

Elephant in the Meditation Hall

Yes all the spiritual groups scandal the shrine room
What about San Francisco Roshi & the board director's wife
What about high living limousine expense accounts in Moscow?
What about the late Rajneesh & poisoned gefilte fish in Oregon?
What's hiding under Rajneesh's' Orange skullcaps? Brains?
Then old L.A. Mountain Roshi even tap'd his young girls
and East Coast Roshi's semen dribbled from Hawaii to the broom
closets of the Catskills
Maezumi Roshi caused grief his senseis' hearts wrung out with midnight
snake & beer
Later he thanked them for A.A.
Veteran Zenmaster with motorcycle & community farm chorale felt up
little boys
& a big guy too, tough as nails
Remember a strange Mongolian Russian fruitcake Lama in Polk Gulch
Bay Area?
Vajracharya Trungpa! Dont mention the naked poet at the Halloween
Party!
And the whispered transmission regent died of AIDS (disciple a straight
guy sick they say)
Marxists were right, religion the people's opium!
But who're *they* to talk lookit Mao a Marxist his picture on every
Chinese wall & Little Red Book
wherefore everyone stood up bedtime nites reciting his dread slogans?
They still had pictures of Stalin on truckcab windows in Gori 1985 a
scandal!
And New Left carried psychedelic pictures of Mao, Che Guevara &
Castro up and down Empire State's stairways
A scandal of the sixties! And marvelous atheist Khmer Rouge read Marx
Sartre & Erich Fromm,
how many'd they murder with religious good intentions?
What US President hasn't sponsored war, Lumumba's assassination, an
H-bomb,

trillion dollar Savings & Loan mistakes? Scandals! taxpayers gotta subsidize Banks!
Now we gotta digest Plutonium? how evacuate CIA?
Scandal hundreds homeless under Brooklyn Bridge freezing Xmas & New Year's Eve! Millions homeless in America!
Who'll gotta pay for 500,000 U.S. boys & girls visiting Arabian Deserts
Who'll cough up billions for Iraq War to save a President's face?
Twelve Billion dollars mickeymouse the year's drug wars?
El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala we paid death squads for decade
Nobody does anything right! Gods, Popes, Mullahs, Communists
Poets, Financiers!
My own life, scandal! lazy bum! secondhand royal scarlet ties & Yves St Laurent Salvation Army blazers
How many boys let me caress their thighs!
How many girls cursed my cold beard? I better commit suicide!
That wouldn't work either, it'll be a beatnik scandal
after Cassady's railroad track death, Joan Burroughs' bullet in head,
Orlovsky sane in Bellevue 1st Ave., Kerouac's liver collapse & ruptured esophagus!
Trapped in living nightmare, I made a big mistake I got born,
The world came out of a black hole, whole universe
a scandal, illusion, everyone deluded, a cosmic elephant in the meditation planet,
George the IIIrd, Rasputin, Stalin, Warren Harding, Herbert Hoover
Hitler, the 13th Dalai Lama's Regent, Vice President Agnew
Ronald Reagan delayed hostage release till the Elephant party's Inauguration Day
George Bush peddled coke for the contras in streetcorner banks downtown Panama City!
Scandals in Buddhafields? big mistakes in Hemispheres, on moons
Black Holes everywhere!
Anyway, the national debt'll approach 4 trillion any day say the homeless on Tompkins Square.

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by Allen Ginsberg