

The Brain is an Antenna

Forward

(As a foundational collection of thoughts for the correct propagation of Buddhist teachings from Shakyamunibuddha, and the lineage through China, Japan and the world, from East to West, from thousands of years past to today, human science represents the most rigorous system of determining truth. However, truth finds expression in subjective experience; and how this occurs is, in a very direct way, the foundational work of Buddhist teaching, Buddhist 'devices', 'expedients', and 'stories' designed and offered to minds of varied capacity. In this collection of scientific reference material, I annotate the document to demonstrate the vernacular of science and the every day, the experience of the physical analysis of our experience in this cosmos and juxtapose it directly to the vernacular of the Buddhist teachings.

We have been taught that the brain is the origin of all thought, habits, communication and language skills; that the two sides of the brain hold sway for particular actions just as separate quadrants and areas. In Buddhism we do not concern ourselves with this organ, the brain. Rather, Buddhism is concerned with the sentience, the mind of observation, perception, judgment, and willful action. The brain is therefore relegated to the physical (impermanent) world, while the mind is the domain of energies and their manipulation, interpretation, and influences.

All my annotations and interjections will be contained in parenthesis and italicized.

Bodhisattva, Sifu Sylvain Chamberlain)

The Illusion of Will: Who Decides 11 Seconds Before You Do?

Tap your temple. Right now. Are you sure you are in there? Are you sure the voice narrating everything inside your head is really you? It's your fortress. Your private property.

But what if I told you that you are not the author of this voice? What if you are the last one to know about your own decisions? In 2019, Professor Joel Pearson from the University of New South Wales conducted an experiment that should terrify any thinking person. Subjects were placed in an MRI scanner and asked to choose between two images. The result forced the scientists to check their equipment twice.

Artificial Intelligence, reading brain activity, knew which image the person would choose 11 seconds before the person became aware of the choice themselves.

Let that sink in. 11 seconds. In the world of neurophysiology, that is an eternity. It is an abyss. This means that while you are painfully "thinking," weighing the pros and cons, the decision has already been made. By someone else. In the darkness of your subconscious. And what you consider to be your "act of will" is simply a notification appearing on your screen with a massive delay.

If you are not controlling this process... then who is?

Today, we will crack open the most uncomfortable truth about human nature. We will look at people living without brains. We will break down the theories of Nobel laureates who claim the skull is not a factory, but an antenna. And by the end of this video, you will feel truly unsettled by the question: "Whose thoughts am I thinking right now?"

(As a Buddhist, I hear this question as a bit off the mark. We will see where it goes, but for the moment let me say this; whatever perceived delay, this is a point of consideration for the difference of mind versus brain. It is true that the two are not one, and that the mind is an emergent construct of 9 expressions of consciousness amalgamated into a singular entity or observer, you. We learn this from the Nidana, the skandhas, the 3000 realms of influence, and countless teachings on the nature of the mind, our karmic store of tendencies and conditions and so on. This "11 seconds" simply identifies a separation between our momentum and our Samsaric physical condition. Interpreted this way, I am fascinated to see where this leads.)

Chapter 2. The Man Without a Brain: How a Student with Water in His Head Became a Genius.

Let's start with the "hardware." Materialists say: "No brain, no consciousness." Sounds logical. Until you meet the patient of Professor John Lorber. In 1980, Science magazine published an article with a provocative title: "Is Your Brain Really Necessary?" Lorber described a mathematics student from Sheffield University. A genius. IQ of 126. Brilliant academic performance. When this student went to the doctor complaining of a headache, they performed a scan. The doctor froze. There was no brain in the cranial cavity. Where the hemispheres should have been, cerebrospinal fluid was sloshing around. The brain tissue was rolled out into a film barely one millimeter thick against the walls of the skull. 95% of his cranium was filled with water.

Where was his memory stored? What was he using to calculate integrals?

This case is not an error. It is a gut punch to all of neurobiology. The great surgeon Valentin Voyno-Yasenetsky, who opened thousands of skulls, wrote: "I have often seen injuries that destroyed entire lobes of the brain, yet the personality remained intact."

Let's go further. We are used to thinking that thought is an internal monologue. "I need to buy bread," "I forgot my keys." But recently, science has discovered people with anendophasia. Inside their heads, there is silence. Absolute silence. One such person describes their experience like this: "I know what I want to write, but

there are no words in my head. My hand simply writes. I don't waste time translating meaning into words."

They have no "narrator." No prompter. Yet they think, feel, and act faster than we do. If you don't need a kilogram of fatty tissue to think... If you don't need words to think... Then what is a "thought"? And where does it come from, if not from within?

(Perfect. Energy has no form until it does. In other words, energy without form is potential. Once formation begins, quantum fluctuations, forms are developed and expressed. These expressions are karma. Karma is the Process of "Life", and can thereby be "observed".)

Chapter 3. The Quantum Antenna: Why the Brain Doesn't Create Thoughts, But Receives Them.

Imagine you are a tribesman who finds a smartphone in the forest. You hear music coming from it. You take it apart, see the microchips, the battery, and you conclude: "The music is produced by this microchip." You don't know what radio waves are. You don't know what the Internet is. Modern science is that tribesman.

There is a fact that materialists hate. The "Brain Energy Paradox." Your brain consumes 20% of the body's entire energy. That is an incredibly high amount. But here is what's strange: when you solve a complex problem, write a symphony, or play chess, the brain's energy consumption increases by... less than 5%. Compare this to a car. At idle, it consumes little, but slam the pedal to the floor, and consumption skyrockets. This doesn't happen with the brain. It devours energy constantly, even when you sleep. Why?

Because a radio receiver spends electricity holding the signal, not creating the music. The complexity of the symphony does not affect the speaker's energy consumption. The load lies on the radio station, not the receiver. *Sir Roger Penrose*, a Nobel Prize winner in Physics, and neuroanesthesiologist *Stuart Hameroff* proposed the **Orch-OR** theory. They went deeper than neurons, inside the cells, to the microtubules of the cytoskeleton.

Penrose argues: the neuron is too crude. Microtubules are the real quantum antennas. The moment a thought is born is not chemistry. It is a quantum event, a collapse of the wave function occurring at the level of the geometry of the Universe itself. The brain does not generate consciousness. It intercepts it.

And this explains the experiments of the Soviet psychiatrist Gennady Krokhaliev. In the 70s, he placed patients with auditory hallucinations into a Faraday cage, shielded from radio waves. The voices disappeared. As soon as they stepped out, the broadcast resumed. Thought is an external signal.

(Once 'received', that thought is taken by the mind, the collection of 9 consciousnesses, and expressed as thought, word or deed. Simple isn't it? This interaction of thought with deliberation of the consciousnesses is the power of Buddhist insight. Otherwise we are marionettes, as this text seems to imply.)

Chapter 4. Hacking Memory:

Why Your Memories are Not Stored in Your Head. Here you must object. "If the brain is an antenna and thoughts are flying around, why don't I hear what my neighbor is thinking? Why don't I know the secrets of the Pentagon?" The answer is simple and brilliant. It was formulated by the philosopher Henri Bergson and developed by the biologist Rupert Sheldrake.

The brain is not just an antenna. It is a filter. A reducing valve. The information field contains everything. Absolutely everything. If you connected to it directly, your "Self" would be instantly annihilated by the chaos of billions of voices and images. The brain's job is not to produce thoughts, but to block 99.9% of information. To leave only that thin trickle you need for survival here and now.

And how does the brain know which trickle is yours? "Morphic Resonance." Your DNA, your neural network structure—this is a unique login and password. You are tuned to the frequency of "Yourself." Sheldrake claims a frightening thing: memory does not exist in the head. Your brain is not a hard drive with files. It is cloud access. When you remember your childhood, you are not retrieving a file from a gyrus. You are entering into resonance with yourself in the past.

But there is a problem. Filters can break. Psychedelics, trauma, schizophrenia, deep meditation—all of this thins the barrier. And then, the "Other" bursts into consciousness.

(The relationship of mind and consciousnesses to the brain and back is demonstrated rather sloppily here. This perspective is interesting if a little lacking, but let us continue on even if with our own caveats.)

Chapter 5. The Virus of Consciousness: From Castaneda's "Flyers" to Voices in the Head. We are approaching the darkest part of the story. If thought comes from the outside, who is standing at the microphone? Psychologist Julian Jaynes proposed a revolutionary theory: "The Bicameral Mind." He analyzed ancient texts—The Iliad, the Old Testament—and noticed something strange. The heroes of antiquity do not make decisions. They do not reflect. They have no internal dialogue. They are ordered by gods. "Athena told Achilles to take the sword." "Yahweh told Moses." Jaynes believes that before 1000 BC, humans did not possess consciousness as we understand it. The right hemisphere of the brain generated auditory hallucinations—commands—and the left hemisphere obeyed them without question. Man was a remote-controlled biological robot.

(Yuck. The ugly specter of religious 'thinking' invades our discussion. Fortunately it is simply used as a reference and we can move on...)

Later, with the development of language and writing, this connection collapsed. The voices fell silent. We were left in silence and forced to invent an "Inner Self" to fill the void. But the mechanism remains. Carlos Castaneda called this mechanism the "Foreign Installation." He claimed that our endless internal dialogue is not our voice. It is the voice of a predator. Look at your thoughts. 90% of them are anxiety, fear, self-flagellation, repeating the same problems over and over. Why

would you think thoughts that make you unhappy? It is illogical for an organism striving for survival.

Unless those thoughts are not yours. In esotericism, these are called "egregors." In Richard Dawkins' memetics—"viruses of the mind." Ideas that use your brain as a substrate for reproduction. You don't think them. They think through you.

(Mmmmm, no. Or rather in better language as stated earlier, the mind formulates actions based on tendencies and conditions to express those 'thoughts' in moment-to-moment of life, as is the cycle of birth and death. Giving expression to those energies is our entire role in this physical cosmos, in order to experience this exact process. This is the "Why" of our life experience.)

Chapter 6. Death of the Ego: Real Stories of Life After Personality Shutdown.

Can this voice be turned off? And what remains if it falls silent? Pure functionality remains. Meet Jill Bolte Taylor. A neuroanatomist from Harvard. In 1996, a massive hemorrhage in the left hemisphere of her brain systematically shut down her ability to speak, move, and think linearly. Taylor got a unique opportunity to observe her brain from the inside. She described the moment like this: "It was as if someone pressed the Mute button on the remote." Freed from the dictatorship of the left hemisphere, her consciousness switched to right-hemisphere mode. She called it "La-La Land"—a state of euphoric unity. "The atoms of my arm blended with the atoms of the wall... I felt like fluid energy." In moments of clarity, her left hemisphere screamed: "I need help! Call an ambulance!", but a second later, consciousness would slip back into *nirvana*, where phone numbers were meaningless squiggles, and the very concept of death seemed unimportant. Only "Now" remained. Sometimes the "Self" disappears without a stroke. In 1982, Suzanne Segal was standing at a bus stop in Paris. In a single second, her personality was simply erased.

"When I am asked who I am, the only possible answer is: I am the infinite, the vastness... I felt like a hollow bamboo, an empty shell," Segal wrote in her book *Collision with the Infinite*.

She lived like this for 10 years. Her body walked, talked, worked, but there was no pilot inside.

Or the case of U.G. Krishnamurti. At 49, he underwent a biological mutation he called "The Calamity." His personality structure simply collapsed. The thinking process stopped forever. His senses became decoupled: his eyes saw an image, but the brain didn't name it. "I see an object, but I don't know it's a chair until I sit on it." His glands swelled, his skin changed, his pulse slowed to critical levels. The "I" vanished. Only a biological robot remained, reacting perfectly to the environment, but devoid of an "Observer."

(Again with the poorly stated vernacular! He was not "devoid" of the observer, but rather became a clarified observer, unattached to the "Observed".)

These cases prove: Personality is just an interface. A user shell. And it can be uninstalled without killing the hardware.

Chapter 7. The End of Privacy: AI Reads Thoughts, and How to Stop It.

In 2023, researchers from Osaka University connected the Stable Diffusion neural network to an fMRI machine. The AI, reading only brainwaves, began to draw what the person was seeing. The accuracy is terrifying. Your thoughts are not an abstract spirit. They are an objective signal that can be intercepted, decoded, and displayed on a screen. Privacy is dead. The picture comes together.

Your brain is an antenna **(the Samsaric device)**. Your memory is a cloud **(the collective consciousnesses of sensation and experience.)**. Your internal voice is often an imposed program **(the karmic process sorting volitional choices.)**. Does this sound like a sentence? No. It is liberation. **(nirvana)**

If you understand that thoughts are not you... you cease to be their slave. Imagine you are standing on the side of a highway at night. Cars are rushing past, blinding you with their headlights. The cars are thoughts. Most people try to jump into every passing car, argue with the driver, grab the steering wheel. And they are carried off into the darkness. Awakening is staying on the side of the road.

You see the thought: "I am a failure." You don't argue. You don't agree. You simply watch it drive by.

The great Ramana Maharshi advised the only method to fight the "parasite." Ask a question. When a thought comes, ask: "To whom did this thought come?"

The answer: "To me." "And who then am I?"

(This question is irrelevant. In Buddhism, the "I" is simply the Engine of life, the karma of the cosmic process expressed and experienced with the singular goal of expressing to be experienced. To "see" the cosmos in this way is to be 'liberated' from its strong currents while appreciating its endless power to "be".)

And in the silence that follows this question, you will find the only thing that actually exists.

The thing that has been listening to this voice all this time.

The Silence.

(This is to the Buddhist, the Quiescent Energy of Potential without expression.)