

# SOL Session with Timothy Leary

**SOL:** As a former professor at Harvard University, and at the time before the experiments with hallucinogens came up, a recognized figure in the field of psychology, you seem to have had a radical about face when you started talking recently about “drop-out, turn-on, and tune-in.” Would you explain to us what you mean by this?

**LEARY:** Well, to begin with, I don't think I've made any radical about-face. My use of the psychedelic chemicals stems directly from my endeavors in psychology. I have found better ways of understanding man's consciousness leading to a better control of his inner environment. The techniques of modern psychiatry and psychology don't do this. In my search for new methods I was led to the study of the drug.

**SOL:** ...From being a member ostensibly of the academic in-group, you seemed to have evolved an “in” beyond that...

**LEARY:** If you study the careers of men that are the central figures in our culture, and I'm not saying I am, but I model myself after them, you will find that as they pursue their data they get further and further removed from main street morality and from the dogmas of the academy. Anyone who takes his work seriously has to expect that he will be led into that frightening and insecure area on the fringe. If he doesn't want to be led out of his mind he must look at himself in the mirror and realize that he is not a true scientist—he's playing the game of the academy and academic corrosion. Far from being unconventional, I see my unfolding as highly orthodox and predictable for anyone who takes truth and knowledge seriously.

**SOL:** It was my understanding you were dismissed from Harvard for continuing psychedelic experiments on or with students there at the college. Would you explain the circumstances under which you left?

**LEARY:** One cannot ever believe what you hear in the newspapers. I was not fired by Harvard for giving drugs to undergraduates. I never gave drugs to any undergraduate at Harvard. I had been offered tenure from Harvard twice under the condition that I stop doing research or tone down the research of LSD. I refused to do this. I didn't want to be a professor at Harvard, I wanted to find out where it's at and what's what, and you usually can't always do that at a University.

**SOL:** Were you simply not granted tenure; and therefore you had to leave the college? We have a very similar circumstance at Vally State, an instructor has been there past the time that you either have to be granted tenure or you have to leave. Is that... ?

**LEARY:** No, the technicality on which I was fired with only two months to go on my salary, on my contract, was because I was absent from classes.

**SOL:** If you had the opportunity to...

**LEARY:** I was absent from all my classes because they had taken all my classes away from me. (laughter) ...So I left, and they knew I was leaving.

**SOL:** If you had the opportunity to practice the psychedelic research which you are engaged in now, would you accept a position at an American college or university?

**LEARY:** Absolutely not. I consider American education to be a highly dangerous, addictive, caustic, intrepid process. I'm quite serious about this, and I urge all students at every level of education to drop-out. You're going to learn very little of value and meaning in high school and college and your mind is going to be trapped and hooked. We are urging young people to drop out of the very new and radical institution of American education and find a teacher, a tutor, and you learn what is appropriate and relevant.

**SOL:** In other words, if I interpret you correctly, you are proposing for the millions of students and young people a system of individual, small-clan tutor-learner situations, and that you propose as far as learning processes go, that this is the form, or rather this is the lack of form it should have?

**LEARY:** Yes, but let's not take any statement I make out of context. Obviously, when I say the kid shouldn't go to school, I'm implying changes in the broader social fabric of our country which we foresee coming. What we have in the United States today is a typical centralization and urbanization which happened in Rome, which happened in Constantinople, which has happened throughout human history, in which enormous masses of people crowd together in anonymity in a most robot-like ant-hill of city life. Now, if you want to be an IBM computer robot or a bit actor in the American television studio of American society, go to school and they'll teach you all the little rules of rote behavior that'll get you right out in the TV studio. But we are anticipating and predicting a change in our society.

There is going to be a return to the basic human unit which is the clan or the cult, or the tribe. What I'm predicting and urging is the most orthodox American model. We try to become self-sufficient rather than depend on government pay-checks and social security.

**SOL:** You talk about the non-learning situation in our society, how do you apply this to the advanced sciences such as medicine, neurological surgery—some of these things which are tremendously intricate and tremendously advanced, at least from the point of view of the typical medical scientist?

**LEARY:** Which requires training...

**SOL:** Right, which requires; in fact, maybe a systemized, formalized training institution.

**LEARY:** No, No, No. I don't go along with that at all. I would say that more and more of the professions require long disciplined periods of training. I'm not advocating the return to some romantic life of savagery. We can't do away with modern science. ...it's here to stay and it's going to continue to develop. I'm simply against the mass impersonal granting out of thousands of Ph.D.'s in physics to men who never really experienced energy inside their own body, but simply memorize canned equations. Such ant-hill mentalities, no matter how clever they are at engineering, are going to develop bombs or faster and faster robot vehicles and are going to take man further and further away from his ultimate being, living, organic creature. Knowledge doesn't depend upon these huge public supported mind machines that we now call universities. In particular, the State of California is much more susceptible to this type of impersonal "learning" institution.

**SOL:** Now we've covered the drop-out phase of your slogan.

**LEARY:** I'd like to say more about the drop-out. People think when we say drop-out, we mean become just a lazy, idle person; just take LSD and contemplate the beauty of your navel. The facts are that drop-out is hard work; dropping out requires courage, dropping out releases your energy so that you turn on and release energies. What are you going to do with these energies? Are you going to go back to Valley State College and learn how to be a Ph.D. robot? You drop out of the fake-television American game to find a way of harnessing the energies you are releasing. The people around here are full of energy as you have noticed as you move around the house. They're extremely healthy and they're very hard-

working. It takes a considerable amount of energy to convert a sort of jungle such as this place to a place of harmony and beauty. You drop out to free your energies for high-level functioning. By drop-out we don't mean fall out; if you want to fall out, be a nice conforming robot and stay in college and you just drift along the addictive path of middle class success—that's the easy way.

**SOL:** Would you care to comment upon the “turn on” phase of your slogan?

**LEARY:** Well, it's been known for thousands of years that man can change consciousness and the levels of energy and wisdom inside or what is sometimes called revelation—that is, direct personal experience. In every culture there have been men who have studied consciousness—they have been called shamans or gurus or alchemists. These men have studied the science of expanding consciousness. Most people don't realize that consciousness expansion is an equally complex a problem as the study of physics, because the nervous system and the levels of consciousness available to man are infinite in their complexities. And the techniques and methods of turning on and controlling the flow and energies of awareness and of mapping where you have gone and of helping others to make these explorations, is very similar to the use of the microscope, because the microscope turns you on to levels of energy which are invisible to the naked eye. Turning on requires a change in the physiology of the human body. You can't turn yourself on with your mind, you can't turn yourself on with work. You have to have something to bring about the biochemical change, it's called a sacrament. Today we turn on with chemicals because we live in a chemical society. In ten or fifteen years, chemicals such as LSD will be outmoded. We will be using electronic and electrical methods of expanding consciousness; because like it or not, consciousness is a biochemical electrical network, and the way to trigger this off and use it to its fullest extent is through chemical electrical technique.

**SOL:** Would you care to... You mentioned that through thousands of years, man has sought ways to turn on. What various ways have there been other than the current LSD method? I think we're all familiar with Peyote.

**LEARY:** Well, we mustn't just think of LSD. There are 80 some known substances in the U.S today that can give you the psychedelic effect. There are new chemicals that are being developed in our alchemy laboratories each month. I heard recently of 32 new compounds which are ready to be released when it is appropriate to do so. All these are legal and they don't even exist in any of the statutes; they don't even exist in the patent office. But in addition to the chemical

means of turning on, there are many non-drug methods which all eventually involve the way the dervishes do in the Middle East.

**SOL:** Do you feel that in this same interpretation or same meaning, the dances that teenagers do today and for the past several thousand years are a form of turning on and are not viewed in this perspective?

**LEARY:** Well, the dance was originally a psychedelic way of expressing one's self, a way of getting high. Unfortunately, most of these early sacramental methods get worn out and routinized so that the Catholic goes to mass today, follows through a series of routing steps, failing to realize that the Catholic mass is an incredibly powerful psychedelic trip, involving trans-substantiation of energy, involving death reverse sequence, and using all sorts of sensory techniques; incense, genuflection, posture, and so forth.

**SOL:** Do you feel that there is a potential religion in the dance?

**LEARY:** I think most of the dances that Americans do today don't get them high. They tend to be stylized fads: the monkey, the slop, the twist, the watusi, and so forth. We are trying to get young people to develop dances which are spiritual. We have Bali Ran, the great Indian dancer living here. He's teaching us how body movements can get you grooving with your internal energies instead of doing the mash potato and the whip. The movements can be in tune with your ancient cellular-mythic patterns, and the dance itself can be a wild ecstatic turn-on spiritual event.

**SOL:** Tune-In is the last part of the slogan which you have and by this do you mean more than just the turning on...do you intend direction?

**LEARY:** Yes, "tune in" means you take the energies you release when you turn on and you come back to the world and you tune these energies in, you harness them, you express your reactions, reverie, and revelations. The tuning in process is dropping back in and changing your life, changing the way you dress, changing the way you look, changing the place where you live, changing the sequence of your activities. So that, increasingly, every act becomes sanctified, dance becomes sacred sequence, eating, making a living...instead of being robot work all these activities should be tuned in... Hello.

**LITTLE GIRL:** Hello. Are you taping?

**LEARY:** Yes, I'm making a tape.

**LITTLE GIRL:** Oh. Is anything going to come on?

**LEARY:** No, we're not listening; we're talking, we're making the tape. Then we'll listen to it later, and we'll laugh at ourselves. How wise and pompous and smug we are.

**LITTLE GIRL:** I wanna say something in that.

**LEARY:** All right, why don't you say something?

**LITTLE GIRL:** HELLO TIMOTHY!!

**LEARY:** Hello Kathy.

**LITTLE GIRL:** I LOVE YOU TIMOTHY!!

**LEARY:** I love you Kathy.



**SOL:** The. tune-in phase of the slogan of the key or guide, I think is something that is probably misunderstood by most people. It's the idea that the person who goes on a psychedelic kick is dropping into an unstructured, unmoving, valueless state of affairs from which there will be no continuation of human progress or human development. Would you explain how you would counter these charges?



**LEARY:** Yes, because the average American thinks that taking a drug makes you drunk. The average American thinks of getting high as going to a cocktail party because booze is our national sacrament. Now alcohol is a down experience. It narrows consciousness and makes you rather sloppy. a rather messy person in thought and action. The psychedelic drugs will take you in the opposite direction. They bring you into levels of reality which aren't structured because your mind can't structure them. But the panoramas and the levels that you get into with LSD are exactly those areas which men have called the confrontation of God. The LSD trip is the classic visionary mystic voyage. I warn everyone not to take LSD unless they're prepared to have all their certainties and social securities shattered. You can't take LSD and come back to the Television studios at San Fernando Valley State College and play that out with the same enthusiasm. You just can't pick up your robot role again. This means that psychedelic people act differently for the most part when they

come back. But they act: they're not just sitting around passively. In the last six or seven years a small group of us, which has grown with almost miraculous rapidity, have brought about a change in the consciousness of the United States. Now we've done this through action and through effective action and through tuned-in action. Lazy, confused, disorganized people don't bring about this sort of revolution consciousness that we've brought about in this country. However, the sort of action we recommend throws terror into the hearts of the people who direct the television studio in Sacramento or in Washington or in the Administration offices of San Fernando Valley State College. Because the kids that come back from these trips just won't buy the middle-aged menopausal mind system.

**SOL:** Would you care to elaborate on the phrase "menopausal mind"?

**LEARY:** Yes, I say there's one word which explains politics, economics and social conflict today. It's not "left" or "right"—it's age. The men who are running your college and your state and your government had their minds frozen somewhere between 1914 and 1920. That's when their vision of God and the world was formed, and baby, they're not going to change it. It's frozen in a World War I—depression mentality and we are now in a social process that is a thousand years beyond what they knew in high school and college. If you study the political events of the last two elections, you'll see that this age variable predicted some of the election surprises. Whenever you had a young, virile man whose eyes looked alive and looked as though he was carrying seed and who looked as though he could make love, he almost invariably defeated the older candidate regardless of how liberal the older candidate's words might have sounded. I think we have an ominous situation in the United States today because of this menopausal mentality. The reason we have this insane political setup in the world today is because of these impotent and senile duffers, Mao in China, De Gaulle in France, Johnson here, playing out their visions of 40, 50, and 60 years ago and very eager to send young, seed-carrying men to carry out their chess games of status and prestige. If everyone just took six months or one year and just dropped out, the creaky menopausal structure of the American power will just slowly crumble. I think every teenage and college kid should go home and turn on their mother and father.

"Come father take off your shoes, feel the sand in your feet. Come on grandma and light up, enjoy the beauties of nature around you."

**SOL:** By "turn on," did you mean psychedelically turn on or enlighten; otherwise?

**LEARY:** Turn them on in any way that you can. To turn on means to come to your

senses. Older people start losing the internal power; they lose that connection of the two million year thread of life and they get frightened and they want to have metal around them. The grandmother wants to have a metal kitchen, she wants to have a metal car, she wants to have steel around the country. This is a psychology of fear, fear of death and the fear of the loss of vigor. The kids should go home and turn on their parents by bringing her flowers and by bringing them music and by urging them to enjoy life. I think, for instance, that Johnson should go down and lie in the sun with Adam Clayton Powell and he should come back to his senses and learn how to make love again. People who are carrying seed are concerned with the perpetuation of seed. It isn't conceivable to me that a young man or woman of 25 would do anything to blow up this planet. Though the men of 50 or 60 who are only going to be around for 10 or 15 years, sure why they would gladly blow the thing up for some concept of status and prestige.

**SOL:** Why then, from the way you talk, I think we have jumped over some previous and necessary philosophical analyzation. What, to you, is the most basic, important, and essential point of life? I assume from the way you speak that it is the carrying of the seed, the regeneration of life itself through life and that this should be the central focal point of our lives, instead of such things as power, national honor and things of this sort. What should be the centering element of the energy forces?

**LEARY:** Well, you've given me the answer to the question. Centering and harmony is the seed concept of all energy and of all life. Tolkien said in his wonderful trilogy of the fellowship of the ring, where you had the forces of metal, fire and power opposed to the people who want to live in harmony with nature and to live free. Freedom and harmony are the keys to our religion and to the political movement to where it evolved in the United States today. Freedom to find your own inner potentiality and to develop it without coercion from an external centralized authoritarian political entity. To get back in harmony with your own body and with life around you. Modern American man is completely out of rhythm with nature; he is out of rhythm with the seasons; he is out of rhythm with the planets; he out of rhythm with the soil. In the political situation there is going to be, in my opinion, a spiritual regeneration which is going to be brought about by turning on yourself and finding the basic rhythm inside and then turning it back in

**SOL:** I would like to talk for a second about the alleged harmful effects of LSD to people biologically, physiologically and also some of the purported good effects it can have upon people. Do you care first of all to explain some of the good effects that you think it has had socially or that it can have socially?

**LEARY:** You seem to acquaint good with social good...we feel you can't do good unless you feel good. You can't have a good society unless you have individuals who are turned on and are tuning in.

**SOL:** The specific answer to which I was pointing to earlier was, is there any indication that persons who are or have been narcotic have been helped out of their addiction with LSD?

**LEARY:** I can introduce you to five of them right on this property, today.

**SOL:** Is there or has there been any indication that persons who have had sexual hangups such as homosexuality, or mono-sexuality, if you would, can be helped out of this hang-up through LSD?

**LEARY:** Yes, there have been many studies which have supported this that we know to be true personally. The psychedelic experience can help a person get back into a harmonious sexual activity. Homosexuality, for the most part, is a psychological or learned distortion, since man is basically the seed carrying male, he'll realize that he's been designed by the genetic code to act as the man and to pass on seed in the male way, so LSD may act as a specific aid to homosexuality. But only if the homosexual wants to change, there is no panacea here.

**SOL:** You feel that there is needed research in this area? Or to your knowledge is there any research being carried on in this area?

**LEARY:** Let me say something about research. The term research is the biggest sacred cow we got going in our country today. It is 99% phony. Any time you hear someone say he is going to do research, watch out because he is likely to be intruding upon your privacy for his own profit. We have no interest in doing research on LSD. Doing research on consciousness is very much like doing research on sex. Occasionally some psychiatrist wants to hook up a couple that he can persuade to perform sexual activities in the laboratory to study heart palpitations and temperature during love making. If people want to do that it is all right. But you know and I know that research on sex has to be done by you yourself. One of the problems of LSD in the United States today is that psychiatrists have tried to do research on LSD and have gotten nowhere, or they simply haven't had the experience themselves. Their interpretation and explanation of the LSD effect is exactly the interpretation of someone who hasn't had any sexual experience. Suppose some psychiatrist who had never had any sexual experience were to get a couple and he would hook them up with tachometers, and blood pressure

instruments, and EKG and give them psychological tests during intercourse and you see what picture he paints! 'Why, the simple task of performing multiplication and division is lost during sexual intercourse! (laughter) Blood pressure goes up!...you froth at the mouth!. You utter strange animal cries!...why, they're hardly civilized human beings!...they thrash around and knock vases off the tables!... they wouldn't talk to you in a sensible way!...they wouldn't talk about rational things like Brown vs. Reagan! Clearly this is a dangerous, convulsive type of experience both psychologically and socially which should be banned!' There have been plenty who would say exactly that about the sexual experience. If you give LSD to someone and he sits there quietly and won't talk to you for three hours you say, 'Oh, he's in a catatonic stupor' but then you talk to him later and he says, "Stupor? No, I was flipping through revelations and delights of ecstasy. I was more alive than I'd ever been in my life." We're very much against the taboo of sacred cow research. You've got to do the research on your own consciousness. YOU've got to do the research on your own intimate way of life. No big-brother daddy with an M.D. or Ph.D. can do these things for you. It's this western engineering technological notion that people can do things for other people with forms of energy.

**SOL:** What about the rumors of chromosomal disorders that have popped up lately?

**LEARY:** Well, now we'll get to your second question that has to deal with the dangers, but let me say one thing about the benefits of LSD. LSD is a key to releasing energy. Like any form of energy, it can be misused in the hands of the reckless or in the hands of the foolish, or in the hands of people who want to exploit for their own power motives. The real misuse of LSD is when it's in the hands of someone who would do it to someone else. The only control of LSD is self-control. The only benefits of LSD are the benefits you are willing to discipline yourself to get. You get from an LSD experience only what you bring to it and what you're ready to take away from it. There's a real panacea here. The benefits of LSD get you involved in the most difficult disciplined yoga of all, 'cause you're learning how to use your head and learning how to use your body. Now the harms and dangers of LSD are mainly its danger to society. There's no evidence yet that LSD brings about any physiological damage. There's no evidence yet that LSD has any effect upon the brain itself in a deleterious way. Now it may in the future turn out to have effects we don't understand yet. Anyone who takes LSD is gambling, it's a risk. Of course, everything in our society is a risk. Putting your nervous system in front of a television tube and being battered by all those radiations may bring about changes that we don't understand. Now as far as the

chromosomal or genetic changes brought about by LSD, there was one research done at Buffalo which was a straight out and out hoax and subsequent studies of this sort will demonstrate that this was a political piece of research designed admittedly before the research was done to prove that it was dangerous. It was done by a man named Cohen. A competent biochemist told me that the fixes that were brought about were in-vetro—that means cells that were in tubes, not in the living organism.

Changes in those cells could be brought about by any number of substances in the heavy dosages they were using and it tells nothing about any changes. There's no evidence from these anthropological sources or from the clinical data provided by the hundreds of LSD babies that are being born each year it would suggest that... there are LSD babies right around this house. They were conceived under LSD and born under LSD experience.

**SOL:** You were saying that through thousands of years of usage there is no evidence that hallucinogens have affected our evolutionary code?

**LEARY:** No, there are specific tribes in Mexico, the Aztec tribe which uses Psilocybin and you compare them with anyone, and I know of no evidence that any harmful mutations have taken place.

**SOL:** What form of...

**LEARY:** On the other hand, I want to make it clear that I'm not saying anything positive about LSD. I'm not saying in this interview that anything benefits from LSD and serious questions are raised in our minds all the time about the use of LSD. How much energy and neurological revelation can the frenzied human mind tolerate without flipping out? LSD possibly shouldn't be used in the widespread way in which it is. We seriously concern ourselves about such questions. But we do object to pseudoscientific statements from psychiatrists and public health officials which breed fear and panic in the American people about scientific questions that won't be answered for decades.

**SOL:** What form of society do you envision 50 years from today?

**LEARY:** We have worked very detailed blueprints, prophecies and predictions as to what we think will happen in the next 50, the next 100, even the next 500 years. But I hesitate to attempt to spell this out now because it sounds too far fetched; it would sound like science fiction, speculation. The profession of the

prophet, and anyone who takes LSD is likely to be thrown into this profession, is a very risky one because we see things that can happen and we have to be careful how much information we feed back to our primitive social system before they think we are nuts, before they blame us for what is inevitably going to happen. We predicted six years ago that there was going to be a psychedelic revolution, now they listen to us. We went to Washington and told the F.D.A. that this was going to happen.



**LEARY:** ...now they listen to us. Now, when it happens, the Caesar and his bureaucrat blamed us for the psychedelic inundation. But to go back to your question, with all these preliminary qualifications, man is going to get back in harmony with-his body, with fellow man, and with other forms of life on this planet. Man is going to realize that consciousness is the key to human life and instead of power struggles over territory and possession of weapons the focus of man's energies is going to be on consciousness. Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, the great Jesuit philosopher has spelled out the psychedelic vision in which the world will become unified in one field of consciousness. This will happen through the mass media. It will also happen through the psychedelic experience; the differences which cause conflicts among men and between man and other forms of nature are going to

be brought back in harmony. All metal, concrete, electricity and atomic energy is going to go underground. Man is going to realize that his precarious hold in this strange planet depends upon a thin film of about 10 inches of topsoil and it's a very delicate balance of energies of cellular and different species that keeps his delicate web of life going. Every time man takes metal or stone from under the ground and puts it in sheets over the delicate, sensitive skin of the planet he is killing and disrupting this net. So you will find all technology underground. The city of New York, 200 years from now will look as it did 200 years ago. The air is going to go back to the life-giving balance it is supposed to have. The rivers and waters will not be polluted. Man is going to tidy up the mess he's made in this very recent technological fling. Man has just been intoxicated by machines for 200 years. He is going to come off it and sober up. Man is also going to discover that machines are no fun. That fun comes from the senses and from your body, and from human interaction and consciousness. Everything is centered in consciousness and no amount of steel and metal and apparatus is going to give one second of real ecstasy or real communion.

**SOL:** Where will the people live when this type of a park-like atmosphere or a natural state has returned to the earth?

**LEARY:** People will live some of the time under the ground and some of the time above the ground in buildings which will be harmonized with the soil and plant life around them. Now this will sound like science fiction or fantasy, but actually we are doing this at Millbrook and if you look around at this property you will see an embryonic stage of these wild predictions going on. We even have soil on the roof to symbolize to us that this is a cave we live in, this house. And you will find if you go out into the woods today, members of our community building little cottages and so forth who want to live out in the woods this summer. You will see in our meditation gardens and in our daily activities here a slow cellular development towards this utopia which I have been describing. We think that our prophecies and our scientific fantasies are more likely to come true than any others because if you listen to the government-supported scientific agencies, they are just predicting to the next anti-missile missile. Most of your politicians are just interested in predicting to the next election, they are interested in the next intersection of power where their status is going to be concerned, and there are very few people who are thinking more than 15 or 20 years ahead. But people who are in tune with their own seed energy like ourselves are about the only people who are spitting out blue prints; therefore our blue print is more likely to come about than the more secular and limited blue prints of the politicians.

**SOL:** Back just a second to the underground, with the steel and concrete and stuff. H. G. Wells formulated a science fiction story called the Time Machine which predicted a world of this sort back about 20 or 30 years ago. I think he said around the year 2000. He visualized a dual society where the flower people lived on the surface

**LEARY:** Oh, really?

**SOL:** ...and the machine people lived underground. Do you foresee this?

**LEARY:** Yes. That's interesting. I have not read that nor read those phrases but it is exactly what has come out of my own conception, it just makes organic sense.

**SOL:** Have you seen the movie "The Time Machine?"

**LEARY:** No, I didn't.

**SOL:** As a matter of fact...

**LEARY:** I would like to see it.

**SOL:** It is parallel to what's happening here.

**LEARY:** What I think will happen is that man will live above ground and will recapitulate pre-seed cycles. Seed cycles where one will relive the entire growth process inside your mother's womb. Then you do it again as you grow up as a child, if you live above ground; and you will do it again, a third time, if you have children. Now in this society, people will start having children when the DNA thought they should, not when they get their Ph.D. but when they start to become adolescents. The DNA code has designed us to have babies at the age of 13, 14, 15, because that is when the seed power is at its height. But of course, our chess board, artificial society postpones this and it's fighting the wisdom of the DNA code. It is purely possible for someone to have completed the three seed cycles: once in the womb, once growing up yourself, and once growing up with your children, at the age of 23 or 4... you are ready to live out of the cycle. I don't think people should be taught control of metal and these potentially anti-life energies until they have completed three seed cycles and have enough reverence for, and understanding of, life that they can then be allowed to deal with life killing instruments. The problem is that the person doesn't really...hasn't been turned on to his life seed thing, he thinks nothing of taking these instruments of death

into his hands—like the gas engine—and killing life with it. So we have teenage kids with guns and autos, and this doesn't make sense to our DNA code. At the age of 25 or 26 you say. well, you have a choice, you can live above ground or if you would like to go on to the next level if you are at that stage of holiness and you understand the sacredness of life, You can be trusted with the more powerful sacraments of electricity and energy then you go below ground and...our understanding of the nervous system acceleration chemically and electronically such that you can be taught the symbols of electronic physics... You know, our educational systems are so brutally inefficient and so shamefully disregard the crux of the matter. When we teach kids in school, we teach them not to learn. At the age of 20, 24 whenever a person is holy enough to learn these more powerful energies, why then he can learn very quickly. You can teach someone nuclear physics in 3 or 4 months. Then he can live under ground, he can do his yoga... There will be breakthroughs in physics so that telepathy in 10 or 15 years will be commonplace. Physics is going to expand and multiply...

**SOL:** You have mentioned that in keeping with an attunement with the natural stage of our lives there is a point at which a person should cease to attempt to continue to control or affect things. I want to talk about the menopausal mind and when a person is entering old age. Do you feel at this point that people should just sit back and enjoy life or what there is of it left?

**LEARY:** Yes, they should realize that the whole thing is a spiritual journey and the person over 50 who is dying anyway, who's half dead, should concentrate on coming to terms with his own death and getting an overall perspective and gracefully turning it over to the young people.

So we've got to get the older people to turn on, we've got to get big reservations for older people where they can...instead of these senior citizens places where we surround them with machines we've got to get them to do nothing but dance and make love with God. They should radiate humor and mellowness and they don't care about power anymore and you should be able to go to older people as you did in the village tribe and the old man is sitting there barefoot, half-naked with his beard and he's glowing, and he doesn't care. A holy man is someone who doesn't care about the little chess game of power; he doesn't care about the chess game of possessions; he doesn't care about sex, even: he's beyond all these bodily things and they're radiating the joys of all of everything. That's why we've got to get our older people to turn on.

**SOL:** Now I know that it's hard to set arbitrary evaluations but at that stage do you feel a person begins to step into this realm that you say ends at around 50 or

some stage where the menopausal mind or currently, sets in, where does a person first enter life's power zone as it were.

**LEARY:** All this has been spelled out in Oriental philosophy. The west knows all about machines and fails to realize that all the wisdom has come from the east. The Hindus were dealing with these problems that the psychedelic generation is dealing with now 4000 years ago. It's all spelled out in the sacred teachings of the east and they say that there are the four stages of life which you've got to learn to use your senses and your seed power and naturally you're going to enjoy your sensual body, you're going to enjoy making love and have babies and to support your babies; you're going to have duties and then you have to have a little power, enough to protect your territory and to feed and support your group. And when your kids are old enough to take over then you go to the fourth which is the goal, the end-point where you can say. I'm dropping out I don't have to worry anymore. Now I can just... You go to the Holy Cities like Rishikish in India and there are all these old people there that have been businessmen in Bombay and college professors and you'll find some old ex-governor Reagan's in Rishikish.

**SOL:** Do you anticipate then, the evolution of a new type of homogeneous society? H. G. Wells' idea was of a polarized society and that they clashed

**LEARY:** Yes.

**SOL:** Do you anticipate a clash now and later the evolution to a homogeneous society or do you think that the clash will...

**LEARY:** The clash can be avoided by consulting your own energy system and seeing that there is a place for everything—a place for the machine people and a place for the seed, flower people: you just have to arrange your own life so that you can follow a harmonious sequence—being all things. Now we are very much against polarization. There is a danger though, that it will go that way, there is a danger, I call it a danger simply because I'm a humanist, that man will evolve into different species, we must realize that evolution is not through, that man is not a final product, and just as there are many species of primate, there may be just as many species evolving from what we now call man, homo sapiens. It may well be that we'll have two species. One species which is the machine species which will like to live in metal buildings and skyscrapers and who get their kick by just becoming part of a machine. That species of man will become an unnecessary, easily worn out part of the whole technological machinery. In that case, man will become anonymous—just like the ant-hill or the bee hive. Sex will become very

depersonalized, it will become very promiscuous. You won't care who you make love to because they're all just replaceable parts. You know, she's the new pretty blonde girl who runs the teletype machine and you'll ball her and then tomorrow, the secretary who runs the electronic typewriter; so that we may well get a new species who will be technological. But I do know that our species will continue, and what I call the seed people or as Wells calls it, the flower people, will continue. And we may hang out in the new pockets of disease which they haven't got to with their antiseptic. And we'll be somewhere out in the marshes, or somewhere down in the cellar or we'll be somewhere around laughing at the machine and enjoying our senses and having ecstasies and remembering where we came from and teaching our children that, believe it or not, we're not machines and we weren't designed to make machines and we weren't designed to run machines. I think you have to be a very holy man to appreciate and understand and run a machine because the machine is a beautiful yoga and a beautiful ecstasy. I've nothing against machines, it's just incredible that the DNA code could produce us and then produce these machines. It's part of the glory of God's process, but the machine's got to be seen as a sacrament not as a... and they're all going around barefoot and they've got these orange robes, and it's just a big LSD session. Everyone's high and you don't care about the British Empire and taxation, they're beyond that. They're just there to hear the roar of the Ganges reminding them that it's been going on for thousands of years and it's a real hit to go to Rishikish to hear all these older people and they're like ourselves, rebelled, cringe at the thought of Grandma, the American grandma with their hair all curled riding down a concrete freeway in a 3000 lb. metal instrument on their way to the polls to vote and she's going to vote to make war, not to make love. Let's get grandma out of that slot.

**SOL:** The way our society's structured, currently, legally—unfortunately, this is the supra-natural structure which is imposed upon us—legally a person attains to and reaches the age of maturity at the age of 21 and continues in that state until his death.

**LEARY:** Right.

**SOL:** Now, at what point do you believe a person does attain to this realization of himself?

**LEARY:** Here's the DNA code; I scoff at the chess game moves of man; they are all old men that rule. There was never a young teenager that passed a law against sex. Right! Or a poor young teenager that passed laws about guarding

a bank. I follow the laws of nature; and nature tells you when someone should vote. Now when a girl menstruates, nature is saying that she is ready: and when a young man reaches puberty, nature is saying that he is ready. One of the terrible things, of course, about the menopausal society is that the older you get the more brain damaged you are; but in our society the older you get, the more power you get, so we now have this paradoxical, suicidal situation in the United States, all of the wealth being in the hands of the menopausal people who are naturally only concerned with protecting this...and that's why we have a very unhappy, violent country. We are physically violent; there is murder, and there's assassination and there is worry. Look at Johnson's face, he is not a happy man. And look at those old devils in Congress, they're not happy. joyous people. It disturbs me as it disturbs all turned-on prophets—there is so much unnecessary suffering. I think that there should be laws that allow people to vote at puberty and you should certainly take voting away at menopause. No one over the age of 50 should be allowed to vote—Why should they bother? The reason they vote is because they have no trust in the kids; no trust in the seed-bearers. If they really trusted the process they would gladly give up the vote.

**SOL:** I still have a few questions, seems like we keep picking up extra ones as we go along: A few moments ago you used the term “God.” From your perspective: who, what, where, when, and why is God? (general laughter) Because we have concepts of God and so many young, pseudo-or Neo-intellectuals become ‘atheistic’ or non-theistic, or pan-theistic.

**LEARY:** A lot of people think I've sold out because we've started a religion because religion means all the hypocrisy of the congressman, and the conservative school and so forth. I think this is tragic because...

**SOL:** Are you using the ploy of religion to get by the LSD laws?

**LEARY:** No, we had a religion going long before we started our league formally. We were a religious group 5 or 6 years ago when we originally came here. Like it or not, or believe it or not, I'm convinced that the religious kick, which is the experience or the by-process, is the only experience that makes life worthwhile. The moment of revelation when you're turned on to the whole process, which men of old called the guardiate is the whole purpose of life. The greatest real religious leaders were the greatest figures of all. Buddha was the most turned on guy. Buddha wanted to get rid of suffering. All the concepts about virtue, hard work, and being good—that old con game, there is nothing to being good, to do with God or the divine process. It is all ecstasy, it is all freedom and harmony.

Kids should not let the fake, television-prop-religion they were taught as kids, and which is disastrous, turn them off. The real trip is the God trip. Now to get back to the question as to who is God: For thousands of years skeptics have been asking visionaries like me—“all right who is God?” “does he speak Latin?” “Does he speak Greek?” “Does she have a white skin or a black one?” You think I can use a 3,000 word language to define a process which is 5 billion years old on this planet and which is... operates at the speed of light and manifests itself in the ever-changing form and habit? I can teach you how to find God: I can teach you methods; that’s my profession. To talk to God yourself you are going to have to throw away all your definitions and just surrender to this process and then you can come back and try to tune in and develop an art form which will communicate your vision. God does exist and is to me this energy process, the language of God is the DNA code. Beyond that, the language of God is the nucleus of the atom. Above that the language of God is the exquisite, carefully worked out dialogue of the planets and the galaxies, etc. And it does exist and there is an intelligence and there is a plan-fulness, and a wisdom and power that you can tune into and it just knocks on the television stage sets. Men have called this process for the lack of a better word, “God.” I know that when I was at Harvard God was a dirty word: God is “dog” spelled backwards. I don’t care what you call it. It took me 5 years of taking LSD before I would say the word “God” out loud. Because you have to feel right to say it, and I feel very comfortable now in saying that I do talk to God and I listen to him. He is a hipster, he is a musician, and he’s got a great beat going. You’ll never find him in an institution, or in an American television stage set ‘cause that’s one place...and he’s got a great sense of humor too, and he won’t take that seriously!! (HA!). I digressed, and I repeated myself and I don’t pretend to talk in any fashion. I’m not writing a book, or a paragraph, I’m more like a musician and I repeat riffs, and I... You can feel free to edit, cut out, or move it around any way that you want. I hope you will, for I’ve been repeating myself, some of these cliches, cut them out ‘cause I felt free to do it hoping that you would edit and I felt free to repeat myself because I can’t be worried about being tidy, but I hope you will tidy it up.

**SOL:** One last question: It is necessary, you said, to protect property rights, it will be necessary for there to be some basic rules.

**LEARY:** Render unto Caesar everything external.

**SOL:** What is Caesar?

**LEARY:** Society, politics, rules.

**SOL:** How would this be achieved in the projected society which could be achieved, ideally? Would we have to elect 1 out of every 15 persons and have him go and represent those 15; will there be tribal elders?

**LEARY:** Democracy is a failure because it is based upon a political unit which is not organic; the political unit should be the tribe; property should be held by the tribe, by the extended family. Voting should be by the extended family. The idea that one man, when I vote for Johnson or Goldwater HA, HA!! Some choice, right? My mind is going to decide; that's putting too much burden on my mind, it exaggerates my personality. We must return to: —advance to—the tribal unit of society.

