

Did you hear it?

8th June 2019

The sound of motivation struck by opportunity; it sounded like a thud, not a crash. Here's the wreckage, pick through it at your pleasure.

Q: Esteemed Committee, I recently heard an analysis of the increase in mass shootings in the USA. The explanations lined up with what you told us; such things occur because of disconnection. The mass killer is not part of a group, he has no club, tribe or pack. Like with almost all criminal violence, he is male. Why don't females become alienated then violent?

C: Not physically violent, no. It's done with emotions.

Q: Still better than physical injury or worse.

C: When you become yourselves again and no bodies cloud the process, you will again realize there is almost no difference; but love will reign powerful. Flames of thought will be doused with buckets of love water.

Q: I've gotten to the point I can hardly stand hearing the news; just the other day I saw a headline where the Speaker of the House of Representatives said the President of the USA should be in prison. Unfortunately this stuff gets mixed in with local highway closures, what day this week Houston is gonna flood again and so forth. I know hiding from news is bad but it sure looks good from here. What do you recommend?

C: Write another book.

Q: About alien extraterrestrials?

C: Yes, then fiction.

Q: I already started it, so that means finish it. OK, switching tracks, is fear of a general break-up of the union a prime motivation behind EU "gubmint" forces delaying the departure of the United Kingdom?

C: Yes but also tax monies from Great Britain. That is a more immediate priority; no business wants to see its cash receipts shrink.

Q: Governments, "gubmint" as I love to write (and say!) are a business? Well, of course they are. Anything which requires users & customers to pay cash is a busy mess, I mean a business. Which country or countries might be next?

C: As we said before, France is a prime candidate. You incorrectly forecast Marine LePen as the next leader, but you were seeing a future event farther ahead along the human timeline, nothing else. Her star has risen again and the possibility looms she might replace Mr. Macron. This will turn strongly on the next British Prime Minister and how policies develop with Britain, France and Germany.

Q: S/he is?

C: Boris Johnson at this juncture.

Q: You know people want predictions, to win bets. What junctures could there be?

C: Human free will must be suspended to provide the certainty. The prize of bet money comes at cost not worth the payout. We will say, you might notice the recent visit of the USA's president; he was carefully quiet with his impressions and preferences and said he did not to ruin anybody's career. He is

aware the British press has waged a war against him and widespread negative sentiment exists. He does not want to motivate these trends against his preference.

Q: Why would President Trump have a preference?

C: Trade deals and military support.

Q: Who is his preferred candidate?

C: Boris Johnson.

Q: Closer to home, we've had wild and wacky weather, and a tornado outbreak across the central USA. The Shift?

C: Yes.

Q: We're doing better with the earthquakes since we cut way back with the nuclear detonations and we've avoided the Middle East's anti-Christ.

C: That was Saddam Hussein.

Q: Is the reason the USA invaded Iraq to prevent that risk?

C: Yes, Saddam Hussein's earlier invasion of Kuwait and attempt to control Saudi Arabia were an ongoing risk that Saddam would eventually expand to Europe after dominating the Middle East, using Turkey as the platform.

Q: Are electric cars going to become as popular as gasoline and diesel fuel models?

C: Not until greater battery capacity, through new metallurgy, arrives. By that time, there will be much less demand for personal transportation as motor vehicles currently provide, so the quantity of electric cars will never equal the numbers of oil fueled engines.

Q: The push for both self-driving and electric cars in the USA, plus the declining numbers of younger folks who do not obtain driving permits or licenses, are a reflection of this upcoming development?

C: Personal transportation appliances are being seen as more that way - appliances. Just as few people wish to stand before a washing machine to operate the device, the younger folks are also given to this preference for cars. The simultaneous change is a shift to a more digital, electronic world. Newspapers and books are shrinking and will eventually disappear from use.

Q: I struggle personally with this, because the electronic trend makes me feel as if I am handed a stack of papers with a black cloth hood for my head. I have to wear and align it so a rectangular opening must be in front of my face; I have to touch the frame of this opening to the sheet of paper I wish to read. I am only allowed to view a half or quarter page of 8½ x 11 inch or A4 sized paper. If I were to pull the rectangular opening back and away from the paper, the view goes blank; I am not permitted to view two sheets simultaneously in order to shift my gaze back and forth; quick comparisons are not possible. I have noted how the younger generation is quite relaxed with this significant limitation and do not see it as a restriction. I wonder how this affects brain function, information processing and critical thought.

C: Different perceptions and resulting patterns develop with regular use of such devices, because of what you describe. Very little ability develops to engage in rapid nuanced thought; focus is placed for a longer time upon the object of attention. This is reflected in the increase in both motor vehicle crashes and pedestrian mishaps; the person who wishes to use a telephone to type a message then send it while driving, has a much lower ability to type two letters, look up at the roadway, return her or his gaze to the device, type two letters and return her or his gaze to the roadway. S/he must look directly at the phone for

a prolonged period to compose the message, and ignores surroundings while doing so. Because this person has learned to shut off one set of inputs to favor another entirely, from a very early age, s/he cannot toggle easily or at all between two equally but separate attention grabbing things. When told to avoid walking across streets or operating vehicles while drawing one's gaze away from hazards, such person learns to feel deprived, unjustly constrained, mistreated or even punished.

Q: In what other ways does this mono-attention focus manifest?

C: Because attention is given almost one hundred percent to one input, competing inputs are easily ignored. This is seen in emotional based attention, where emotions trigger focus.

An example is aversion to hunting animals; many people see killing animals as bad, cruel, evil and to be both avoided and punished. A form of murder. Wild hogs which destroy crops, threatening human ability to eat, can certainly be allowed to live. There is no celestial requirement to exterminate them. In a short period, the scavengers will cause their own deaths by consumption of all available food long before the food either re-grows by itself or is re-planted by humans. Ecological balance returns after invasive scavengers die off, however humans will likely suffer the same fate. Such animals will consume nearly all the food humans have attempted to cultivate and harvest for themselves.

The mono-focused human mind, trained from a young age to look through but one rectangular field of view at a time, struggles with the other sheet of paper which presents a counterargument. The other side of the coin, when flipped and briefly viewed, does not change what the first side of the coin shows, the horror to the wild boar of being shot. Because the mono-focus mind learned at a young age that violence, guns and death are bad, s/he focuses almost exclusively on the obvious immediate attention grabber, and cannot easily see the longer term benefit of being able to eat and not die her/himself. That aspect does not grab any attention; the rectangular frame and hood are barely turned onto the other sheet of paper.

Q: Does this affect public policy views?

C: Completely; you have noted the bitter dislike of President Trump. Many people have never, throughout their lives, seen or heard anybody in a leadership position, such as coach, teacher, babysitter, parent or neighbor, who displays the traits and statements typical of the USA's president. Along with this, they are handed an overwhelming volume of criticism, much of it lined up with their inexperience and naïveté combined with dislike of what they see. These two added together dominate the focus, and drown out countering viewpoints. To examine the alternatives requires, as it's perceived, a shutting off, to discard and essentially throw away primary issues which galvanized initial attention.

This is not true; one side of a coin cannot be thrown away. Nevertheless, to the mono-focus mind, it feels and seems this way. Suggestion of a countering point-of-view automatically and intrinsically triggers a sensation of misalignment; therefore the sensation is resisted, often rejected. The person experiencing this feels as if he is being told to throw away a gift selected for someone else, before the gift is even given.

Q: This sounds like an explanation for the ongoing cries of social, political division which are deemed bad. Many people openly lament the lack of a leader who will "bring us together."

C: Frustration with the shifting sands of reality is a strong motivator to seek a solid foundation, no matter what the solidity represents. We will say, we have observed many a civilization across just your galaxy and do say with certainty, none of you wish to live in a society where a leader has brought the people together. This condition runs counter to human nature, because humans design life plans of variety, competing ideas, struggle, disagreement and development.

You have had these in human societies many a time; we point to Pol Pot, Josef Stalin and Adolph Hitler as examples.

The mono-focused mind is especially given to this, because black & white impressions easily slot into the developed mental structure.

Q: Okay, so the solution to humanity's mono-focus away from nuance and critical analysis, is get rid of small screen devices and return to reams of paper.

C: This statement assumes a mono-focus needs to be changed; why is this assumed?

Q: I'm assuming my preference is better, for nearly everyone!

C: Which as you know better than nearly all humans, is not true.

Q: Let's explore that; what will happen to human civilization if we continue to develop a brain process which is mono-focused; only a proverbial half-sheet-of paper can be seen and contemplated at any one moment.

C: Curiously, this will enhance teamwork, as the need for distinct functions, a requirement for any complex process, can only be achieved with multiple simultaneous focused functions. Enhanced teamwork leads to homogenization of process, and many humans will reject this when the pressure to conform infringes upon personal preference. The mono-focus mind enhances personal preference and inflates the sensation of infringement when homogenization approaches, thus threatens it.

Q: Hasn't humanity always had something like this going on?

C: Of course, and most of what is labeled the third world, reflects it. The mental process is made very strongly mono-focus. This results in nearly constant upheaval and strife, and a small controlling segment of any such civilization benefits from it. The United States, Europe and other industrially developed nations and territories are all now trending towards mono-focus.

In the USA, this is used to gain political control; leaders use their agents to start the discussion of bad slavery. Does this topic even require being mentioned? The purpose of the discussion is to prepare the listeners for soon-to-come denunciations of historical leaders who owned slaves, with calls for removal of statues, changes of names and other modifications. The less mono-focused mind has learned to flip over the sheet of paper to see what such former slave owners achieved. The mono-focus mentality says slavery was an unforgivable sin, which is true; this hardly requires a re-statement. It is almost like saying rain causes wet streets.

The leader saying these things does not care about addressing the historical wrong long since remedied; such person wishes for control, to perpetuate her or his position and has discovered a way to cultivate support in the mono-focused trained minds ever more prevalent today.

Q: Long before "smart phones" and portable mini-computers such as iPads, this trend was developing. What is or was the source?

C: Generally parental benevolence run amok. The idea negative things can be lessened or removed from the lives of children.

Q: How long will this trend continue?

C: Until it is no longer possible; which looms as you read these words.

Q: Looms in which ways? Can you provide an example?

C: The notion any career worth pursuit must require a university education, the flip side of this being careers which do not require such educational credential are a consolation, shortfall or a lesser achievement. The practical result has been an explosion of students attending university; this does not create a corresponding increase in demand for complex products and services, leaving many such former students frustrated with their efforts and degrees. The higher demand has operated like any product or service, to increase prices; the cost of a university education has risen dramatically, loans have erupted in volume and amount and many more students are choosing courses of study relatively or outright unattractive to would-be employers. This is because not every student can meet the academic rigor required for certain subjects, yet believes a university education is a requirement for success.

The peak and decline of this trend fast approaches.

Q: Esteemed Committee, I've droned on for more than 4 pages here; I should get cracking on finishing that book I was told to complete.

C: Be well one and all, until the collision again occurs.