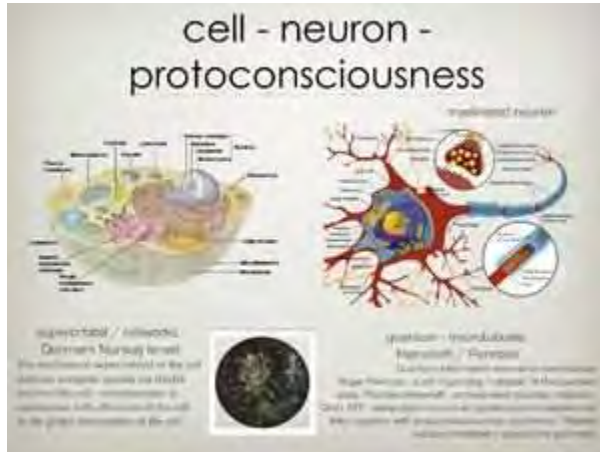


The Psychology of the Creative Self and the Recovery of Virtues

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October 20, 2012



cell-neuron-protoneuron

In attendance were 20 guests including one student of psychology and communication and another studying quantum theories. We had two brothers from the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints and the rest of the participants ranged from teachers to mothers, writers, and so on – all in all a good group. The presentation opened with a little history on the rational age. Karl Jaspers called it the axial age defined by Socrates, Buddha, Christ, and others. This translates to contemporary Spiral Dynamics by Wilber and McIntosh. Diagrams of the basic assumption of psychology i.e. conscious, preconscious, unconscious, and conscience, was presented including some major differences lying between Freud and Jung's interpretation of this. Jung's system which opened Freud's model to the archetypal world was explained. The term transpersonal is used here.

Whilst two traditions are evident at this stage the developmental journey of psychology gradually comes together in very similar conclusions. The journey of psychology moves in three stages; the sublimation to regression phase, the regression to reparation stage and developmental aesthetics. Freud's closed system of the self is soon opened and the ego is re-defined by a positive and creative function through Klein-Segal, and particularly Wilfred Bion. In the second stage the psychologists of stages or third force psychologists leave us in no doubt that the ego is structural and idealistic moving us through positive developmental stages. The Jungians such as Fordham and Hillman add the concept of innate nature and the emergence of identity, defined as innate character and calling. Hillman calls this the souls code. Intrauterine growth including ultrasound studies, chemical-neuron interactions i.e. from Dopamine and Oxytocin – reward, creativity, and relational issues, were discussed as was mirror neurons and Rose's work on how art is received and processed in neuronal networks. His studies in communication gives us not only an understanding of the appreciation of music art etc. but impressions of the actual journey of creativity to those willing to suspend elements of the rational mind. He claims the record of the work journey is also embedded in the art work in a sort of Akashic Record.

We briefly touched upon Winnicott Bowlby and Ehrenzweig which introduces us to patterns found at the deepest psychic layers and object relations, basically a mother 'imago' which opens to protoaesthetics, rhythm, color, shape, temporal sequencing, and meaning, which later form into mature aesthetic issues forms and ethics.

Others in the later stages of psychology included Gilbert Rose Hans Loewald and Heinz Kohut and George Hagman. Work in this area becomes described as a relational field as opposed to individual psychology. In terms of aesthetics and the child's experiences with the mother these templates as mentioned become a formula for beauty. The father gives rise to awe, vastness, wonderment, and this evolves into artworks of a sublime nature. Beauty and the sublime are traditional categories in European art.

The final part of the presentation covered advanced work including clinical infant studies consciousness studies including areas of anesthesiology and the link found from the neuron to quantum fields and what is known simply as field consciousness – perhaps focusing on the function of the photon. The collapse as its called of the wave in the wave-particle duality inheres to microtubules within the neuron. This is called variously protoconsciousness or protoimage – basically the archetype which is a more commonly understood term. Much of this work has been undertaken by anesthetists, philosophers, biologists, and the science of networks. In simple terms it is the mind-nature link (like Kant or Bateson) and can be described as a deep ecology.

I ran over time by 15 minutes but no one seemed bothered because the interest level remained high and there were questions and answers which ran for another hour or more. Most seemed pleased with the presentation and there was considerable excitement in the air perhaps concentrated around the neuron-quantum link which opened up many new horizons. Myelination processes in neuropsychology and lifelong plasticity in this area allow for psychological change at any time in life- this intrigued many. Many thanks to Ida for her unwavering support and the chocolate chip cookies at the break. After all what's psychology without a few chocolate chip cookies? – psychotherapy in a wonderfully digestible form.