

TOWARDS THE ANDROGYNY OF THE BRAIN

Two of the most widely used words in writings and discussions among magique elite are androgyny and abyss. Androgyny certainly has roots in the books of old, but more recently has surfaced in the last decade as a focal point for study not just by magicians, but by everyone interested in themselves and those others that make up the world. The abyss is centuries old also; originating in early Greek and Latin myths essentially concerned with impressing upon the masses that there exists an immeasurable, bottomless pit of sorts. The thinkers and religiotheophists jumbled up all sorts of wordage to encapsulise the place, and little to date has done much more than push old beliefs around the temple one more time. Having always been one to think of the abyss as a rather comfortable place to 'fall into' when the going gets tough walking the tenuous wire of existance, I have found the word can be profound in its dualistic nature, for the dictionary will even tell you the abyss is good/bad, if you accept terms like these. Personally, I find both abyss and androgyny amazingly similar in their conceptualizations, which is why I can see the validity of their wide spread use in these daze of attempting I.D., identification in an illusionary facade called REAL. Remember: early explorers have/had Florida mixed up with Newfoundland. What was real to them

"Yet the way forward does not lie through religion and irrationalism. It lies through a science that is finally broad enough to recognise that the split is an illusion".
Colin Wilson The Dictionary of Possibilities (p.19)

Crossing the abyss is nothing more than jumping across the great divide that separates the right and left sides of the brain. This watery wall, called the corpus callosum (Lt: thick skin/mass) are the waters awaiting the boat or the bridge; the liquid invention realised to keep the intuitive person of the right-side from our logical and analytical left, which is the one we use. It appears (a great example of my left brain) that magic (you spell it must obtain new input into ways we can explore or force or situation whereby it becomes achievable to 'meet thy self'; the other person that is half of the you and me; the you/me. Note that this trick is never the same for any two people. References include studies of mind-altering drugs, psychological/pathological imprinting and the ultimate trip: the total freak-out of IT'S ONLY YOU!! But don't let that stop you, unless you're comfortable, uh?!

"Stop dividing reality into "you" and "it". Relax and try to intuit your way into things".
(see above book, or read Julian Jaynes The Origin of Consciousness in the Breakdown of the Bicameral Mind.) Remember: you and it equal intuit; Supernal Triad UNFIXED.

We are here to ponder the neighbor in ourself. If Jaynes is correct that the bicameral mind was weakened (and thus separated) by writing, I grow increasingly uncomfortable trying to write out my rationale of the opinion half of me says is logical. On the other side, I sit calmly passing the guardian of the threshold where angels fear to tread and suggest to myself that I create a re-generating flow of the Pineal (gland) Eye fluid (serotonin) as an on-going aid to the re-inforcement of the bonding of my self with my Self. This small exercise has led me to the space and place in time wherein I now can see why the self and the Self are different yet the same, with perfect logic and intuition, without any contradiction to me whatsoever. I feel revived, renewed and unglued, but I don't see it quite that way when I stop to think about it. This also makes perfect sense, by the way.

"Drizzle of vision
Behind the celestial masquerade
Solar catastrophes and the lunatica of wind
We reach the temple
the sylvan whisper nightfall carves to raven
thoughts

Am I really of the butterfly clan? Philip Lamantia Becoming Visible c City Lights Boc

and now to some visualizations of the butterfly clan

end page one

Visualizations of the butterfly clan:

If I built an arcade or computer 'game room', that would be it.
The door to the arcade and the money to use the weaponry/equipment are the tangible barriers between it and you.
The people that come in to use the equipment are you/me.
The equipment, or 'game' creates the aesthetic of need to the user/you.
The room has an aesthetic all its own, as does each game.
This type of aesthetic is fixed, although either can be modified or altered with imagination and the physical implications of changing the way it is.
The user/you has a variable aesthetic, although it is usually fixed in a particular mode function at any given time.
The presentation of the equipment, along with the addition of the user/you creates the potential.
This potential is the momentary possibility of the utilization of both sides of the brain.
The momentary possibility created is called illumination.
Homo Sapians appear to be regressing at an accelerating pace as 'official' time goes on.
Very few are being anything, though most admit they would like to be this or that.
Some are doing things, such as separating themselves from outside 'interferences' via computers, mind games and specialized academics, including reading a lot of books.
Many, or any of the above lead to what some call the occult explosion.
The occult explosion experienced one-sidedly usually precipitates unbalanced externalization of the experience by whomever has their hands on the microphone or typewriter.
The occult explosion is actually an implosion; a direct experience/response that only the user/you can slot into whatever category seems logical...or feels right.
The academics of reading books (learning) over the actual experience of doing what the books are trying to relate is the aesthetic of the decade.
Changing the aesthetic (potential creating potential) is harder than accepting it.
The relevance of the 60's (being) has regressed into the distance of separate ness.
You/me became more and more detached from us.
We was lost in jogging shoes and Carl Sagan's version of the cosmic trigger.
The 80's offer technology and the control group that operates this purpose-oriented goal (the technocrats) as an access point to get the user/you back to us (from the technocratic point of view), or back to the we in total objectivity of the self and Self.
Technology produced the medium through computer 'games' as a momentary mana for control.
The involvement/interfaces with computers allows one the chance to be both separate and, at the same time, one with the me/you through the acceptance of it as a thing worth you time on a very personal level of isolated willingness to do it.
Dis-association from others around you (the world) is compensated subjectively by the user/you in the possibility of beating the game.
Beating the game is the technocratic tool of dis-association of the will from the you/me.
It is a known fact that aside from a few bridge walkers (users using both sides of their brain), the mass of users are being programmed to lose and accept it as 'life'.
Computerized technology is said to be our future: our totalitarian mana; our brain-womb.
Could not the electrical eye of the arcade computer become the Pineal I of the user/you?
Can the forced re-birth of serotonin shed light on the whole issue of Homo Veritas?
If so, then play the 'games' rather than reading about them and filing them after logically assuming they can be beat.
Become the game that wins, not only for the user/you, but for all who choose to be through doing over reading in hopes of learning a way in which one might try to be this or that.
Technology is the magic of the future because it is already.
Remember it is being whatever the user wants it to be.
The magician of the future (hello!) has never had a better opportunity to realise and prove out the illusion of you and it.
The mass of magicians can await the books on how to beat (or survive) the technology of games, life, politics and metaphysics.

end page two

start page three

Or- they can be that technology by not being caught in it, rather intuit.
The absolute flexibility of tomorrows everything transcends description.
If we must write, let us always remember we are always writing history.
In this method we can leave space for tomorrows history ().
For the record, the last line is history, but the word his tory will see history itself
in it's patriarchal emphasis, but that's another Position.
Actually it will fight itself to death if the user/you/me can keep it busy doing our being.
It's amazing what(waat) we can learn to do from being.
Even the bee/maat correlate maat bee.
Waat say thee.

"Are we confronted with a new civilization going through a crisis of growth? Or is it
rather a crisis of human civilization itself, that is to say a real disease in civilizatio
Georges Bernanos La liberte pour quoi faire? (p.56)=1

"To see God in the world and the world in God, what is more exciting? Is it not thus
that we escape the terror of the void that unmeasured time and unconfined space produce
around the microcosm that is us?"
A comment from pope paul 6 on the us landing on the moon.

I imagine letting a goldfish swim across the sky.
Let it swim from the West to the East.
Drink a liter of water.
Imagine letting a goldfish swim across the sky.
Let it swim from the East to the West.

1964 spring

Grapefruit is a hybrid of lemon and orange.

1966 spring

above two poems by Yoko Ono Grapefruit touchstoneboo

I know now why I never want to stop writing.
I know why I will.
For awhile I must join the butterfly clan.

Norman Kaeseberg you/me

space below for herstory

end of SigNet Positional Paper .

This essay is so packed with interesting concepts that I am at a loss as to where to begin my comment. Once again I choose to play the devil's advocate in order to assist in the refinement process, rather than choosing to re-enforce those many ideas with which I am in full agreement.

My road map seems to be different than Norm's. For me, the rational/creative duality which leads to inward-falling (Alice down the rabbit-hole) is a function of the Hod/Netzach duality & its resolution in Tiphareth (Holy Guardian Angel, etc.) while the Abyss is an one aspect of that Gateway/Portal/Transporter-device which leads from 'inside' to 'outside'. Speaking for myself, if I exist beyond the portal at Daath, I haven't really made it through the Gateway. I just tricked myself into believing that I made it. Crossing the abyss is (for me) very different from jumping across the great divide within my own head.

Writing is (by function) a linear process. There are writers who (by use of rational skill) are able to simulate the creative non-rational mind in a linear form. Many of the non-linear aspects within Towards the Androgeny of the Brain are very difficult for me to process because they do not have an easy time getting past my logical 'garbage sensors'. This does not mean that I think the essay's contents are garbage, but (for me) Norm's writing style does not lend itself to communication via linear text. The fusion of the linear/creative aspects of mind is the goal of many of us at this point in time, but it does not make sense to me to discard rational patterns of communication any more than it makes sense to ignore intuition.

H.sap. may seem to be regressing, but it is simply a matter of perspective. Time (i.e., that series of recursive formulae which carries information across the collective fiction we call Space) permits/encourages travel in many directions, not just from a single fixed Past to a single as-yet-unformulated Future. See any modern text on Quantum Chromodynamics for a very magical view of time-travel in the here-&-now mundane world. If you are speeding down the highway, you tend to see far more cars going 'backwards' to your own direction of travel. It is also very easy to see cars which are stopped, or which are travelling at across your path. Thus, anyone whose path is Evolutionary & Anarchistic is bound to see far more examples of repression & de-evolution than s/he is of evolutionary self-expression.

Sure computers will be used by the fascists as a tool of repression. Huguenots invented frying pans for use in their inquisition against catholics¹, but that does not mean that others are unable to use frying pans for an entirely different purpose. Computers were designed by data processing bureaucrats, but they are fast becoming a network of communication & information sharing. For instance, Project XANADU² will (when it is fully implimented) create a vast electronic library that holds all the world's writing--and anyone with access to a home computer will have a permanent library card. This means that all the essays in the Signal Papers Network can be made available to all in the world & everyone will be free to extract ideas &/or comment upon any idea which has ever been written & their comments will be available to everyone else in the world without having to convince some big publisher that the idea is worth a big financial investment.

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Footnotes:

¹. The inquisitors discovered that without a lip, a griddle could not hold much grease & the victims died too quickly once they stuck to the dry hot metal, but when fried in a big frying pan with lots of grease, they lived longer & therefore suffered much greater agonies.

². See the book by Ted Nelson entitled Literary Machines/The Report on, and of, Project Xanadu/Concerning Word-Processing, Electronic Publishing, Hypertext, Thinkertoys, Tomorrow's Intellectual Revolution[!], and Certain Other Topics Including Knowledge Education, and Freedom for more details of Project XANADU.

Response to "Towards the Androgyny of the Brain"

I'd like to propose an alternate hypothesis to the one presented in "Towards the Androgyny of the Brain". Could it not be so that our cerebral hemispheres are now, and always have been since their development, operating and functioning together as a unit, and that our left-brain emphasis is merely a matter of cultural conditioning? Could it not further be so that the assumption of right/left-brain dichotomy is in itself a product of our culturally-conditioned left-brain mode?

Our Western tradition of formal and informal education still echoes with the great noise which announced the Age of Reason in the 18th century, itself a reaction against the overemphasis placed on right-brain passive acceptance during the Age of Faith. Perhaps the time is due to change the sidewise-pendulum swings of these extremes into a forward motion by means of direct observation of one's own experiences.

Have you not experienced both logic and intuition? Are there not certain repeated patterns to your astral experiences that indicate an internal coherence that could, with a modest effort, be recognized as laws natural to that plane of existence? Conversely, have you not experienced the appreciation-response to beauty when encountering a particularly elegant equation or train of logic? Think of Bach, of Shakespeare, daVinci, Michaelangelo, Einstein--and of your appreciation and response to their works and the works of other whole people.

One additional part of this alternative hypothesis--could it not be so that the mutual disregard of the "scientifically-inclined" and the "romantic/mystic-inclined" is a malaise deliberately fostered by those who stand to gain and/or maintain power by encouraging the acceptance of this illusory division? Any time one encounters a dichotomy unquestioningly accepted as the Way Things Are, it's wise to ask, "Cui bono?": who benefits?

I suggest experimentation and observation of immediate experience to determine for oneself how much, if any, division exists within a single skull. For this we need no prosthetics, hardware, EEG's, words, images, ideas, although the foregoing could occur synchronistically with the process. Test your own lobal consciousness. Sample test pattern:

Thelema Agape Themis : Will Love Justice

T. A. T.

 TAT : That
Tat Tvam Asi : That Thou Art

--Nema-- ©1983

Response to Towards the Androgeny of the Brain

All I really have to say about Kaeseberg's paper is that it works for me, that it is delivered in the poetic style of mythology rather than dogma. I have been to the game room and found it just like my living room, my study, my relationships, life as I know it with all the layers of revelation and meaning. After a time, I expanded my arcade, added a room upstairs and moved the abyss. The original foundations were solid enough to contain additions. Here's what we presently find in Delphine's Video Arcade: The androgeny of right and left brain hemispheres did not constitute the abyss for me, although using that word initially led to its eventual relocation. I found that the androgenous self, while capable of using the analytical and intuitive modes simultaneously, was actually neither. The androgenous self was a mode of Being outside of the brain functions, an observer of the two rather than a union of the two. I began to place the brain's hemispheres at Hod and Netzach, androgenous self at Tiphereth. I next trotted you/me into the arcade and began the game of it/me playing to win/lose. All the analogies of all I've tried to do, magickally and personally, are summed up in that damn game of trying to beat It and Win. I keep playing over and over and over to assure myself that I'm not one of the "mass of users programmed to lose and accept it as life." Even when I'm assured that this is not so, I'm only winning: I'm not satisfied: all I can win is to win: all I can win is not losing: all I can lose is not winning. And it's always required to pay. That's when I built the room upstairs. To play upstairs, you have to cross the abyss from Tiphereth to Kether. You still have to pay to play here, only you don't play to win/lose, you just play to play. In order to keep it interesting, you can observe the observer down on level one, who is observing whether you're winning or losing. You can observe more than one observer. You can pass messages down about how to ease the pain of losing or how to decrease the self righteousness of winning. It occurs to me recently that there might be a way to make the winning and losing less of a bloody mess. Plans are underway for level three.

-DELPHINE 13. ©1983

The age of the Child is now.

Consciousness is that ever coming Child. Twins- male & female-
One Unity, equal/opposite -like the two sides of the Mobius-
Pure Androgyny.

Woman is not a tool. Man is not a tool.

Woman is not an assistant. Man is not an assistant.

Co-Equal must the twins be realized & accepted.

Give up your cherished restrictions.

Understanding won't do anything harmful to your gonads.

The Reality is greater, vaster & more splendid than you have yet
immagined.

Pure Androgyny is the great key to the great mystery of the 7th Aether.
The secret key is in the word IHVH wherein the male & female elements
are equally balanced...the four gates of the one palace.

To say that woman has no soul unless provided by man is the essence
of original sin. The sin of the Great Magician- the Original Restriction.

Crossing the abyss is more than jumping accross the great divide that
separates the right & left sides of the brain. It is also jumping
accross the gulf of pre-conceived notions of what is True, that
devides man from woman, man from man, & woman from woman, Nation
from Nation, Star from Star. :

Duality requires belief in the dominance of one element.

Dominance requires that Duality be maintained.

Completion of the Great Work requires equality--Magical Equality
be Realized in the Androgyny of Magical Consciousness. Without this
Androgyny of awareness, man remains/woman remains a black brother
wraped in the secure cloak of male supremacy worshipping material
manifestations (be they Phallus or Ketis) as the Source of Life and
Power. Life alone gives Life, not the gross matter we mistake
ourselves to be.

God is not Male. God is not Female.

God is the Unity, arizing from the cohesive unity of all consciousness,
both male & female / human & non-human; Pure Androgyny!

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ANARCHY AND ANDROGYNY IN MAGICK

(an evoked response)

Do not walk in front of me for I will not follow
Do not walk behind me for I will not lead
Take my hand and walk beside me
For the Sun is shining and the breeze is gentle
And we have so much joy and beauty and love to share.

How often have we heard it said that in the beginning before "The Fall" that Adam walked with God. Never does it say that God lead or that Adam followed God. Why therefore does man insist he be followed? Could it be that man has fallen into a dark lust to dominate? What is the great hunger of man if it is not to once again walk with God, to realize the god he is!

The emanations of the lunar daemonic principle however powerful or weak, are concentrated in the moon's mundane vehicle which is the body-mind complex of humanity manifest in BOTH SEXES. The great error or shall I say fallacy of antiquity is the creation of the psycho-sexual division between the sexes by maintaining that Women manifest the moon (because they menstruate) while men manifest the sun (because they have erections). (And any fool can see that the moon is less than the sun...ad nauseum.) For Shame! You brothers of darkness, you are elevated to the plane of Love yet wrapped up in the dark cloak of your own masculinity clinging to a pathetic desire for dominance & control of women & fellow men. Learn rather to control the dark larve you project out of your own lusts into the auras of those who love you. Understanding is not the exclusive domain of Woman, it is within your grasp as well.

The SOLAR principle in humanity is manifest in the SPIRIT of BOTH Women & Men. It is precisely that which has been called "the non-atomic fact of my universality"

For every man and every woman is a star.

And the word of sin is restriction.

What greater Sin is there if not the restriction of Light to only one sex....saying only man has a soul, or saying only Humanity has Consciousness. The Phallus is not the source of Life nor is the egg. Life alone is the source of Life.

The male-oriented aeon is over.

The age of the Mother is over. The age of the Father is over.

The age of the Child is now.

Consciousness is that ever coming Child. Twins- male & female-
One Unity, equal/opposite -like the two sides of the Mobius-
Pure Androgyny.

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Woman is not an assistant. Man is not an assistant.

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To comment on the paper 'Towards the Androgyny of the Brain' is not easy from a practicing magickian's point of view, but I would suggest that it is a good psychological review of what might be called a greater understanding of the working of the brain. It is a subject that is tending to take up quite a lot of paper by various writers, I have before me as I write "The Androgyny of the Godhead" (Burton), and the "Androgynous nature of the Being"(Trochant). A magickian of experience does not need to argue the technical point of neurology - he/she puts into practice certain factors which have managed to find their way through masses of nonsense and exact science since the beginning (?). Surely it is pertinent to discuss the status or condition of the Gynander nature rather than harp upon the quasi-magical and somewhat mythological Androgynae? I cannot properly comment on this paper since discussion of a hermaphrodite person hardly concerns magickianship. We must live in the physical units we are born with. True, the dictionary definition of the gynander mentions "some parts male and some female" but the inference is that the mind - eg. the male/female combination of thought becomes gynanderous. In practical experiments over past years I have found that the "completed mind is to be attained by physical/mental processes(rituals) aimed at crossing the Abyss of male/female logical invention and thought to seed level invention and thought, resulting in action in the practical world. The Void, magickally, is not a place inhabited by demons or a place (?) to be afraid of. It is a tunnel - a "Cloud of Unknowing" which a pair of opposing polarities pass on their journey to Androgyny of the Mind. It is feasible, of course, to hold other views, since words like Void, etc., have always held a negative connotation, particularly in neurosis, and certain other conditions. The magickal Void, understood from experience is spanning the gulf between the Yin and the Yang, since it is the 'completed mind' which activates extra-sensory activity, produces non-hallucinatory new experiences and emphasizes the illusory nature of the world as we (think) we know it. To complicate hermetic wisdom by means of computers or the exact sciences is to cast aside the little true wisdom left to us. I regret that I am not a psychologist per se, and prefer to work from an extra-planetary viewpoint.

Zae's 11 x 13 © 20 May 1983.