

UNIVERSAL SELF IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PROBLEM OF THIS ENTIRE AGE

ZULFIKAR MOINUDDIN AHMED

The Age of Romanticism in England and France centered around the French Revolution, and after 1850 in art at least Realism took hold with Industrial Revolution. I have been deeply influenced by Percy Bysshe Shelley since my childhood, mesmerised by *Prometheus Unbound* as a sublime work exceeding that of Shakespeare's *Hamlet* which I esteem highly. Somewhere in the Universe, I do not doubt that Prometheus still lives. Now I should tell you a bit about my conception of the universe, lest you are surprised and repelled by it later. I have faith that there are millions of sophisticated Civilisations in the universe, and many are quite similar to the Human Civilisation on Earth. I have faith that I am an Archangel Soul in the universe and I have existed in the Universe for billions of years. I have faith that I chose my parents, my father of Aristocratic stock of many generations in Bengal whose fortunes were dwindling financially in 1973, and then I moved to America with my mother in 1987, and gained my Permanent Residency from marriage to my ex-wife in 1997 and got an amicable divorce in 2004-5. I have American, attended Princeton University, a great world class institution and graduated with high honours in 1995. I have faith that when I die as human here, I will find my way to another physical civilisation, and be born as an infant most likely. And this will continue the long history of my Soul. I do not much worry about what have been the past worlds I have lived in or the future ones. I also believe the entire universe is exactly recurrent, and that I have lived this very life an infinitely many times. There are no doubts in my heart now about these, and many uncertainties that I have had in my youth have evaporated. I will not pretend to have a different conception of the universe for my dear readers, for there is no value in lying.

The DNA was discovered in 1953, more than a century after the Romantic Revolution had ended, and Human Genome and 1000 Genome Project are from the past 60 years. Romantics hope for universal human individual liberty and hope for the future during the French Revolution did not have access to the strong biological uniformity that was subsequently discovered. The greatness celebrated in Romantic Revolution was therefore not extended immediately with understanding the strong biological basis that existed for Universal Human Nature, and therefore in a certain clear sense, the Romantic Revolution was unfinished, and it is still unfinished. In order to extend the Romantic Revolution and therefore unleash the hidden potential of the great treasures of the individual Self, we need to consider today the Universal Human Self as a great open problem of the current Age. In the intervening years since the death of the Romantic Revolution, psychology as a science was born, and it has been a confused science till now. There were blunders in every direction in psychology and the great problem of valid psychology of the Self

has not even been begun in this primitive state of the subject. The Industrial Revolution had reduced the Human Individuals in such a brutal manner that all that is visible about Psychology of Self is the wounded and feeble and diseased psyche of the Man whose Soul had been crushed. It will thus be a project of a Neo-Romantic Revolution to decipher the true scientific psychology of Self. Neither Rousseau nor Hobbes; neither Kant nor any neo-Kantian had clarity as we are able to have today and return to the optimistic and hopeful springs of Romanticism for nourishment of the Universal Human Self that can serve to uplift our beloved people, the Human Race from terminal dead sleepwalkers like those on London Bridge in Eliot's *The Waste Land*.

1. A RETURN TO PRIMACY OF MORAL DEVELOPMENT

In 2008 for the first time Japanese neuroscientists had firm neural correlates of moral judgment, finally laying to rest the various nihilistic speculations about how morality is founded on fiction, one of the extreme wings of Nietzsche's fabulous fiction that morals are created by special men who are not herd animals and followed by the latter. Human moral nature is strongly based, we find, in the end by biological innate machinery. It was I who had discovered the universal regularity of Universal Human Moral Nature first and their Ethnicity Independence in the past several years. And with my empirical validation of Aristotle's Virtue theory showing how Life Satisfaction moves with higher moral values, we are now able to consider a particularly primitive part of the Self to be the Moral Agent as Self. The aversion to morality as culturally specific then gives way to a stronger basic theory of Self that lies open for investigation. Ryan and Deci's Self-Development Theory is a 'value neutral' approach that we can consider as a starting point for return to straightforward Moral theories of Self. At the moment these are hypotheses, that Self really begins with Moral Self, quite religion-independent, that is central to Self-Esteem and other concepts that have been ubiquitous in Psychology.

I want to place the Universal Human Self project as a continuation of Jaak Panksepp's Core Self as a natural continuum in time, for moral self is not ab initio but develops between 8 and 20 years in humans. This time component is still mysterious, but it is quite clear that human gestation period is long and there are evolutionary adaptations that become active in this period and there is a naturality to human genetic heritage that are assisted by clearer understanding of universal features of Human Psyche.

Our view is that not only are Universal Self possible to theorise precisely but that it is important to do so because human nature is finicky and human growth requires a great deal of natural understanding of our subtle psychological and physical needs to flourish that remain mysterious and therefore we are today not able to compensate for the destructive forces that disturb that growth. We don't care so much about criticism of the various forces of global economy and geopolitics that conspire to disrupt the flourishing growth of the Self for our people the human race because there is little to be gained by this. At most this has tactical value. Much more productive approaches is to take the path of least resistance and not go against the tides of the ocean, whatever they might be.

2. CONCLUSION

Universal Self is a Neo-Romantic project that we believe is important and could form the foundations of a science of Psychology that is much more robust and valuable for the future of the Human Race. This is a great open problem of this Age.