

SPARK 54

Distinction: People are primates.

Notes: Now and then we might temporarily entertain the thought that we personally could be, in some way, related to the animal kingdom. We might for a brief moment recognize in ourselves a behavior pattern or a physical trait that we have in common with chimpanzees or gorillas.

Our mechanisms of self-deception are at times quite laughable. Because the truth is that human beings are not like primates. No. Human beings are primates. Period.

If we are willing to let this realization percolate through the intricacies of our Box then many other aspects of human life, which before now may have given us some worry, can suddenly make a new kind of sense.

One example is herd behavior. Herd behavior runs deeper in our cells than any thought or decision. We are after all, mammals, related to sheep and lemmings. Before our genetic structure differentiated itself from other biological machines, we ran on all fours and protected ourselves by huddling together in a herd. Blindly following the majority has survival value because those who can be singled out are more easily killed. Hankering after independence can quickly turn us into some predator's lunch.

With so much organic pressure to simply agree with the herd, it is remarkable that any of us at all would dare to take responsibility and think on our own. Yet Possibility Management does not function unless we take total responsibility for our thoughts, words and actions, irrevocably and for no reason. To take such responsibility we must courageously contradict tendencies that have been natural to our organism for millions of years, and which still function in us unconsciously with a vengeance.

Another aspect of the revelation that people are primates is sex. For millennia humans have analyzed, eulogized, dissected, romanticized, psychologized, glorified, demeaned, and exploited sex. (Sexual innuendo in advertising is rampant. Why? Because it works! Our attention is instantly stolen by our animal attraction to provocative sexual invitations before our mind can protect us from the manipulative images. Doesn't that just piss you off?) But to our mind, sex still remains an enigmatic mystery, as uncontrollable as the weather. We cannot necessarily make sex happen when our mind wants it, and we cannot necessarily avoid sex when our mind does not want it. We will never figure out sex. That is because sex is not a mind thing. Sex is a body thing. Our bodies are animals. Animals have sex. Our genes require sexual intercourse to reproduce themselves. Our bodies are sensitive saltwater computers, easily imbalanced by subtle energies, the moon's gravity, the time of the month, electromagnetic radiations, pollutants, scents, sounds, lumpy shapes, smooth textures, and strategically generated pheromones. We are completely crazy about sex because we mix the mind and the body. All of civilization is the mind's attempt to disguise the fact that people are just primates. We are animals trying to conceal the naked truth by wearing clothes.

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Experiment 1: PEOPLE ARE PRIMATES. Go to the zoo. Sit silently in front of the monkeys. Meditate on them carefully for two hours and observe their interactions in detail. Try to discern their motivations. Then go to the shopping mall and observe human beings with the same kind of detachment. Do not forget what you learn.

Experiment 2: HERD BEHAVIOR. Focus this week on how often you make gestures that are clearly motivated to avoid responsibility with the unconscious assumption that someone else in the herd will handle the condition. Avoiding responsibility could be as simple as seeing a piece of litter on the sidewalk and not picking it up because you know that the street sweepers will get it. Or avoiding responsibility could be as complex as not showing up in spaces as big as you really are, with your full potential thriving through being your destiny in action, because then you would stand out from the crowd and you fear the danger of being conspicuous.

Experiment 3: SEX. If you are having sex, do not think.

Have fun,
Clinton.