

Opinion

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Noble Brains and Nobel Laureates- Role Models for the 21st Century

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Continuing the article “The Brain as Peacemaker”, based on Sperry’s Split Brain experiments, the question arises, what gives meaning to our life. For Victor Frankl and Albert Einstein, someone, who finds meaning, is religious. In Goethe’s view, everybody, who has art, has also religion and those, who do not have art, should have religion. For Goethe all humanity is the true human being and true science and the true study of humanity is the human being. This in mind, the author thanks all artists, researchers, helpers, children and students, who gave support or lectures for “New Frontiers in Science” activities. To see others as they should be can help them to become, what they could be, according to Goethe and Frankl. In the Bible this insight is illustrated by the prophet Jonah, saving Nineveh after overcoming the Jonah complex, introduced into psychology by Abraham Maslow to make clear, what humans prevents from realizing their own potential and mission, in order to live in peace with others on our planet Earth.

(According to Matthew 18, 3, Jesus said: “Truly I tell you, unless you not turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”)

The prophet Jonah, venerated by Christians, Jews and Moslems, can be regarded as a universal Role Model for all earth children, encouraging them to develop their own potential after overcoming the Jonah complex, that prevents them to be noble, helpful and good (in the spirit of Goethe) and to live in peace with others (in the spirit of Kant’s writings ‘On perpetual peace’).



Figure 1

Otto v. Kotzebue painted fig.1, the prophet Jonah According to Luke 11, 29-32, no sign will be given to this generation except the sign of the prophet Jonah. 30 ‘For as Jonah became a sign to the men of Nineveh, so will the Son of men be to this generation.’ According to verse 32 the men of Nineveh repented at Jonah’s preaching. Introducing the Jonah complex into psychology, Abraham Maslow opened his famous hierarchy of needs of five levels to a higher, transcendental one, taking care of peak experiences in moments of awareness, bliss and joy belonging to a healthy life of selffulfilling human beings, created according to the Genesis in the image of God.

Focusing the right of self realisation of human beings, Maslow, Carl Rogers, Martin Buber, Gabriel Marcel, Erich Fromm, Emmanuel Levinas, Viktor Frankl, Roger Walsh & Co. inspired the Humanistic Psychology, Maslow, Frankl, Walsh & Co. also the Transpersonal Psychology, in which spiritual human needs beyond concepts of Freud, Adler, Jung & Co. were regarded. Insights of Maslow, Frankl, Walsh, Jon Kabat-Zinn and Daniel Goleman were encouraging the author to initiate and support the “New Frontiers in Science” events, described in the following text. The psychology of survival, Roger Walsh developed in ‘Staying alive’, includes in the author’s view not only the well being and survival of man but also that of animals and plants.

In order to find out, what everybody should and could do, to protect the biodiversity of our planet, lectures and conversations with Werner Heisenberg and Gerd Binnig inspired the author for the Summer Academy 2000 with Prof. Ernst Peter Fischer, Prof. Karl Leo & Co. within the Euro-House project, preparing the “New Frontiers in Science” concept 2001, supported by Prof. Wolfgang Heckl, becoming later general director of the German Museum, Prof. Eckhard Wolf, becoming later head of the Gene Center of the LMU, University of Munich, Prof. Walter Blum, CERN, sun in law of Werner Heisenberg, Prof. Martin Hrabé de Anglis, Prof.

Harald Lesch & Co. The first “New Frontiers in Science” symposium took place in the Goethe Institut Munich, Sonnenstr,

in summer 2002, followed by a “New Frontiers in Science” Symposium” in the LMU, in which the former pro-rector of the LMU, Prof. Hans-Georg Liebich, Prof. Hans-Jürgen Warnecke, President of the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft in 2002, Dr. Prince Albert of Saxonia, Prof. Blum, Prof. Hrabé de Angelis, Detlef

Frank, former chief engineer of BMW, Jörn Schlichting, Siemens 2002, and others gave lectures.

Soon after that Prof. Ernst was ready for the next “New Frontiers in Science” event, the DAAD Summer-Academy “New Frontiers in Science” 2003 with international students, see photo below:



Figure 2

DAAD Summer-Academy “New Frontiers in Science” 2003 with Nobel Laureate Richard Ernst, ETH Zürich, from left to right: Prof. Hrabé de Angelis, Susanne Kiefer, Siemens, Dr. MeintsPolter, Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft, Prof. Eckard Wolf, Gene Center LMU, Prof. Richard Ernst, ETH Zürich, Prof. Martin Faessler, CERN; Prof. Wolfgang Heckl, Dr. Wolfgang Parak, Peter Erwand, Prof. Ernst focussed responsibility of the research- and academic landscape for our world.



Figure 4

DAAD Summer-Academy New Frontiers in Science, Einstein-Schiller Year 2005

Opened musically in the Honorary Hall of the German Museum (Deutsches Museum) Einstein and Schiller were honored with lectures of leading researchers, see <http://www.ehims.de> among them the Prof. Robert Huber, Herbert Walther, Walter Neupert, Gerhard Boerner, Reinhard Putz, Axel Schenzle, Wolfgang Heckl, Joachim Raedler and Martin Faessler, providing the evidence of the quantum character of light, Einstein had postulated 1905, by an experiment on the stage, assisted by Prof. Walther, photo right. Prof. Christiane Nüsslein-Volhard was prevented for private reasons.

In the DAAD Magazine 2005 German Summer Academies the courses of the German Summer Academy “New Frontiers in Science” were described this way: “Course I begins with elementary particle physics,... the history of the origin of the universe, of Earth, of life and its development, complemented by the latest findings in physics, chemistry, biology and medicine. Its focuses are nanotechnology and biotechnology, information- and laser-technology, nanosystems biology, geo-biosystems research, quantum computing, genetic, genome and protein research plus mitochondria and molecular machines. Course II offers a science programme with excursions



Figure 3

DAAD Summer-Academy New Frontiers in Science 2004

With Nobel Laureate Robert Huber, pioneer in the research of photosynthesis and proteomics, inspiring thankworthily the use of the adequate metaphors. From right to left: Ulrike Leutheusser, head of research and education at Bavarian Television, (Bayerisches Fernsehen) in 2004, Prof. Huber, course leader Konrad Frischeisen, behind him a student and leading personalities of the LMU, beside him Gabriela von Habsburg, behind her Prof. Eckhard Wolf, Prof. Claus Hipp, honorary president of the IHK (chamber of Industry and Commerce) of Munich and Upper Bavaria 2004, Dr. Ammann, Dr. Thalhammer, Dr. Wenrich, Ludwig Apfelbeck and Nathalie Coursieres.

to the MPIs of Physics, Extraterrestrial Physics and Quantum Optics, where scientific highlights are presented, such as quantum computing, Bose-Einstein Condensate, 2001 Nobel Prize in Physics for Wolfgang Ketterle and the Scanning Tunneling Microscopy, 1986 Nobel Prize in Physics for Gerd Binnig....”

Lectures with Prof. Georg Kreutzberg in the MPI of Biochemistry in the Structure Research of Prof. Robert Huber about the history of Brain Research, starting with Imhotep in ancient Egypt, considered as the first universal researcher, up to present times, and Schiller regarded as medical doctor, meeting Goethe, starting a dialogue with him about the primordial plant, which anticipated in certain ways ideas of modern genetics, and an excursion to Prof. Irenäus Eibl-Eibesfeld, who presented films of the Ethological Max Planck Film Archive, and a lecture of Gabriela von Habsburg completed the program, in which Dr. Stefanie Siebers-Gfaller and Brigita Hegedues, deserved gratitude for excellent German lessons, help and support. After the departure of Prof. Herbert Walther a lecture in honour of him was organized with Dr. Thomas Becker in 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010 the IMPRS International Symposium “New Frontiers in Science”, which motivated in the Max Planck year of mathematics 2008 the Prof. Günther Hasinger and Siegfried Bethke, Dr. Matthias Kling, now Prof. Dr. Nediljko Budisa, now Prof. and Dr. Helmut Rechenberg, last doctoral student of Heisenberg, for support and lectures. In the Darwin Year 2009 about 400 young international researcher from all parts of Germany came to participate in the IMPRS Interdisciplinary symposium “New Frontiers in Science” with excellent researchers, among them the Nobel Laureates Arber, Ernst and Huber as well as Prof. Gerd Leuchs and Prof. Karl-Heinz Maurer, who provided financial support for several years. Unforgettable in this symposium was also the lecture of Dr. med. Wolfgang Schweiger, Asia Deutschland e.V. illustrating help for Tibetan children, who had lost everything after earthquakes, appreciated by Prof. Ernst, who spoke in his lecture about the project “Science meets Dharma”, in which western science and eastern traditions of wisdom, meditation, yoga, Ayurvedic Medicine, Traditional Chinese Medicine, TCM, or Tibetan Medicine cooperate for a healthy life of all people.



Figure 5

Prof. Wolfgang Ketterle, Nobel Laureate in Physics 2001, with students after a visit of the Center of New Technologies in the Deutsches Museum, 13.11.2010, after giving a lecture in the IMPRS symposium New Frontiers in Science 2010, together with the Prof. Anna M. Cetto, Martin Heisenberg, E. P. Fischer, Michael Groll, Aaron Bernstein, Siegfried Bethke, Günther Hasinger, Ferenc Krausz, Gerd Leuchs, Harry Collins, Matthias Mann, Helmut Rechenberg, Philip Russel, Friedrich Simmel, Thomas Walther, supported by Leah Sharp, Andrea Golla, Carlos Acevedo-Rocha & Co. The author thanks all and Prof. Ketterle for cooperation and confirmation of the symposium’s excellence.



Figure 6

Nobel Laureate of Medicine Werner Arber in dialogue with the author, presenting Prof. Arber as leading pioneer of the gene- and biotechnology in the frame of the IMPRS Symposium New Frontiers in Science 2009. Therefore the author summarized the history of biotechnology, taking in the Darwin Year morphological research of Goethe and Alexander von Humboldt into consideration, which helped Darwin to understand the natural development of life in a rather universal way. Appreciating this and believing in God, (like Max Planck)

Prof. Arber became President of the Pontifical Academy of Science.

Viktor Frankl proposed a Statue of Responsibility in addition to the Statue of Liberty. The diversities of

languages and religions in view, he asked: ‘Is there not for many languages a common alphabet?’ For him man can lie, be wrong and find the truth in every language and he can also find through the medium of every religion to God, to the one God.

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Conflict of Interest

No conflict of interest.