

Intelligence, Wisdom, and Sanity

Intelligence has to do with the physiology of the body and brain. The quality of a person's eyesight, hearing, taste, smell, touch, and the other physical senses, in combination with the ability of a person's brain to accurately and efficiently store and process the information the senses provide, are the general determiners of primary genetically inherited intelligence. Beyond this primary intelligence the brain develops a vast secondary intelligence as it learns to use itself and grow itself. There is also a third layer of intelligence that uses external tools of thought such as language, mathematics, computers, and the internet.

Wisdom has to do with the quantity, veracity, and cohesiveness of the knowledge one acquires in life, and is a factor of both intelligence and environment. Intelligence without exposure to sufficient accurate, wide-ranging knowledge will not result in wisdom. Exposure to knowledge, without the intelligence to accurately store and process that knowledge, will not result in wisdom.

We reach our peak of intelligence early in life and our primary intelligence gradually diminishes as our body and brain age. We reach our peak of wisdom late in life as our store of knowledge steadily increases. The irony is that, as we go through life, wisdom and intelligence pass each other by. Within the interplay of the two is the vast complexity of consciousness.

Sane and insane are very vague words that mean many different things to many different people. If we differentiate between insane, which deals with physical aberrations of the brain, and unsane, which deals with poor thinking habits that result in false assumptions upon which behavior is based, we get a much more rational view of the brain and the personality it sustains. In this context, insanity is sometimes treatable with medicine and nutrition, and unsanity is sometimes treatable with retraining thinking habits.

Whatever we think it is, it is not. The memory is not the event, it's only the mental construct of our perception of the event from a particular perspective, and is bound to be more or less incomplete and inaccurate. As time goes by, the inaccuracy of what we remember steadily increases. If the event we remember is someone else's description of an event that they remember, then the inaccuracy and incompleteness are multiplied.

As population increased and agriculture needed less and less manpower, an ever higher percentage of the human species moved to the cities, where they spend their days living in boxes. Houses, cars, offices, schools, stores, theaters, malls, gyms... many of them spend almost the entirety of their lives in boxes. Their entire environment has been built by other people. Almost everything they know has been filtered through someone else's perspective, and much, and often most of it, is fictitious and or false. Consequently, large percentages of the population have segregated themselves into some very unsane perspectives of the world and how it works.