

Conspiracy I

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If you read the essay *Limitation*, you may have clicked the link for the *Zeitgeist* film. If so, you saw that it's about conspiracy theories. A dictionary definition of conspiracy is *a secret plan by a group to do something unlawful or harmful*. Throughout our history conspiracy theories have come in and out of fashion. Many different conspiracy theories can be found in books, film, television or general conversation. It might be fair to say that conspiracy theories have become so common we may find it difficult to take any of them seriously. As a result, we may become apathetic to the entire concept. The Work principle of *everything becomes mechanical* proves true. If we hear about conspiracies long enough and often enough we'll take them for granted and lose interest. It's difficult for us to value something common. Valuation requires self-awareness. Is there a conspiracy by an elite group to take over the world and enslave the population of the planet? Or are the conspirators, as the Work suggests, too late?

One afternoon I overheard my neighbor say to his girlfriend, "Don't you care about building our financial empire?" She replied, "No." She was soon replaced. Was this a conspiracy, or simply his machine operating? There are smarter and dumber machines, but there are no self-conscious machines. Asking ourselves, "What does the Work think about _____?" is a valuable practice to develop. Thinking this way has the potential of employing better I's, bringing us under better influences, and bringing us into contact with bigger, more objective ideas.

So let's ask ourselves, "What does the Fourth Way say about conspiracy theories?" Do not look for the words strung together in that order in any work literature. Instead, employ some critical thinking. From the onset, the Work teaches that what is impossible for all men is possible for one man. But what, exactly, is possible for one man?

The answer, if perceived from a certain state of mind, appears elitist. An elitist is a person who believes that a society should be ruled by a small group of people considered to be the best in the society. So, what's the problem with being ruled by the best in society?

One of the problems is the False Personality's insistence on self-rule. We want to rule ourselves, and to a certain degree we do. That degree is far less than we may realize. Can we do what we want? If not, what stops us? Being on a planet governed by forty-eight orders of laws is rarely taken into consideration. Who conspired to get us here? Who conspired to design us so we had to continually acquire food, air, water, rest, shelter, etc.?

One problem we humans have is our tendency to enjoy negative states. It's part of our condition. We're in various stages of what the Work calls sleep. We react unconsciously to the events that stream by us, while imagining we're fully conscious, able to do, and of one mind and will. Because of this, we then imagine that all our problems come from outside of us, that they are external to us rather than internal. If we don't have what we think we should have, there must be a conspiracy to keep us from getting what we want. This is an impossible problem if we're trying to solve it by changing outer events.