PSYCHOLOGY ASSIGNMENT ON HUMAN MIND

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The Brain and its history

As it is widely known in the modern world the brain is one of the most complex organs in the human body and discovering what the brain functions as has been an ongoing process. There has been an indefinite amount of discoveries about the brain as mentioned in the different podcasts. In my opinion thinking about thinking is what has true significance in the development of the human existence.

(Bunn, 2014) explains in the podcast the origin of common sense that the human brain is discovered and analyzed by different people and parts of the world so that we today can benefit from years and years of research.

Da Vinci introduced the idea of the anatomy of the brain in a series of non-conventional processes. "Our brain gives us awareness of ourselves and of our environment, processing a constant stream of sensory data." (Taylor) This is exactly what is accomplished by da Vinci's profound drawings that taught many generations to come the significance of anatomy. (Bunn, 2014) states that, "art and science were united in the search of knowledge." The brain creates the ability to both math and art; it is therefore inevitable that these pursuits would help contribute to the understanding of the origin itself.

Early beliefs constructed the idea that the soul is located in the ventricles. Thales came to conclude that the brain functions completely apart from the soul. "The ventricular system, the remnant of the space in the middle of the embryonic neural tube is an interconnected series of cavities that extends through most of the CNS." (Nolte, 2010). The true function of the ventricles is only discovered afterwards, but this kind of thinking contributed to steering research in the right direction. “In many previous Greek accounts, the psyche (which we translate as "soul") was the breath of life, while the body was identified with the real person" (Lawhead, 2014). Where the soul is located may still be a mystery.

Discovering and analyzing different diseases help to understand the functions of the brain that it attacks. "Scientists are continually learning more about how the brain grows and works in healthy

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people, and how normal brain development and function can go awry, leading to mental illnesses." (Office of Neuroscience Communications and Engagement, 2022)

The brain can be understood through a high spectrum of plausibility's. The function of the brain is not limited to research containing new technology. The anatomy of the brain and the different functions of the complex organ are studied for as long as time can tell.

Animal and human minds

The human race would like to believe that they are more advanced than the animal kingdom, because humans can communicate, feel emotions, show compassion towards others and is assured to think for themselves. The Darwinian view of evolution shows that there are "eagerly catalogued similarities between human and animal behavior." (Gibson & Wexler, 1994) One can merely observe a dog to realize that our minds are a lot closer than any human would like to admit. I am going to discuss the close relationship between human and animal minds.

Earlier it was believed that animals do not possess conscious mental abilities. (Griffin, 1992) proclaimed, "that animals could indeed think and their ability to do this could be subjected to proper scientific scrutiny." The research of both the human brain and the animal brain gives insight into our behavior and experience. Animals show humanistic attributes in their behavior and humans show animalistic attributes in their behavior. Charles Darwin revolutionized our thoughts by creating the theory that humans evolved from animals. There is a lot of evidence for and against this theory, but the fact remains that human and animal behavior are scientifically linked.

Mirror neurons are discovered in both animals and humans. When you see somebody stumble and fall it is a normal reaction to flinch with pain. People have the instinctive reaction to understand what the other is experiencing. Animals can have the same kind of reaction which also leads them to communicate with one another. The Language Research Centre in Decatur, Georgia did a study on how animals raised by humans have the ability to understand human communication. They were exposed to other animals to further test the theory (Hillix & Rumbaugh, 2013). When animals are only exposed to their natural habitat without human

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contact, this type of communication will not be possible, because the environment animals are exposed to create different responses.

If humans are exposed to severe environments where there is no sign of the civilized world, the human body is subjected to survival instinct. In times of danger our animalistic self would dominate the underlying civilization.

The essay claims, "if animals display four of five attributes that go to make up a culture, there is one thing they do not share." (Griffin, 1992) This is a very important part of the human race and it is what set us distinctively apart from the animal kingdom and that is change. Humans have the ability to change, adapt to new situations, change over generations, and learn out of previous mistakes. Animals do not possess this type of attribute, because they are genetically inclined to follow a subconscious animalistic instinct.

The similarities and dissimilarities between man and animal can create a barrier, but it is inevitable to learn from one another. Man and animal is therefore in a much closer relationship than what is acceptable to society.

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