

went to a shrink about his writer's block and the shrink asked him how his pecker was and he said it was all right but the shrink's face bothered him: as contented as an apple and then the shrink asked him about his dreams and he answered that they were dull and not worth recounting and the shrink told him that a creative block was sometimes caused by doing the same things over and over again and the shrink went on to say that he must do something gallantly unpredictable

he watched the shrink put out his cigarette into the ashtray, it was a very full ashtray and he picked it up, walked over to the shrink and threw the contents against his shirt, then took both hands and rubbed the ashes all about the shirtfront and the ugly necktie, then finished and sat down as the shrink asked him if he had ever been institutionalized and he told him that he had been many times, but never in a madhouse, then the shrink asked him if he considered the writer's profession a worthwhile one and he said that it certainly was, only that the practitioners made him ashamed to belong to that particular tribe and then the shrink proposed that the writer should indulge in something that would give him a more righteous feeling of freedom

that's when the writer got up and walked out of there without paying the seemingly restrictive and unfair fee and, sure enough, when he got back to his room and sat down the typewriter began working again.

-- Charles Bukowski

San Pedro CA

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