

Is What We See Where We Are..., Or Only Where We Think Ourselves To Be?

Jeffrey Mironov

Perhaps we can begin with a useful insight from one of our heroes of the sport of Hockey. Wayne Gretzky, who was the all-time leading scorer in the National Hockey League and voted Most Valuable Player nine times, when asked about his uncanny ability to score said, 'I skate to where the puck is going to be, not to where it has been... a good hockey player plays where the puck is or appears to be... a Great Hockey player plays where the puck is going to be!'

How does one 'play' the future and by doing so, make it present Now? What aspect of mind provides that Unique and Discerning Difference? If such an ability of mind results in unusual, perhaps Exceptional Effects -- the experience we call 'Greatness' -- then it would surely behoove us to Look and Feel Into the dynamic of that possibility and get To Know first-hand and in the Here and Now, personally and interactively, how that aspect of mind works.

If our current state of mind and practice of thought produces familiar, repetitive, and predictable results, already deemed to be problematic, and documented history as our witness, might we benefit enormously from a New Approach that brings Greater and More Desired Experience into Being? I suggest that Mind Is Extraordinarily Capable and that how we habitually and traditionally apply our mind is only one of a virtually Unlimited Constellation of Expansive Options...and that in order To Effectively use and benefit from such a vast resource we need access to these options... and Have That Access but are largely unaware of it!

BEYOND AUTHORITARIANISM

Consider a few references from our fellow artists...

- Bob Dylan suggests that 'The Answer Is Blowing in The Wind.'
- Edgar Degas said, 'Only when he no longer knows what he is doing does the painter do Good Things.'
- Vladimir Horowitz said, 'My future is in my past and my past is in my present. I must now make the present my future.'
- Jascha Heifetz said, 'Music has a lot in common with mathematics. But in music two and two need not make four. They add up to whatever you wish.'
- Alice Walker said, 'Look closely at the present you are constructing... it should look like the future you are dreaming.'

All of these ideas indicate an Extraordinary Enrichment of Possibility, present and available, but requiring a Fundamental Change in the 'How and Where' the mind is applied. If we continue to plod along in our current trajectory of logical and linear problem solving, over-reliance on perception and what appears to be so, is it reasonable to assume a different outcome or effect? To continue to apply this traditional method of thinking and approach to personal and societal problem solving must lead to familiar and similar results. And we have clearly reached an impasse... a super-saturation point in which the carrying capacity of our human system and its interconnected global system has obviously been exceeded. The evidence and signs are surely in Full Frontal View in the perceivable realm of our beleaguered and divided world, as well as in the realm of our interdependent psychological, emotional, and behavioral experience.

We are all more or less alright with the idea of some evolutionary future development... a 'when' moment in which we will discover, uncover, and realize a Way Out of our worn, tattered, and ineffective methods of thought, feeling, and behavior. But what if This Future Moment was Actually Available and Accessible from the Here and Now of our present experience? And what if we Now Have and Have Long Had gobs and gobs of Living Enlivening Evidence of this Future Evolutionary Moment, but have largely marginalized it and rendered it unknown, unknowable, and inapplicable? And we have done this to ourselves personally and in our interactive dialogues and exchanges with others, as well as in our broader and all-encompassing collective experience... through a practice of mind that is conditional and limiting and incapable of The Greater Potential of Mind and Thought.

I have some rich experience that I gained learning to fly fixed-wing aircraft which I indulged in for a few years, culminating in getting my single engine pilots license and earning an instrument rating. I probably learned my most important lesson very early on in the training, which was that airplanes in general are very awkward, clumsy, and inefficient vehicles when maneuvering on the ground. But once the wheels come off of the runway and the plane becomes airborne, a Wonderful Transformation occurs. In the air, these systems of design and technology achieve an Elegant Grace, wherein the slightest control input produces dramatic change in the flight experience. It's the same vehicle, whether on the ground or in the air, but when in the 'environment' that they were designed and built for, the slipstream, they Do The Job and perform powerfully and with amazing capacity and efficiency.

Similarly, I suggest that the Actual Design Function of the mind is not survival, but Creation. When restricted or deprived of this Creative State, the effects are chaos, confusion, depression leading to lawlessness, authoritarianism, and a whole host of sickening, defeating, destructive, and punishing 'solutions' that solve little or nothing and are anything but euphoric in effect!

Conversely, I suggest that when mind is allowed its Natural Creative State, it recognizes endless connections of startling possibility all indicating and progressing towards an ever-expanding universe of Understanding that Illuminates, Fulfills, and Nourishes..., from which comes Well Being, Enriching Connection and Association, and Inspiring experience.

Returning to my aviation experience: The second thing I learned in flight training is that most of the instability and course deviation that my instructor unceasingly made me aware of was the result of my

input -- that I was often introducing misdirecting control input and largely unaware that I was doing so. My instructor was quick and most helpful in helping me become aware of this and he did so by distracting me, quite effectively, by simply talking about a number of topics unrelated to aviation, while simultaneously pointing to the instrument gauges which were always indicating horizontal and vertical course deviation. In order to fly the airplane safely and within safe parameters of flight, I needed to pay attention and consistently adjust or correct changes in altitude and course direction that were occurring all of the time. Some of these changes were the effect of rising air, wind shear, and other forms of natural turbulence..., but the vast majority of off course misdirection was coming from unconscious control movements that I was unwittingly introducing.

About a year later, while training for my instrument rating, I learned an equally important lesson about control input, which was not to over control. Briefly, acquiring an instrument rating trains you fly more accurately and in weather conditions where you do not have visual references. When flying in instrument conditions or IFR flight rules, you are relying on the instruments for course change input and not on what you perceive to be happening outside of the cockpit environment. Often in IFR conditions you are in the weather, in the clouds, and do not have outside visual references. This is often the case shortly after take-off, and also when descending to land at your destination airport. In such conditions there is often the need to make an instrument approach or an ILS approach to landing. This involves getting vertical descent guidance as well as horizontal guidance from the instrument indicators. The instruments inform you by providing left right and up down course feedback so that you are aligning the aircraft properly and safely for landing. The key is to correct, but not over correct, and for this you learn to input small course corrections and wait to see the effect or result before inputting more change.

Now, all of this powerfully transferred to other areas of my life and to enormous benefit and relief. I quickly saw that I was operating in my down on the ground experience largely unaware of destabilizing misdirection that I was introducing regularly and to undesired effect. And that I was frequently under-correcting or not paying attention, as well as over-correcting, which made my life-style clumsy and somewhat awkward..., a feast or famine experience that was frustrating, irritating, and quite discouraging. More or less, I was operating out of habit and past oriented conclusions, memories, and hardened beliefs which quite effectively produced more of my past, but only at the cost of present opportunity! I had learned how to have more of what I did not want but at the cost of having what I did want!

So how does all of this sum up? Well quite frankly, I saw that the 'present' I was famously complaining about, was only the result of a very narrow and restrictive state of mind that I was obsessed with and even addicted to perpetuating..., no matter the cost to myself or others! I was simply interrupting or interfering with my own learning curve and making little use of countless opportunities for Meaningful Change which I was constantly in the midst of.

I also quickly saw that my stumbling and fumbling personal methodology was in rather wide-spread use and that the interactive and collective effects of this common unconscious approach, amplified through time and generation, was the world of woe that I saw everywhere..., a global crisis of chaotic inefficiency, deeply and profoundly disturbing to all.

Now, back to that Desired Future of Necessary Change from a Clear and Present Now. The 'future' is not a future at all because the sequential reference is only a point of view and a very restrictive one at that. Therefore, all of that Long Desired and Sought after 'future' is the Actual Substance and Content of our Present, free of the distracting, obscuring, and over and done perceptions that we unwittingly impose and enforce upon a Perfectly Present Opportunity that is inherently Unlimited, Immeasurable, and Rich with Abundant Potential and Possibility.

There in fact is a Way and it is where the rubber of our Personal Presence meets the road of our Willingness. Earlier in this article I presented some quotes from some well-established artists who had discovered some Powerfully Helpful insights in their exploration and discovery of Greater Ability. Wayne Gretzky saw the paramount importance of Knowing and Seeing where the 'puck' was going. He found a way to use his mind To See Beyond what appeared to be so and by doing so Accessed Greater Gain in the Here and Now. Let's call that Quality Vision.

Edgar Degas found that in order for the painter to Do Good Things, to grasp, See, and express Greater Ability, the mind must shift and Reach Beyond it's 'normal or mundane' experience, for only then does the work, the painting, Come Alive and reflect that Greater Potential, which Is Always Here but rarely Recognized.

Vladimir Horowitz discovered that there is a Profound Whole in the beautiful mystery of Past, Present, and Future, but only when Recognized as a Whole, as One Symbiotic Powerfully Alive Relationship from which Immeasurable Potential can Be Realized, Known, Felt, and Expressed.

Jascha Heifetz saw a logic that was Open and not fixed..., an Order, that could be seen in math and everywhere that allowed for New Discovery and Incomprehensible Expression, Extraordinarily Original and Authentic and quite Inspiring, in the near and far realms of human interaction.

And Alice Walker realized that the Present was a Wide-Open Potential Beneficiary for a Future that awaited only our Recognition and Acceptance.

Each of these artists, Visionary in their own unique way, saw a Creative Unifying Dynamic, a New Understanding and Way To Be Informed, To See, Feel, and Do that involved a Complete and Total Relationship that included all of the things of time and the spatial aspect of perception, from which Atypical and Extraordinary Effects would follow.

It seems perfectly apparent that our need for the Atypical and Extraordinary is upon us if we are to Get On with our Evolutionary Responsibility. If the sprawling complexity and conflict of current human affairs is an effect of the mind operating out of and from the habit, obsession, and addiction of duality, from which we think, feel, and do, making bi-polarity and it's crippling, numbing, and depressing effects manifest. then we surely must Wise and Sincere Up in bringing closure to the illusion/delusion of the split mind.

Evolutionary Opportunity calls upon us to See and Recognize Now that the 'euphoric depression' of duality, or the mind that thinks itself divided and split, is not euphoria but only depression..., from which

must come only more of the same.... and finally, more of the same is Not The Better we are Really and Truly capable of.

It is again time to Reach Past and Beyond the long-practiced and over-learned traditions and assumptions associated with a 'condition' that we have unwittingly imposed on ourselves. In order to Get Over the 'hump and inconvenience' of repetition as a substitute for Creativity, we must transition to 'The What' we have suspicioned and been toying with for much of our historical existence.

It Is, and Obviously All Connected and Actually One Thing..., One Whole, Forever Continuous but of an Order and Dynamic That Is Every Bit as Elegant as Einstein realized and More..., an Experiential Understanding, Singular and Complete, All Encompassing, Present and Available as a Total Occasion, yet Always Beyond the restrictive conditionality of the mind that thinks and perceives separately and oppositional. Within that system, there is only the suffocating architecture of incongruous and oppositional references, laws, and rules that simply can never add up..., no Big Bang there, but only a continuation of befuddling paradoxes that 'appear' and seem to have temporary existence..., and the effects, wearying, stultifying, depressing.

Yet simultaneously and in the Everywhere Always of The Greater Singularity, there Is a Whole, an Order unrecognized but Knowable That Is of Big Bang Content, from which Atypical and Extraordinary Potential can Enter In and Render Provisions, non-linear, Miraculous and of a Powerfully Fulfilling Kind that Reveal The Deep Mysteries that have always been in Full Frontal View... from which New Meaning, Understanding, and Enlivenment Comes to Re-animate, Heal, and make Whole Again the very fabric of our Being.

In summing up I'd like to share a little of my musical experience, which makes up a very significant chunk of my life. I was always attracted to those styles of music that came out of musicians improvising together. Early on it was the rock and roll of the 50's and 60's. Then I became fascinated with blues and jazz and the unusual and inspiring vocabularies that artists such as Wes Montgomery, John Coltrane, Miles Davis, Bill Evans, and others expressed. At times I found myself overwhelmed with feeling, excitement, and deep emotions that this music seemed to conjure up in me. The further I went in my attempts to play and comprehend this music, the more apparent it was that this musical thing was Unlimited and Wonderfully Alive, of an Order and Energy that was quite remarkable and not at all fixed but dynamic, unpredictable, and Profoundly Original.

To effectively engage and play this kind of music required sensibilities, qualities, and skills that were present-oriented. I had to learn to listen, to pay attention, to feel and respond to a forever shifting stream of indwelling and incoming data. In short, I had to discover that by nature, I was, or better still, I am an improviser in mind and heart. That was the key to Getting To and Intimately Connected to this music I so loved. Here I discovered an unending source of New Information that had uncanny ability To Provide endless inspiration and possibility -- literally Everything Needed to realize and express deeply satisfying and compelling ideas that Revealed and Fulfilled.

I suggest that we are all improvisors and always in the act of managing Unlimited Data, Incoming Content, that generally exceeds the system of thought and understanding by which we attempt to manage, interact with, and or engage this

information. I am certain that our Natural Ability to interact with and benefit from this surrounding, indwelling, and incoming content Far Exceeds the current state of mind and condition with which we attempt to manage and engage this Living Data Stream..., and that we Are Capable of Dramatically Expanding and Transforming our state of mind To Accommodate and Cooperate with this invisible but ever-present field of Unconditional Content as we go or presently, and by doing so, Realize and Manifest Future Potential in the Here and Now of our Life and Living.

The 'How To' is an Active Practice or application of mind that is Consciously Engaging, Intending, and Willing..., Cooperative and Always Listening..., a state of Openness and Receptivity Characteristically Different than our usual and habitual orientation and tendency to isolate and 'self-absorb'. Many are familiar with the learning model described in these four stages:

1- Unconscious incompetency - the state and habit of repeating past learning in automated unawareness.

2 - Conscious incompetency - the state of being or becoming aware of this numbing and dulling habit and practice.

3 - Conscious competency - the state of change in which Conscious Listening and Accommodation of New Content is introduced.

4 - Unconscious competency - the state in which this Natural Attunement and Accommodation becomes stabilized as a New Effortless Compelling Orientation whose results and effects are Self Evident.

This Mindful Re-adjustment is not dependent on time whatsoever, but generally is realized in stages or intervals determined by each one's readiness.

Vince Lombardi, the famous coach of the Green Bay Packers NFL team expressed it this way: 'Practice does not make perfect... Perfect Practice Makes Perfect!' Here he is referring to that New State of Mind from which you can use all of your resources - past learning, present discovery, and future promise - in a New Orienting and Present Expression of Who You Are Now as an Unfolding Present Revelation..., a Getting What Is Needed as You Go experience.

Much of the paradigm changing innovators all throughout human history have been utilizing such States of Mind all along. And what a Welcome Relief might be introduced in the destiny aspect of our evolutionary experience through a more expanded Practice and Application of this possibility.

I suggest that we can, should, and will accommodate such an Essential Shift and Change of Mind..., and that each of us can Dramatically Serve That Accommodation as an alternative, a Creative Re-Orienting,

from which the woeful symptoms of 'authoritarianism, lawlessness, and bi-polarization' and it's punishing and oppressive depression can be transformed..., released and reconstituted.

We Can In Fact, Learn, Get Well, individually, interactively, and Collectively Cooperative..., and to Effects and Results that clearly benefit each and all of the Co-Depending Systems of our global organization. I Am Certain that 'time' Is of The Essence..., and that That Essential Essence Is Present and Available, and is the Very Fabric and Substance of The Here... That Is Before and With Us Now.