the Noösphere and Emergence, and times were hard in America. Everything was changing - Humanity was beginning to build the first versions of a global network while the old medieval systems of governance and finance around the world inexorably turned from relevant to revenant - and if it hadn't been for the kind-eyed Oneida boy from Turkeyturn, who knows what our species would have made of itself.

As a spiritual leader, he modernized pre-Emergent Buddhism and managed its reconciliation with the knowledge and practices of Science, following his previous iteration's efforts in leading the way for the old religions finally to wander out of the dark ages while providing Science language with which to excavate the spiritual. As President

of the United States, he took the ultimate risk with the Grand Gesture, deconstructing the American military complex, which over two decades succeeded through example in ridding essentially the entire Earth of its old nationalistic military system. As Consul of the Free Noösphere, he was instrumental in the adoption of the Edict of Freewill and Individuation, setting a precedent for the liberty of individuals of any form from the unwanted influence of metamind conglomerates, without which legislation there would likely not be biological life left in the solar system.

Though later in life he was aided by a modified Jarvik circulatory prosthesis after a failed gene poisoning attempt during his presidency, Sings to Crows always remained essentially biological, maintaining the majority of the body he was born with in the Flesher tradition. While not philosophically a Flesher, he was always a Humanist, and when in his early adulthood he finally did come to ideological grips with the Transhumanists and joined the ranks of that group, he brought with him into the movement some of the notions of individualism and wildness that could now be said to have kept it alive in the face of metamind-perceived inevitability, while also building credence among the Transhumanists for the oft-misunderstood ethos of Flesherism.

Sings to Crows' parents were the simple-living Crowfoot and Beatrix Graves, briefly famous in their own right after the great Belgian documentarian Audrey Nijs chronicled their love, marriage and personal philosophies in the beautiful and inspirational movie *Turkeyturn Mornings*. He was the third of the couple's three boys, preceded by older brothers Bicycle Kick and Good Gloves, both of whom survive him, and he was followed after just over a year by his younger sister Isis Jane. He and his siblings all spoke with tenderness and nostalgia of their formative years in Turkeyturn; their family bond was clearly strong. Sings to Crows' sister Isis Jane was his closest friend growing up, and the two remained confidants throughout their lives, until her assassination at the hands of Flesher extremists in the Intercalary Period at the end of the Evolutionary War.

His Holiness' identity as the fifteenth incarnation of the Dalai Lama was discovered when he was a boy of only four, with the help of Lamas Sonam and Dawa, who had been associates of Tenzin Gyatso and would become close friends and teachers of the young, new Dalai Lama throughout his childhood. It was Lamas Sonam and Dawa

who famously accompanied Sings to Crows through public school for twelve years. In photographs and video from his boyhood, the two monks can often be seen standing near him, smiling brightly in their orange robes, and would remain by his side as advisors until their deaths two weeks apart while Sings to Crows was in law school.

The emergence of a Tibetan Buddhist spiritual leader who was also both a modern American child and a descendent of the Haudenosaunee, however, caused the young man's childhood to be surrounded continually by global controversy. As an adorable, good-natured youngster, he quickly became a media favorite and appeared intermittently throughout the Thirsty Thirties as a culture-commentator and anti-war advocate, however his relatively radical post-capitalist ideologies made him a target for conservative vitriol even at such a young age.

After receiving a JD degree from Tulane Law School at the vigorous age of twenty, Sings to Crows began his first official world tour as Dalai Lama, during which he made the connections with other cosmopolitan philosophers and aid organizations that would eventually form the neural net of his global activism network One Love, which in the following decades would become one of the first metaminds and remains among the few such entities not generally detested by humans.

By the time he was twenty-five, Sings to Crows had become a global figure and role model, and it was Buddhism which began to chafe at its leader's controversial admonitions. During this period he wrote perhaps his most important essay, *Nothing Is False*, which shattered many of the traditional dogmas of Mahayana Buddhism and old-style religion in general, and advocated a scientific exploration into the nature of identity, spirituality and reincarnation - all increasingly relevant issues at the time, as the world of nature was gradually painted over by the earliest layers of the virtual world which would become the Noösphere, while the human spirit was being reverse-engineered as software.

As Transhumanism clashed with orthodoxy and the Anthroclasm began to manifest across the globe throughout the Fifties, beginning with the First World Riot and culminating in the Moon Exodus, the early Noösphere hid the upheaval and atrocities of the Anthroclasm from those virtually-fortified few in the First World who were already becoming inextricably entertained by the unreal and were already on the path to becoming the cells of the gradually-coalescing first metaminds. Through his activism

with One Love, Sings to Crows found common interest between the information streams of the emerging metaminds, the Transhumanists on the Moon and the riotous masses of the Anthroclasm, eventually building common understandings of Panhumanity that many feel kept the metaminds from carrying out their proposed plan to phase out biological reproduction everywhere. Nearly three decades later, during the Intercalary Period of the Evolutionary War, Sings to Crows completed his work in legal identity theory with the Edict of Freewill and Individuation, which set a framework for the birth of the Free Noösphere, still considered by many among the Transhumanists to be Humanity's greatest achievement yet.

It was in this context of post-Anthroclasm, post-Moon Exodus America that Sings to Crows won an unlikely victory over Sea of Cortez Governor Pearl Azulli to become America's fifty-seventh President. Initially unpopular with both the conservative Flesher constituency and the hovering, leering new metaminds, Sings to Crows gradually endeared himself to the widely-varied populace of his country, eventually generating enough political capital to allow what he dubbed the Grand Gesture - a complete scuttling of America's physical-world military complex, which would eventually lead to the altogether dissolution of Industrial-era physical militaries throughout Earth and the Solar System. Though his administration was largely otherwise unsuccessful with the majority of its political endeavors, Sings to Crows put the entire weight of his personality behind the Grand Gesture, and it eventually changed the nature of Flesher life irrevocably.

Of course, by the time the Grand Gesture had come to fruition, long-cooking Transhumanist resentment at the Anthroclasm's atrocities was already suggesting the imminent Evolutionary War, in which battle would move from Near-Earth Orbit to the DNAscape. Eventually Sings to Crows was forced to relocate with his family and closest advisors to the Moon, where he lived out his remaining years in relative peace and happiness, writing a number of philosophical treatises, as well as his Earth Tales series of allegorical fiction, during this period. From these Moon years came the ideological positions that would eventually cohere into his Edict of Freewill and Individuation, the most-seconded piece of Noösphere legislation in history and generally credited with having saved biological life from the reconstitution of all Solar System matter into computronium, which the majority of metaminds of the period were advocating. The

ensuing establishment of the data realm known as the Free Noösphere, in which the majority of human entities now reside, can be directly linked to the Edict of Freewill and Individuation before it, and the end of the Evolutionary War immediately following.

Each of the first seven years of the Free Noösphere's existence, Sings to Crows received a significant percentage of the votes for the position of Consul, despite being motherborn and never having experienced the Noösphere directly, let alone sought the office of Consul. In the seventh year he received a majority of votes and accepted, receiving a temporary neural cloud-connective nodule in order to process information at something closer to the Noösphere's pace than his natural brain could allow. Once his year was complete, however, he had the nodule removed and never entered the Noösphere directly again, despite remarking often about the majesty of the experience. Indeed, Sings to Crows' direct-experience accounts of the Noösphere helped foment the late Twenty-First Century Introdus movement.

His Holiness spent the waning forty-seven years of his body's life with his family and friends at their modest home on the ridge of Aitken Crater, on the Moon, and traveling the Solar System to spread his optimistic, panhuman message of happiness and plurality.

At the time of his bodily death, one cannot help but remember his departure speech from his Consulship, which he ended with the sentence, "I will do what I can to be reborn next as pure thought, pure being, in the Free Noösphere." While the Scientific Community metamind is vocally doubtful of the possibility that a spiritual being might manifest orphanogenetically into the Noösphere, Sings to Crows' intent has proven to go a long way toward realizing that which had previously seemed would require a miracle.

Humanity remains hopeful that somehow we will see this soul again.