

About Thinking Laterally

by Anne Emerson

Warning: Nerd Alert. X-rated. This article is only for Nerds. The rest of you will think it's nuts.

How the weather on Saturn's moon, Titan, relates to global value systems might not be clear to you. It makes sense to me, and I will attempt to explain why.

According to an article on the subject, one can see similar weather patterns on earth and on Titan, even though the substances involved are not the same at all. I say - the forces operating are similar, even though the circumstances in which they operate are different.

My position regarding human nature is analogous. Even though cultures may differ, the forces operating are similar. We find, for example, rulers and ruled; respect for the status quo; changes to the status quo and the institutionalization of how to do that; "money" arising spontaneously in most societal subgroups; ingroups and outgroups; cross-pollination of ideas from one culture to another; liars and cheats; strict people and lenient people. Etcetera.

The general thrust of human nature, and what we think is right, reaches across cultures. It's subtle and complicated, but I think we know the way, the truth, and the light when we see it. Great spiritual histories and teachings teach us how to navigate the forces operating on us and on our fellow human beings.

Most cultures have flaws (Achilles heel?) and ours is excessive faith in the rational at the expense of the intuitive. In my opinion. Time for a re-set.

I am a fan of DBT, as well as of Carl Jung. But what works for me may not work for everyone. Suppose, for example, a person is born, or grows up, without the emotional wiring to understand DBT? Paying lip service to that (DBT) may then become one more subterfuge. One more way not to offer the true self to the world.

I hope, at a later date, to explain about the weather on Titan, what DBT is, what the Jungian Shadow is, why I think it's a good idea to offer ourselves honestly to the world, and how Islamic jurisprudence differs from the legal system developed in England and passed on to the United States. But don't hold your breath waiting. If you are interested, you could always look those things up for yourselves.

If you want to know how money flowing round an economic system might be understood in terms of water flowing around a system of pipes feeding a fountain and the pool around it, please see the slides for my talk on "Creativity," given at Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, College of William and Mary, and offered on the website, Anniespicsandpoems.com

Reason it's important is that money FLOWS (moves about, getting things done) and many economists have a hard time modeling that. In sum, we can use one thing to represent another, and once we learn the trick, it's quite handy. Some of us think it's fun, as well.