

Undiagnosed Medical Causation—Psychosomatic Etiology

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Conscious existence is the product of a neural brain mechanism, which is largely identical with Immanuel Kant's Oneness Function, a service performed by 200 million neurons in the prefrontal lobe, & makes possible our interior cosmos, the record of our interconnected, or general, experience. Essential for us humans is the well-being of our interior cosmos, or Saint Teresa of Avila's interior castle, in all interactions with each other & the greater environment. Any disorders of our cosmos are liable to make us fall ill, setting our existence on a path of psychosomatic etiology of a large class of mysterious undiagnosed diseases.

Keywords: Kant's inner & outer senses, orderly inner self & chaotic outer environment, brain laterality, interior cosmos, metaphysical gap

Dedication

Saint Paul's address to the Areopagos, Acts 17:28, King James Version: For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said. For we are also his offspring.

To the pioneers HOBBS, LEIBNIZ, KANT, BERGSON and many others, who have promoted the scientific view point in philosophy and have seen glimpses of the cosmos, this side of the metaphysical gap that separates man from his environment.

These philosophical theories are included in the cosmos, Plato's Forms his Cave & his Divided Line, Hobbes' Calculations, Hume's Utility, Leibniz' Monad, Kant's Oneness Function & Synthetic Unity, Hegel's Geist, Brentano's Intentionality, Bergson's Mental Self-Record, Husserl's Phenomenon, Heidegger's World, & Rorty's Community.

Life depends on language for overcoming the metaphysical gap that separates an individual animal from its environment. From the beginnings, the genome, the animal's blueprint, its embryonic logos, is stored in each cell as a linguistic record coded in the DNA alphabet.

Psychosomatic Illness Causation

The minds of MDs, medically trained physicians, are no different from those of other people. Plato gave to humanity in his famous Cave Allegory the enduring formula for how we get to know things, the basic process by which we filter the data that enter into our biological system across the metaphysical gap existing between the shadows we see on the wall before our eyes and the images carried behind our backs from which the shadows are cast by the light of an unknowable fire burning somewhere in the cave's recesses (Plato, 375 BC).

It is a questionable and indeed fragile way to know the world, but fortunately, our cerebral cortex has some 40 billion neurons interconnected by a synaptic network that we can & do alter on a daily basis

confronted by the organizing task we must solve if we wish to survive in this beautiful world of divine origins. The cognitive learning chores pile up on our mental desktops, leaving it up to that network to knit together a Quinean Web of Belief (Quine & Ullian, 1978), hopefully well-organized, simplified, prettified, garnished beyond belief with cosmetics of our own creation out of the ugly chaotic swamp in which we find ourselves at least half the time of our lives. In line with Immanuel Kant's theory of two senses (Kant, 1781 A, 1787 B), our bilateral brain (Frisk & Milner, 1990; Smith & Milner, 1989), has a left hemisphere for Kantian noumena and a right hemisphere for his phenomena (Burchard, 2019; 2020). We re-make the external mess into a lovely, if virtual, bilateral cosmos, a man-made fantasy of an orderly neat interior world model, let's be honest (Brook, 2006; Burchard, 2005, 2011,..., 2020; Kant, 1790).

Half of all our troubles go into the interior cosmos, half are our own doing. We must hold our identity, ourselves, together, by means of Kant's Oneness Function. People need to keep their interior cosmos—called the interior castle by Saint Teresa of Avila (1577)—in good order or they will fall ill. Criminals are known to atrophy their brains' frontal lobes, saying to themselves: "I know it is wrong but I do it anyway." The 200 million neurons of the prefrontal lobe then kill those neurons that tell the crook about right & wrong, seeing they are not needed.

Our doctors, on whom we depend so frequently from beginning to end of our brief & often broken existences, our physicians have had to search among the heterogeneous influences on our frail bodies for the main root causes of the diseases that we bring to them, being well aware of Plato's metaphysical gap. A confusing tangle of causes and causatory pathways needs to be pried apart to see what is the nature of the disease. An excellent article in Wikipedia describes the multifarious ways in which a person can get to be sick.

But somehow, a prevalence of psychosomatic causation of many diseases requires to look into the metaphysical gap so deeply that it may have made MDs uncomfortable and the whole idea is currently being dismissed in favor of behavioral-social disorders (Rorty, 1979). Still, even nowadays, an acknowledged psychosomatic influence is stress as in peptic ulcers, but for cancer although there is a debate, the evidence is considered weak. Contrariwise, we find examples for leukemia in cases, that could be adduced, to be caused by stress, a generic term which includes many different forms of psychic loads so heavy that the point is reached of breaking a person's ability to go on living.

Both Pope John Paul II & the Nazi dictator Adolf Hitler suffered physical injuries from failed assassination attempts & both subsequently developed Parkinson's disease. In the case to JP II, during papal mass in St. Peter's cathedral, the pope's fearful gaze toward the camera became painfully apparent. Vatican governance acted irresponsibly by permitting the pope's return to his official duties without imposing a lengthy period of recovery in his chambers and in the Vatican gardens. There were several earlier popes who could not serve for periods of time and were kept out of public view. Such constant fear as JP II seems to have been subject to is an extreme form of stress that can damage the central and peripheral nervous systems, with noxious signals sent from the psyche to the soma ultimately leading to Parkinson's.

In the case of leukemia, brain-bone marrow connections were discovered by University of Florida scientists, that provide direct sympathetic neuronal input to the bone marrow (Santisteban et al., 2013). Some children lose all hope for a normal childhood & contract leukemia when their frantic parents find themselves in a career make or break struggle.

Autoimmune diseases are another class of illnesses where psychosomatic etiology seems indicated. Flannery O'Connor is a distinguished example of this connection. Her nightmarish tales, considered the very

best of short stories, are simply her experiencing her own nightmarish life, put out into the open in metaphorical form. She experienced her existence as a horror story and in so doing, not finding a salvific way out, her frail body got the message and we lost her at much too young an age.

Similarly in senile dementia, but here not somatic, but psychopsychotic (a neologism), a brain destroys itself when the whole life of the person amounted to a great frustration & disappointment, as demonstrated in identical twin cases. A 2nd cousin suffered this way, being a highly creative architect, but never elevated into upper management of a large architecture firm & consequently he never saw his own ideas realized in any actual structures. His daughter published a book describing his demise (Tietjen, 2015).

Recent medical research appears to have revealed biochemistry details that offer hope for a cure, although perhaps unofficially (Taylor, Swerdlow, & Sullivan, 2019). Neurons discard or deactivate the insulin receptors in their cell walls if inactive during a hopeless life in an unsuccessful career. Without insulin binding to the neuron, glucose metabolism needed for the cell's energy supply shuts down. However, energy to such neurons may be resupplied through an alternate so-called ketogenic metabolic pathway by ingestion of medium chain triglycerides (MCT), naturally occurring in plant & animal fats, e.g., coconut oil, & available in supermarkets. A few teaspoons a day can be mixed into food or coffee for a ketogenic diet, widely recommended for anybody over 65. While the diet keeps alive failing neurons, the basic underlying issue of a ruined lifetime career remains unresolved. Corresponding to the alternate MCT energy supply, to achieve an actual cure, dementia victims also must seek an alternate life plan, perhaps take up painting or experience a religious conversion.

Summary and Conclusions

According to Plato's Cave Allegory, we can access phenomena in our world only indirectly. However, by means of our brain, its powerful cerebral cortex, we are able to synthesize and compose a simplified orderly model of the universe, an interior cosmos. Our performance in life depends on a well-maintained cosmos. Signals from the brain are sent to the every organ, the entire somatic part of our existence, reflecting aspects of our perception of reality, by virtue of the interior cosmos. Any malformation of the cosmos is liable to have a deleterious influence on organs, we fall ill. Our upbringing, education and social environment are prime sources of the quality of our interior cosmos. Good care by parents as well as teachers & excellence of the environment are required for a young person to enter into an adult world with a viable cosmos.

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