

On the Drug War and How it has Shaped Life Itself

Our humanness is the potency to internalize and understand occurrences in order to assume them as part of ourselves. Language is the manifestation of experience through verbalization. Communication solidifies concepts and experiences, thus, making them real. Otherwise, these internal notions would remain as such. The contact required for interaction introduces empathy. Humans' most precise sense is touch; this is why perception is determined by interpretation. Everything is subjective unless it is felt. And it is through this precise understanding can one recognize how environment influences people. The premises of the human condition are identified by qualities and relations exclusive to humans. The conditions of my childhood that emerged due to my father's alcoholism caused significant character development and social consciousness. I do not consider these events as something I underwent, but rather, as something I witnessed. Humans are not reactors; we are creators.

But this is like no solitude I've known

An utter emptiness that whispers

Shivers in your palm

Tingles that singe your face

Through first hand experience with an alcoholic father I have observed what abuse and a hostile home environment can enable. An experiment was performed to test the cause of addiction and the results proved what I've observed and believed to be true.

"The experiment is simple. Put a rat in a cage, alone, with two water bottles. One is just water. The other is water laced with heroin or cocaine. Almost every time you run this experiment, the rat will become obsessed with the drugged water, and keep coming back for more and more, until it kills itself" (Hari 1).

Similar to this, my father felt unable to cope with his environment. He was not engaging in his own life, he felt no desire to. My father was physically abused by his mother and emotionally

neglected by his father. The difference between he and I is: my father was the recipient of abuse whereas I experienced harm more so atmospherically through my environment. My hostile environment caused me to feel isolated and detached; I approached things more holistically and critically, in degree rather than all at once. The fundamentals of nature, such as magnitude and potential, express the motion we humans refer to as time. This distinctiveness of transition has allowed me to process, consider, and reflect.

"The rats with good lives didn't like drugged water. They mostly shunned it, consuming less than a quarter of the drugs the isolated rats used. None of them died. While all the rats who were alone and unhappy became heavy users, none of the rats who had a happy environment did" (Hari 1).

This study sheds light on the way people treat one another. We should treat people mindful of the significant role we play in one another's existence. Humanity depends on collectivity for the sake of interaction in order to progress and to exist. And it is the way we approach this relation, our willingness to experience what another experiences that determines understanding. The way in which life intersects, the interconnected nature of existence, provides me with a sense of purpose. Our own choices determine so much for ourselves, and therefore, for everything and everyone else. We are all one. Our own existence depends on that of others, of humanity as an entity, but also on all living things.

As if I'm touching this experience

But aren't I if it's touching me?

And what more of the way it is

Touching me

If the contact itself eliminates

Possibility

Not to outcome, but rather

To interpretation

Empathy must be approached with the knowledge of an interrelated existence. Once one recognizes one's selfhood causes a division with oneself and others, the void can then dwindle. As humans we experience life in one direction, in relation to ourselves. As if things occur for the sake of oneself, oneself's interpretation being the purpose. We assume occurrences as the personal effect one causes rather than considering the occurrence itself. The conflict is in subjective perception. Our humanness is present as empathy, when we are able to remove our personhood in order to objectively and organically understand another. But initially we must understand our own nature.

*That is mislead when the
Church bell rings, baby cries, car honks
And you hear nothing.*

Humans are more than products of exposure and environment. We can choose how to react to circumstances by choosing how we internalize the circumstance itself. Some people may choose truth, to eliminate personal affiliation in order to see some thing for what it is. Others may react out of personal interest. But the similarity between the two is the freedom that one can aspire to. What one does determines the condition in which one lives. Actions and responses are a reflection of internal process; they are a physical or verbal expression of one's state of being. Behavior is a conscious decision to participate in life or society by choosing how one exists. When one assumes the norms that society imposes this eliminates personhood. Therefore, one is existing less as oneself.

*So hum a soothing tune, put yourself
To sleep because the fall is far too quick.
Wake up feeling inexplicably "off".
There's something you can't quite place,
And it is no other than your own—
Darkness that sheds truth through*

A sense of feeling

I was walking in a hurry, when I stopped abruptly at a corner due to a red flashing traffic light. This pause allotted time for me to squeeze the remaining liquid from my tea bag. I held the tea bag over my foam cup and compressed. The last drop was dense and I could faintly distinguish the tea and milk mixture. As it slowly dragged from the tea bag, a stream of light emerged and made distinct, seemingly intentional contact with this drop of tea. The deliberation apparent in this moment was one of precision and magnitude. The ray of light illuminated the tea drop, illustrating a fragile, non temporal balance. I looked up at the green traffic light and proceeded, but in a more contemplative manner. I then began to slow my pace while retaining what had just transpired. The tea drop and its correlation to light, to energy, imparted the qualities of nature by exhibiting cause. The cause of the drop of tea is form, and the cause of light is its purpose. The result of these elements' collision was cosmic, it profoundly impacted my concept of matter, and thus, of creation. The motion that propelled this event reminded me that motion is eternal. My creation kickstarted me into motion and now I let these existential concepts, which have become me, propel me forward to kickstart things into motion.

Bulging eyes and pick pocketed smiles

Wiped away by late Summer's

Last shake blown over

To tip the balance

And spread the ashes.

Works Cited

Hari, J. (2015, January 20). The Likely Cause of Addiction Has Been Discovered, and It Is Not What You Think. Retrieved December 1, 2015.