

ZULF ACCEPTS THAT PERSONALITY IS FULLY CHARACTERISED BY SEVEN PRIMARY AFFECTIVE SYSTEMS OF DAVIS-PANKSEPP

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There are 7.8 billion people in the world and the differences in our personalities is legion. There are so many strange and interesting and colourful personalities among all the people of the world. It is overwhelming to even contemplate all of them. I don't know about you, but I get dizzy just thinking about how wildly different people are from each other in personality.

Davis-Panksepp theory has various elaborate issues. I will put aside almost all of them and focus now the most important idea they are promoting. And they are 100% right about this.

They are tabulating seven primary emotion systems that mammals have had for 250 million years: SEEKING, PLAY, CARE, RAGE, FEAR, LUST, PANIC and they are then saying that the behaviour of these systems and these systems alone fully characterise personality differences of all people who have ever lived, who are alive, and who will live in the future.

They are making the bold historic claim that no one in the past of human race was sure about this, but they are, that the behaviour of seven subcortical emotion systems is the driver of *uniqueness* of 7.8 billion humans in personality. They are saying that this is all there is to personality uniqueness.

This is a very important issue. Davis-Panksepp theory is correct. First, we are all actually *unique* in personality and second the uniqueness is precisely determined by the uniqueness of construction and functioning of exactly seven emotion systems that are ancient. These then spawn and determine all the other effects of our *personality differences*.

I want to point out the power of the Panksepp work and focus. Panksepp's focus on subcortical systems that evolved 250 million years ago actually implies something else that was not clear to people at all. *All Evolution* of all mammals have had strong psychological component for 250 million for the seven systems were already there. And this is the most important observation in understanding *human evolutionary history*. For the 250 million years in the past human evolution was dominated by psychological evolution and psychological adaptations are infinitely more important than other sorts of evolution for human ancestors and humans. This was simply not understood in the past. Psychological evolution was driven by the centrality of the seven systems in driving all further brain development!

1. A RETURN TO UNDERSTANDING EVOLUTION AND DIVINE

Divine is a feature of human experience, and was never interesting as objective reality in the scientific sense. An alternative view of Divine is that Divine was

Date: June 24, 2021.

conceptualised by human beings for human interests, for being able to live. In Ancient Greek religion, it is clear that divine is the careful preservation of culture of what is exemplary and beautiful and admirable.

Now the standard accounts of Darwin and the Creationists is a cultural pattern in itself. I am a modern man thoroughly familiar with the challenge to the religious views by Darwinian evolution.

But I am not as sanguine about taking side with evolution in a straightforward manner.

The perspective that focuses attention on the seven systems of emotions as the driving force for psychological evolution gives us a far better perspective on the substance. For six million years there has been psychological evolution in human beings, and it is not as easy to read this in fossil evidence. There is a great deal of evidence that *psychological factors* dominate mate selection over others. Thus it is here that we understand the substance of religious concern, that we are quite different from chimpanzees and bonobos after all, and we cannot see this from purely physical systems. Our psychological development is far more sophisticated than chimpanzees.

I think Darwinian perspective does provide us with something true and deep; but it is also extremely misguided in not appreciating the nuanced ways in which psychological evolution took place which is not exactly recorded in the Holy Scriptures but Holy Scriptures do collect cultural history and wisdom learned by humans – regardless of whether there is a literal God that exists – and this is the substance of the clash between Science and Faith. The particular theme of God creating Adam and Eve and the fruit from the Tree of Life and so on are things that are peculiarly human, and it does not matter that they are not events of Natural History.