

The Impact of the Unconscious Annulment in Environmental Problem

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Abstract:

One of the problems we are facing today is about the environment. It is a worldwide problem that has caused destruction or has threatened the natural habitat of not only the animals but all living things, including that of human beings. A lot of factors contributed to this current state of the environment and just like human beings and other living things on earth, the Earth may seem to be considered as a living organism that hits the hardest blow of destruction which is mostly due to our conscious contribution.

This paper aims not to offer a solution to the current environmental problem but to trace the real reason why the problem emerged. This may aid in finding the precise solution to the problem for how can we provide a solution to any problem if we do not know, first and foremost, the real cause of the problem? The discussion shows the relevance of our relationship to our environment. The author believes that through this, it will invite a rigid awareness of the real reason of the environmental problems in order for human being to intuitively address the problem and consequently help save the Mother Earth from total destruction.

The author will base his discussion on Carl Gustav Jung's psychological methodology to emphasize the relevance of human and his/her relationship with others and his/her surroundings. Furthermore, it will intensify the concept of Feminism in solving the dilemma about the environment. It is sufficient to review the evolution of human for his survival. In this regard, we will know why we have to save our own natural habitat, which is the Mother Earth from destruction.

Key Words:

Consciousness and unconsciousness aspects; male and female elements; environment; evolution; survival

1. INTRODUCTION

Environmental problem becomes the focus of different government, private sectors and even international organizations. But despite the collective efforts of various individuals and groups, this may lead to wasted endeavors if the real reason or purpose is not realized. Industrialization and other development efforts resulted to positive effect to growth and development but at the same time caused negative impact to the environment which has now made the present and future generations suffer. It is evident that the desires of development triggers human beings to unconsciously destroy his/her own home, the Mother Earth.

Being conscious of the improvement or development of one's future made humans unconscious of what may be its other undesirable effects. The desire in enhancing one's life leads human beings to destructive actions to the environment.

Fortunately, human beings can be aware of the consequences of his/her actions. But is it too late? Can we still do something about this very alarming problem?

2. THE LIMITS OF CONSCIOUSNESS

Tracing back the cause of the environmental problem is not an easy task. But the significance is of great help in order to recognize the reason why we need to save our natural habitat from destruction. Our

role as human beings can be associated on how and why we need to survive. This is the reason why we desire for life's progress, growth and development that disastrously affected our environment.

Survival is the goal of human beings in the world we live in. A revisit to the theory of evolution can help us take a clear perspective why we need to crave for such survival.

“In the 1960s the neuroscientist Paul Maclean suggested that every human possesses not one brain but three: a reptilian brain, a mammalian brain and finally, what might be described as human brain. The reptilian and the mammalian brains recapitulate aspects of our remote evolutionary history (Tallis, 2012).” Maclean further stressed out that human brain “permits human beings to perceive complex stimuli, think through problems and use of language (Tallis, 2012)”

This manifests our relationship to animals especially in the instinctive level that will enable us to survive. Since animals do not possess human brain, the only medium for their survival is through their instinct (unconsciousness). This is evident with animals, even nowadays, without affecting their surroundings.

Unfortunately, human beings who are considered to possess these three brains, most especially the human brain can survive in his/her own and worst destroy his/her environment for his/her own survival. Can it also be a manifestation that humans, are lesser than animal?

Based from what Maclean suggested on his evolutionary theory, it is sufficient for us to pay attention to these unconscious aspects we possess since the operation of the human brain led us only on the conscious level of our existence. This is a suggestion that we also need to focus on the unconscious level of our brains, the reptilian and mammalian brains. There is something within us that we are not aware of. It might provide a provision for us to trace back the reason why we need to not only take care but at the same time save our natural habitat, the Mother Earth.

3. UNCONSCIOUSNESS REIGNS

The focus of the unconscious aspect of our brain is a good starting point to recapitulate our evolutionary history as the manner of survival. “Joseph Le Doux has identified the specific pathways and brain structures that subserve the fright/flight response (Tallis, 2012).” He believed that before our conscious level accurately verifies things around us, things had already happened. This is because of the cortical pathway or commonly known as the consciousness. On the other hand, the sub-cortical pathways trigger immediately the fright/flight response. Even without the verification of the consciousness of the things that can threaten our survival, it will react automatically. For Doux, the reaction might be false alarm but it is better safe than never. As a matter of fact, this is the objective of survival.

Going back to what Maclean suggested and expounded by Doux, we tend to give attention only on the conscious information we are craving for but suggests no guarantee for our survival. The sub-cortical / unconscious is more reliable for it provides the natural manner of getting into our survival in this world. The significance of the reptilian and mammalian brains can elevate our attention to the unconscious level.

4. ENVIRONMENT

“Man feels himself isolated in the cosmos, because he is no longer involved in nature and has lost his emotional “unconscious identity” with natural phenomena (Jung and Franz, 1964).” This is evident how Jung describes human and his relationship with his environment. It can be derived that humans pay more attention on what can his consciousness inform his and lose his connection into the world he/she is living.

In this regard, Jung suggests that going back to the unconsciousness information is necessary to reconnect again to our conscious level in relation to the world. Humans oftentimes listen to what the consciousness dictates but fail to listen to the instinctive information that the unconscious wanted to say. The fright/flight response of Deoux in the sub-cortical pathway was ignored. Thus, there is a disconnection from the environment.

This ignorance entails dishonesty to what one's feel. Everything was rationalized on the conscious level. This is a failure to consider of the instinct of human being. “Lies and dishonesty drive the Great

Man (Self) away from one's inner realm, whereas generosity and love of one's neighbor and of animals attract and give him life (Jung and Franz, 1964)."

5. FEMINISM

The world we live in encompasses opposites. If there is a living thing, non-living things exist as well. In the same way, this opposite depicts the existence of consciousness and the unconsciousness. Male and female are not excluded with the idea of opposites. The opposites can manifest resemblance and connection. The relationship of humans into his environment does not exclude the contribution of male and female relationship. "In the Middle Ages, long before the physiologists demonstrated that the reason or our glandular structure there are both male and female element in all of us, it was said that "every man carries a woman within himself (Jung and Franz, 1964)."

This is not to consider male and female as separate human entities but their relationship in the conscious aspect. What will be the impact of their separation in the conscious level with regards to the dilemma they are facing? This is a clear revelation of the role of feminism in relation to the issue of the environment.

Jung believes that the unconscious "brought forth symbols associated with a good-man of androgynous character who was supposed to have an intimate understanding of the animal or plant world and to be the master of initiation into their secrets (Jung and Franz, 1964)." This proves that both male and female had to participate in the understanding of their world since both possess unconsciousness. But in what way they both affect their own environment?

6. MARRIAGE FROM THE ANIMA AND ANIMUS

According to Jung "a psychic need to include a feminine principle as a complement to all this excessively masculine activity (Jung and Franz, 1964)." This is an evidence that in terms of the conscious level, there is a need to consider the union of the male and female elements in each one of us.

Jung considered the Anima as "a personification of all psychological tendencies in man's psyche." [4] This is an element that in every man. Thus, man needs to listen to this element in his own psychic level as a guide. The Anima element in man's psychic level has the capability to guide man with the right inner values. As for Jung, "whenever a man's logical mind is incapable of discerning facts that are hidden in his unconscious; the anima helps him to dig them out (Jung and Franz, 1964)."

The Animus element for Jung is the male personification of the unconscious in woman, which is more apt to take the form of a hidden "sacred" conviction (Jung and Franz, 1964)." This will allow a woman to listen to the animus element in order to exercise creativeness and can make things meaningful.

Following these elements in our unconscious level enables us to consider the significance of the things around us in the conscious aspect. These elements will serve our guide in order to project the inner values within us into the outside world, specifically our habitat or the environment.

7. CONCLUSION

However, if there are positive qualities that these elements can bring any human being to conform to the inner values found from deep within, there are bad consequences in projecting these elements into the conscious world.

Bad consequences brought about by these elements can be seen into two considerations: Firstly is by not listening and taking into consideration the inner element deep within. This will then project a quality from the consciousness and not from the unconscious aspect. The influence of the outside consciousness can be the stumbling block in projecting these elements deep within us.

Secondly, listening to the elements might result to negative consequences. These personifications can overrule the original psyche. Instead of having a balance projection from the unconscious to the conscious world, they will result to an imbalance projection. This so-called personification (imbalance) being

projected which is not the real inner self that one originally possessed will really affect how an individual deals with his/her environment. Going back to the unconscious self with the nature of Animus and the Anima, is the best remedy in dealing with the environment.

8. REFERENCES

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