

1 speak privately with Jehu and went with him into  
 2 an inner chamber. There he poured the oil over  
 3 Jehu's head declaring that God had anointed him  
 4 king over Israel, and then rushed out of the  
 5 house (II Kings 9:1-10). Jehu's associates said  
 6 to him, "Wherefore came this mad fellow to thee?"  
 7 The use of the word meshuggah  
 8 in reference to the prophet has been taken by  
 9 some as showing that the prophets engaged in  
 10 orgiastic ecstasy. However, under the circum-  
 11 stances, this would be a very natural way for  
 12 the onlookers to speak of the messenger who  
 13 talked privately to Jehu and then rushed out of  
 14 the house, and does not necessarily throw any  
 15 light on the real nature of the prophets. It is  
 16 quite common for God's spokesmen to be considered  
 17 mad. Even the Apostle Paul was called "mad" on  
 18 occasion (Acts 26:24-25).

19 It is thus evident how very few are the  
 20 references to the prophets that could give the  
 21 slightest suggestion that they engaged in orgi-  
 22 astic activities or fell into trances. When one  
 23 of the most generally reliable of the critical  
 24 writers can make the unfounded statement quoted  
 25 above about the activities of the prophets in

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