

COSMOPOLIS MAY 30, 2018 MEETING WHITE BOARD NOTES

Progress/Decline Markers, continued

Daniel Amen, *TEDxOrangeCoast*, 14:36

THE MOST IMPORTANT LESSON FROM 83,000 BRAIN SCANS

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=esPRsT-lmw8&t=0s&list=PLo1Jq23H_s5XVx-AseMKYJA4aH3cOI07si&index=42

The most important lesson? That many personality disorders may have their origin in a brain that has been damaged. But traditionally psychologists rely on behavior modification or counseling to correct such problems.

LESSONS

- 1. How do you know if the diagnostic tools you are using are reliable?** This is especially so when dealing with socio-political progress/decline, for an evaluation of a unique time-and-space situation may indicate a problem but then the cause of that problem has to be worked out. Inadequate tools lead to inadequate solutions; misleading or misdirected solutions may at best leave the “patient” still in the throws of what ails them or at worse rapidly accelerate their decline.
- 2. Human start their lives as animals** whose unconscious brain (psyche) generates a world that at the conscious level is perceived at the cognitive level of experiencing. The full activation of the conscious minds leads to the transcendental realm of meaning, where the control mediator shifts from the physical world to the spiritual. Any defect at the physical level of the brain has an impact on the psyche that in turn affects conscious behavior. The conscious decision concerning the existence of god shifts the individual into the transcendental realm, or in other words the conscious mind conditions the emergence of the transcendental in human affairs.

RCB

Universities in the United States and Canada are becoming places where dissent is not tolerated, often by law. There is a particular damaging conjunction developing in the states, where social justice warriors are linked to victim groups so that even simple statements of truth are re-imagined as hate crimes and prosecuted as such.

NOTES

- 1. Common sense bias leads to a common culture based on the lowest common denominator.** Public discourse, indeed any meaningful dialogue, can only be based on the lowest world mediated by meaning, otherwise any attempt to communicate runs into a wall of incomprehension and misunderstandings. Public discourse becomes corrupted, resulting in a dumbing down of society that can be observed in the current news cycles across the world.
Common sense is a specialized form of intelligence in the same way that the empirical sciences or mathematics are a specialized forms. Intelligent people of common sense carry the work of the world on their shoulders; unfortunately they are prone to thinking themselves as omnipotent needing neither scientific, philosophic, or theological long-term theories to act as a guide. Since each plan or policy needs justification, and all such justifications are based on local short-term considerations, the long term result is an ever diminished socio-political reality plagued with fragmented worlds mediated by meaning, isolation, and increasing conflicting interactions dominated by confusion. This can be observed in the elevated levels of political correctness, social justice warriors, campus snowflakes, and the violent antifasta movement.
What is the lowest common denominator? Animal wellbeing, i.e., wealth as the terminal value behind public policy-making and planning. Long gone from the discussion is any reference to the Divine Mystery, to ethical standards now lost in a multi-cultural world (interesting to note the number of attempts to locate higher values such as charity in the genes), and the shift to an evermore “secular”

Jordan Peterson & Jonathan Haidt, *Dose of Truth*, 8:26

HOW BAD ARE THE UNIVERSITIES BECOMING

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VYWcN-Ibj8Y&t=0s&list=PLo1Jq23H_s5XVx-AseMKYJA4aH3cOI07si&index=43

world where religion has gone underground to erupt in a spasm of Utopian proposals.

Such a dumbing down leads to two striking features of modern public discourse: the use of words as possessing power in themselves (magic incantations, e.g., racist, fascist), and feelings as *the* guide to moral action (value signaling, feels right without actually testing the hypothesis).

- 2. Orientation comes first, followed by an evaluation of the situation and a diagnosis of the cause of the dysfunctional symptoms, concluding with estimates of what can and can't be done.** The symptoms of long-term decline have been touched upon in the first note. A diagnosis based on Lonergan transcendental method indicates the root cause to such a dumbing down of public discourse as due to ongoing long-term decline powered by the continuing expedient action of many people of common sense. The remedial action proposed by Lonergan is his notion of a cosmopolis. We are engaged in actualizing his proposal, not because we are experts in the matter but simply because someone needs to do it. “If not us, who? If not now, when?” (Hillel the Elder). Success may be next to impossible, but who can tell should the Divine Mystery be behind the endeavor?

Getting Fired (or Lynched)

- ▶ Climate change advocates have no scientific base; they represent a pure drive for power over the fundamental energy flows that define a society.
- ▶ Islam is the default position of a purely animal form of existence after having been run through the conscious mind.
- ▶ A.I.'s are the creation of truncated selves whose empirical mentality has purged their thinking of all transcendental realities; the result of their efforts is bound to be a Frankenstein monster devoid of any love or charity.
- ▶ There is a fundamental dialectic going forth in any society between the life-affirming generative principles of the Divine Mystery and the life-denying generative principles of “Satan.”
- ▶ XX and XY are the two fundamental subspecies of homo sapiens and no social initiative is going to change that biological fact.
- ▶ Social Justice Warriors and their ilk have all the maturity of children whose world they “see” out there as real is a function of their own failure to grow into adulthood and take responsibility for family, etc..
- ▶ We don't really know with any degree of reliability what is happening at this period of human history; working that out will be the task of future historians.
- ▶ Human beings are not necessarily born good.