

Language of the Universe...Maybe

Chapter 3. Blood out of a stone.

Before putting my hypothesis to the test, I wanted to be sure in my own mind that it was more or less valid.

I remembered the old saying -- "You can't get blood out of a stone". This saying is taken from a fairy story where a little prince challenged a giant to a contest of strength. The one who could squeeze blood out of a stone would be the winner. On the night before the contest, the little prince collected some blood oranges (a type of orange whose juice is red in colour), and rolled them in the dust so that they looked like stones.

The next day, when the contest started, the giant picked up a large stone - and squeezed, and squeezed, and squeezed; but no blood came out. The little prince then picked up one of the dusty oranges -- and squeezed out the blood red juice. Thus the giant was defeated and the prince went on to greater things.

The reason I remembered the saying -- and the story, was that I considered that no personality types could exist today, unless they had existed in our ancestors. Thus you can't get blood out of a stone -- "unless there is blood already in the stone". Equally, there could not be response seekers today unless they existed in our historical past. History was easy to check -- thanks to the work done by our historians and archaeologists. If the six personality types existed in the past, then the Hypothesis would be on a much sounder footing.

Before starting to check through my history books, I decided to make a number of predictions by defining the personality types and considering the effect they should have historically. If the predictions proved to be correct, the hypothesis would be immensely strengthened.

The base types in any society would be the IRS's and PRS's. If the others were to emerge, there would have to be conditions existing within the society which would allow the elder children to feel rejected.

From 1968 to 1972, I had lived in Australia. I spent two years at a place called Groote Eylandt, in the Northern Territories. I had been able to observe a tribe of aborigines living on the island and had talked to some of them about the way their society was organised.

Under tribal law, everything is communally owned, except wives and some personal property like spears etc. The children are looked after by their mothers and the older women in a communal way. Everything is communal. The hunting, the gathering of food, the cooking and mating, washing and dancing, -- all is done communally.

In these communal societies, the children grow up among many adults, and since children are precious to the survival of the tribe, they are not allowed to be rejected or to feel rejected.

Language of the Universe...Maybe

Because of this communal system of child rearing, I would predict that these societies would produce public response seekers. No knowledge seekers would ever develop. Such communal tribes would never improve their methods of survival by their own inventions. They could only learn by responding with other tribes.

The lack of home-grown knowledge seekers would mean that technical and social advances would depend upon contact being established with other more advanced tribes. If no such contact was made, there would be no technical or social advance.

This prediction flew in the face of modern historical theories which said that technical and social advances depended upon the availability of surplus food due to a favourable climate and soil. Nevertheless, upon checking with anthropological studies and historical records, I found that the prediction was fulfilled completely. All communal societies, regardless of climate, good soil and surplus food, stayed in the stone-age unless they had regular contact with people of more advanced cultures.

In order for knowledge seekers or cure seekers to develop, the elder children must be allowed to feel rejected. This can only happen if the children are left alone. These conditions would only be met if the children of the tribe were separated from each other, and from adults also. Such conditions do not exist in communal societies. The conditions are only found in individualistic societies, where there is private property, and where homes and gardens are separated from each other.

So the next prediction was that knowledge seekers, leading to technical and social advances on the one hand; and cure seekers leading to mass murder and criminality on the other hand, would only be found in individualistic societies. In such societies, there would be private property and individualistic enterprise resulting from private ownership.

Because of the individualistic enterprise nature of the society, the market place would be found in the centre of the community. This would contrast with communal societies, where any market place would be found between two tribes but not within the community.

I then checked through the historical records of sixteen ancient civilisations, including those of Egypt, China, Rome, Athens, the Incas and the Mayans. All had private property when they started. All had centrally placed markets in their settlements. All made technical and social advances, often completely independently. All had their fair share of mass murderers and psychopaths.

It was also noticeable that while the system of private property and individualistic enterprise remained in existence, the communities made continuous technical and social advances. If the private property system was abolished and a return made to communal enterprise, the advances came to a halt and the civilisation disintegrated.

Language of the Universe...Maybe

Thus my second prediction was confirmed sixteen times over. Knowledge seekers and cure seekers do emerge within individualistic societies, and they disappear if the societies return to a communal system. This is well illustrated in the cases of China, Egypt and Rome.

Up to the time of the Chou Dynasty in Ancient China, the Chinese civilisation made continuous technical and social advances. The Chou Dynasty converted the private farmers into serfs, and from that time onwards China was governed on a feudal system. The farmers no longer worked for themselves and they lived in communal villages rather than their own private small holdings and farms. After the Dynasty had been established, civilisation and its attendant technical and social advances came to a halt.

The Egyptians were also private farmers until one of their Pharaoh's converted them into slaves. The slaves were organised into communal societies and the 'civilisation' stopped. The historical record of this conversion is in the Holy Bible (Genesis 47, Paras. 13-22).

The Roman civilisation stopped in a similar way. The private holdings of the farmer citizens were converted into large estates and their previous owners were either killed or turned into slaves. Only the outward expansion of the Roman Empire, and the establishment of private farms by its soldiers, kept the civilisation going. Almost invariably good soldiers, administrators and emperors came from the outlying parts of the empire rather than the centre. When the private system collapsed, the 'civilisation' collapsed also.

As I have already indicated, the communal system produces mainly public response seekers. These are essentially public performers of one kind or another. They all like large audiences to perform to and respond with. Their occupations depend upon their confidence and ability, and the two are often inter linked. Public response seekers can be classified according to their prominence in front of an audience.

In the front rank are the actors, entertainers, dancers, orators, lecturers, priests and soldiers etc., that actually appear in public to do their 'act'.

In the second rank are those whose work is publicly seen and applauded, but who do not themselves emerge on the 'stage'. They include playwrights, authors, journalists, photographers, artists, craftsmen, architects, builders, farmers and manufacturers etc.

The individual response seekers are mainly gossips etc., who need a one to one situation and a certain amount of privacy. They may include secretaries, salesmen and shopkeepers.

The knowledge seekers would like an audience, either of individuals in the case of IKS 's or the public in the case of PKS 's. However, they get their security from learning about things, and by continually trying to improve themselves and their environment. The individual knowledge seekers may become good teachers or nurses etc. The public knowledge seekers will prefer to research into improvements in the environment -- which can be publicly acclaimed. They will probably aim for Nobel Prizes etc., and can be expected to publish their work.

Language of the Universe...Maybe

The cure seekers aim to correct the deficiency of the individual or public audience which has not responded as the cure seeker thinks it should have done. All sorts of curative measures will be tried to ensure a consistent audience reaction. Experienced cure seekers can be expected to go for simple remedies which produce a predictable audience reaction. They are usually classified as 'mad' or 'deviant'.

I would have expected people with a background like that of Adolph Hitler or Joseph Stalin to be public cure seekers. Both grew up initially with two adoring parents and as such they would have been public response seekers as young children. Then the fathers of both started to react badly. So their mothers would continue to praise and applaud them while their fathers did the opposite. Naturally, since one half of the audience was still applauding, the children could conclude that their 'acts' were okay. Therefore they would blame the 'bad' half of their audience, and become public cure seekers aiming to correct the 'deficiency' of their audiences. (Their fathers have a lot to answer for). I expect Crippen and Haigh were individual cure seekers.

I made further predictions on the basis of population growth or reduction. In an individualistic society, a low birth rate, or a high infant mortality rate would tend to produce mainly PBS 'a or IRS's This is because 'only' children or the youngest child are invariably of this type. A high birth rate, or low Infant mortality rate would tend to produce more knowledge seekers and cure seekers. This is because there would be more elder children.

Thus a rapid increase in population would tend to produce knowledge seekers etc., providing the society was an individualistic one. This prediction has also been confirmed historically. Such population increases are followed by periods of technical and social advances, and wars also.

So now I had made two predictions, based on my hypothesis, one concerning the relationship between technical and social advances, and individualistic societies; and one concerning the effects of a rapid population increase in such societies. Both predictions had been completely fulfilled.

Despite this, I still wasn't completely satisfied. I wanted to be on a really firm theoretical base. After all, the hypothesis suggested some substantial implications for our own society, and if I published the hypothesis at any stage, there might be unforeseen repercussions. I recalled the 'blood out of a stone' saying and thought of the need for an ancestral base. This pointed back to our pre-tribal ancestors which were supposed to be apes of some kind. Did apes also have response seekers? If my hypothesis was right they should have done.....