

## Biosong Blog 8 (July 20, 2022)      Knowledge

I am a human being, so as I learn I gather Knowledge concerning myself and my world that I will use to decide where to put my attention and how I want to live my life. The fact that so much of this Knowledge is implicit, rather than explicit, is a point I emphasised in my 2021 book, *I Said to Myself*.

The quickest and easiest way to use our Knowledge is with a self-satisfied feeling that the explicit 'facts' we have collected are essentially true because they are logically consistent and methodically arranged to solve many of our problems as they arise – unless the problem is new or doesn't fit, in which case we will need to ignore it for the time being.

Another approach is to believe that my world is so enormous and complex that what I know is probably only a tiny fraction of what there is to be known about it. This is the approach I favour because it enables me to keep an open mind and avoid jumping to conclusions or creating dogmatic opinions about matters where there is probably more to be understood.

But most helpful of all will be to realise that the greater part of our Knowledge is implicit, not explicit. Most of what we learn is experiential, rather than conceptual, and we learn it by doing. Knowledge that has been explained to us is paltry compared to what we learn from our own experience. We obtain new Knowledge by watching what other people are doing and trying it for ourselves. We learn with the whole of our bodies, not just our brain. The way we attend to our bodies and practise and enjoy their physical movement influences how we think and feel about ourselves and our world and how we will live our lives.

I could not do without the explicit knowledge, generated so efficiently using my left brain. It may seem as if that's all I will need to be successful and happy. But without my right-brain 'presence' in the world, I will be lacking the implicit Knowledge that gives my life its most precious human qualities.

The aspects of mind that matter most to human beings are all understood indirectly. I've already mentioned that happiness and love are indefinable – we find happiness indirectly as we concentrate on doing satisfying tasks and we find love mostly in the unconditional aspects of our relationships.

I've also alluded to the special quality of music, art, myth and story, poetry, humour and creativity generally. That quality disappears if you try to make it explicit. You can't explain a joke to somebody, or a poem, without destroying the very quality that made it what it was.

Because our right brain attention enables us to be present in the world, its implicit Knowledge is more real, more complete, and closer to being true than the explicit. We might think that the left brain detail is more precise and factual because it is re-presented to give that impression, but the way it is organised into explicit categories makes it less real, less complete, and less likely to be true in any situation. Once you put something into a box it loses its distinctive individuality. This is ideal for bureaucracy and the making of rigid rules – but it actually discourages the sense of BELONGING that we need.

As each of us explores our special qualities of humanness, we can trust in the Knowledge we possess in an implicit form. Awareness of one's right-brain attention is not difficult – and it maintains the broad scope of our mind, so we can use all our Intelligence.