

Engine Summer

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 27 Apr 2001

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/2605>

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David Lebling — 27 Apr 2001, 09:04

The Angels are "downloading" the Rush recording for purposes of psychotherapy, in fact social psychotherapy. They state this explicitly. The globes have been used to "teach" the angels. (The lesson from Dr. Boots is "forget," and the other lessons are mentioned as well -- I don't have the book handy). There is the strong implication that the purpose is to teach the angels to not be angels (i.e., to stop being people like us, 21st century Americans). The reason for having someone monitor Rush's story is the same as for having the psychotherapist present in a therapy session; to guide it and monitor the patient's well-being.

This is not to say the monitor is necessarily a therapist in our sense of the word, but she (perhaps he, I don't recall) listens to and comments on the story as it is told. I was particularly struck by the passage in which Rush asks if the story is different each time, and the monitor tells him there's more this time about his love for [the girl who joins Dr. Boot's List]. This is clearly because the patient influences the story. (Rush may even be an unreliable narrator.) The monitors are watching the patients, who have received a "letter from Rush-That-Speaks," to see how much it has changed them, how badly it has hurt them, how much it has helped them, and to subtly guide the progress of integrating Rush into the patient. The sessions would naturally be recorded so that future monitors can learn the symptoms of trouble or success.

Of course, the message of the title is that this societal therapy is going to fail.

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