

ON NONEXISTENCE OF THE UNCONSCIOUS

ZULFIKAR MOINUDDIN AHMED

Sigmund Freud in late nineteenth and early twentieth century noted that human beings are not conscious of the contents of our own mind, and invented the concept of the *unconscious* and was a great intellectual figure with vast impact. Carl Gustav Jung became interested in psychology and worked with Freud for a while and went his own way and extended the concept to *personal unconscious* and *collective unconscious* and produced a great holistic theory of psychology.

In this note I will point out that neither *personal unconscious* nor *collective unconscious* has any objective existence at all as an object of scientific scrutiny. They are valuable as fictional but valuable organising principles to examine facets of human psychology but not objects of direct scientific scrutiny because they do not have existence in the way that Freud and Jung had proposed.

Here I will propose something about the source of the mystery that sparked the interest of Freud and Jung. The deep mystery is located not in personal or collective unconscious but in the 99.9% of our genetic code that is common for all human beings of past, present and future. The proteins that they encode, and the natural selection that produced the adaptations of this vast exact identical human genetic code are unknown, and all psychological depth that is possible for any individual at all in the world are a secondary effect of this genetic code. In other words, our psychological potential is not in an unconscious but in the genetic code itself, and these express themselves appropriately and the totality of evolutionary adaptations fully encompass the psychological variation of all human beings that are possible.

What genes express to produce complex psychological character and behaviour, thoughts, feelings, dreams, and so on, require inner and outer stimulus. This includes cultivation, learning, experience in the world as well. The idea that examination of the unconscious will give us some special understanding is an interesting exercise, but a flawed method by itself to gain insight.

Now let us consider the content and meaning of mythologies. They contain resolutions of various much more derivative concepts of human individual psyche and social psychology as human beings gained knowledge of human nature and the varieties of behaviour and potentials that had led to collective formation of Civilisations and all other achievements of the human race over millions of years.