



Alexander Tillegreen, *Assimilate* (in words), 2015/2021

Transcript

From 1967 interview with Syd Barrett by Thomas Lopez. © Thomas Lopez.
Edited by Alexander Tillegreen.

SYD BARRETT:.....just might work out that, get more, sort of, basic freedom. I don't know, it's something to d-, just things like shape of the paper and, er... seem to be a lot of assumptions taken place.

INTERVIEWER: When you were saying criticisms you had, criti-, your own criticisms of your work is that what you (??) outside other people?

SYD BARRETT: Um, criticisms that I, I, I, really, d- yeah...

INTERVIEWER: Of your own criticisms of your own work...

SYD BARRETT: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: ...that were, sort of, put in to you by teachers and so on.

SYD BARRETT: They were what I was channeling into my own criticisms, yah, they were wh-, they were what were governing what I was doing, in to pai-, er, why it was happening.

INTERVIEWER: Do you ever... get... I don't know... frightened by, I use this word because it's, it applies to me by, er, the systems that, I mean this, in a sense, I don't know, could be better worded, this in a sense, you know, is a system, when, when you're, realize that the criticisms that you're using... on... have been put in to you, y'know, sort of, conditioned. But, but when you realize more and more what it is that controls all the systems that, you know, system upon system, sort of, working your way through one in to another and another... Does this really...bother you...or even frighten you? The feeling that you'll never be free, that you'll always be a prisoner? But, maybe you don't have that feeling?

SYD BARRETT:.....Yeah I do!....

INTERVIEWER: Do you think that you can be free if you can realize, I mean, get to a point where you realize...you know, more and more and more systems (??)

SYD BARRETT: Er yeah. I think, er, m-maybe, maybes...

INTERVIEWER: The realization's, sort of, freeing you on and that...



SYD BARRETT: Yeah, well, yes, in slowly in time, ya know, it's-ss, well it happened with this painting, I mean-er, I finished a picture I got through... a lot of things... I wanna, it's quite enjoyable, you know... and the idea is, to, I would like to get hold of that and be able to assimilate the, um, the system as it comes in, rather than... um... ss-you know, see it as it goes out

INTERVIEWER: Do you ever feel when you see people, or do you often feel when you see people that you could tell them something about themselves that they don't already know (??)? Or do you look at people that way?... I feel you do, that you really sort of observe people... Do you?

SYD BARRETT: Nah I think it's something about... um.. wow, really gets... pretty... involved... this stage... I can't... see... yeah there is a, I certainly do get a ss-feeling of what people are like and, er... it really, the really, the, the complication comes out in talking, but this only comes out at certain times because of a feeling that talking is, in fact, a much, a far less, er, valuable thing than, er, and it's almost superfluous, to...wha-... to... to everything else, you know, to sort of, general, as-s, I don't know, sensing people (??) value of people... But the same time, it's a contradiction that the wor-, that words and talking to the people should be difficult in any way. So, one... goes, one is hesitant to say 'No I can't say anything', you know... An- an I know as well this is something that occurs only at times, ya know, other times it doesn't... and it's cool.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah maybe that I think more in terms of words when I, ya know, see someone and have an impression. I mean like, your impression of me... which you must have... um... would you care to tell me? And be like absolutely honest... Do you have one?

SYD BARRETT: In words?