

f l y i n g

I have often thought how practical it would be to be able to fly. After years of serious thought on the subject, I considered a number of options.

I have rejected the idea of owning a small air craft. For one thing, it takes up so much room that I wouldn't be able to keep it in the parking lot of my apartment building or even the back yard of the average city lot. Otherwise, it would be very inconvenient to drive to and from the airport whenever it was needed. Besides, it's too expensive to operate.

If humans could grow wings, that would be another option to consider. But they would certainly be very inconvenient when trying to buy clothes to fit. They would probably be very difficult to care for, not to mention the problems of getting them caught in doors, telephone wires, and perhaps getting singed while working near the stove.

A hang glider might be nice if you always had nice weather and a high place from which to launch it. Levitation, from what information I can gather about it, needs constant concentration to maintain any altitude. Very inconvenient if your mind occasionally tends to wonder to other matters.

The one option which has the fewest

problems and I think the most practical is a flying carpet. according to legends, you merely have to give the carpet the command of where to go and it takes you there. You can carry a number of items with you, depending on the size of your carpet, while the owner relaxes and enjoys the panoramic view of the landscape below. It would be a great way to avoid traffic jams, toll bridges and bumpy roads. When you arrive at your destination, you roll up your vehicle and store it in a bag or briefcase; no parking problems. Of course, you would be riding in the open, exposed to the wind, rain and snow, but you could always take an umbrella and a warm coat on those occasions. Better yet, fly above the bad weather. The magic carpet would be excellent for short trips to work, shopping, etc. I am not positive, but from what limited information there is available, magic carpets are environmentally friendly. No harmful fuel emissions.

After careful consideration, I think that magic carpets would be an excellent solution to a number of economic, social and environmental problems and an excellent way to travel.

Catherine Geddes

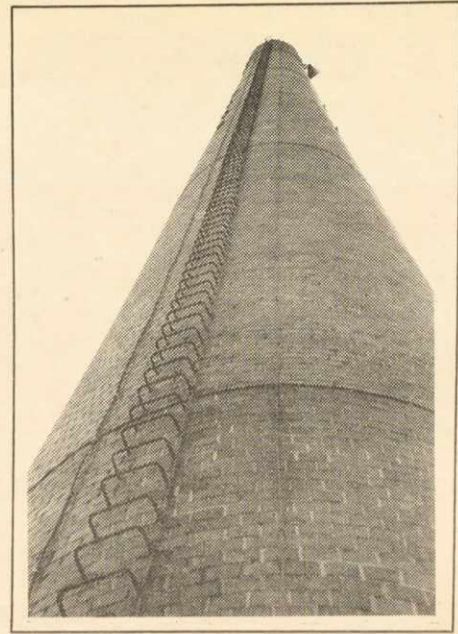


PHOTO: MIKE GRAHAM

A TRIBUTE TO THE PRINCESS OF STATELY BEAUTY

The valley ruptured between the lusty green mountains the evening sun scattering the lazy rays of warmth the sweet cries of the birds filling the vacuum of silence the melodious roar of the oceans giving the background all fervently inviting you, the gracious masterpiece, for a joyride in their own way.

Your instincts oblige
the exuberant feelings burst out
your eyes smile at Nature
the halo around you
illuminating the plains with lovely streaks of light
the feeling is permeated around
thus the birth of a spectacular twilight.

The bracing air caressing your hair
the ramified branches swinging with all the grace
in tune at a swift pace
the birds forming the chorus to play the refrain
the oceans roaring in ecstasy
the sun staging a valiant comeback from the west
the clouds gathering in joy with a lovely mizzle
follows in reciprocation
those delicate swings of your lazy body on the green pastures
to the tune of the golden lute.

There is more to it.
The stars far away
so pessimistic of their alienated distance from you;
Juno, there in disguise, so jealous of your smile
filling her books of imitation like a hog;
people sprinting on their knees
heaping the pearls drop from your smile;
and your Creator, at his art, gasping in wild disbelief;
all involuntarily join the spectator list.

But a silent spectator
nonplused there in the distant woods
head over heels in love
measuring the beauty that is so transparent thru the wild fog
containing, in vain,
his rekindled emotions
praying to God an SOS
"empower me to win her heart
at least in my imaginoscope."

wonder if a day ever breaks without you smiling.

Vijay Amirineni

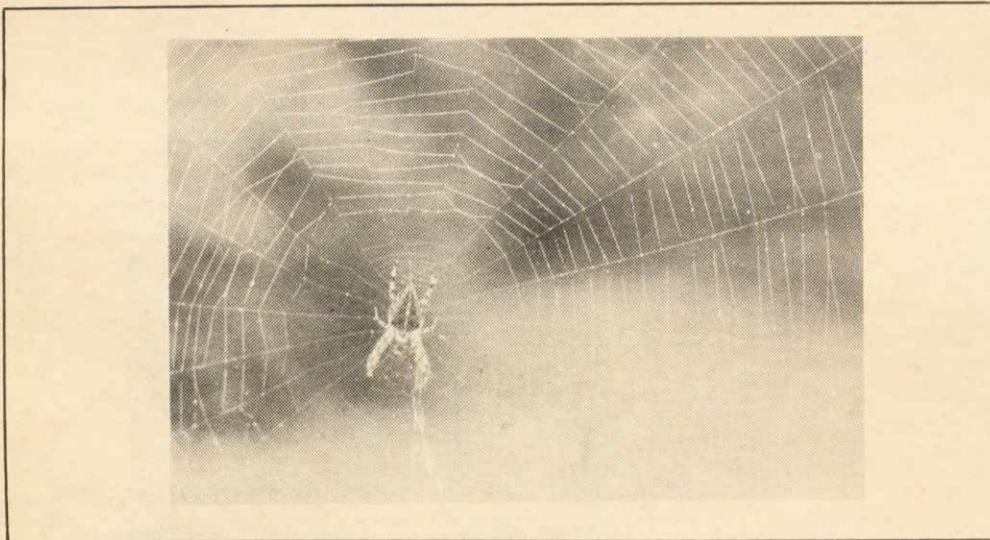
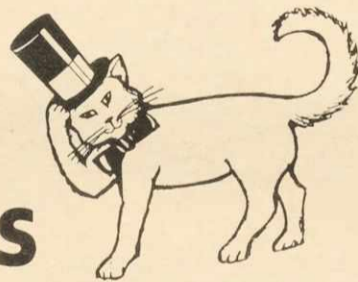


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