



BITCOIN

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THE **BROKE** ISSUE

NOZOMI HAYASE

BROKEN HEARTS

BITCOIN RESTORES THE SOUL OF PSYCHOLOGY: FIXING A DISTORTED VISION OF HUMANITY

When I was in high school, I found a book titled “Love”. Written by Leo Buscaglia, a professor at the University of Southern California, it was a collection of his lectures for his “love class” that he created soon after one of his students had committed suicide.

Buscaglia argued that love is a learned phenomenon and that learning to live with and embrace others’ differences requires skills. Known as Dr. Love, he recognized incredible potential to love within each person and set out to help people cultivate this quality.

Reading this book had a tremendous impact on my life. I was inspired and became convinced that love is the primary force in the world. It uplifts our society and enriches all of our life, bringing joy and happiness.

Why is it that no one teaches us how to love? Buscaglia was right. We have classes about cooking, writing, driving, and doing math, etc., but we don’t spend time learning how to expand our capacity for love, or the skills of expressing love. I wanted to develop this capacity within myself and even someday teach a class of love, as did Buscaglia.

MY DISILLUSIONMENT

I figured that the best place to learn about love would be in the department of psychology. I saw the significant influence that psychology exerts in modern society, where traditional moral and religious authority has weakened. I had hope for psychology to become a bearer of love.

With full enthusiasm, I embarked on a journey into that field. Despite my high expectations, a **PSYCH101** class in college brought me a series of disappointments. As soon as I learned the introduction to psychology, I began to experience some kind of disillusionment. The thick textbook that students were assigned to read defined psychology as “a science of behavior and mental processes”.

After looking through page after page, I could not find any mention of love. The dry abstract language shut the doors to wonder, beauty, and joy that had been opened by Buscaglia's teaching. I started to feel that I was just naive and childish to be thinking about love. I began to question my choice of studying psychology.

Behaviorism rose to prominence in the early 20th century. Even though psychology as a field is changing, this school of thought still remains prevalent. This theory states that human or animal psychology must be objectively studied through observable behaviors, as thoughts and feelings cannot be observed.



DENIAL OF FREE WILL

Mainstream psychology, dominated by theories of behaviorism, rejects introspection. Internal activities such as thinking and feeling are either eliminated or are explained through behaviorist terms as simply responses to environmental stimuli.

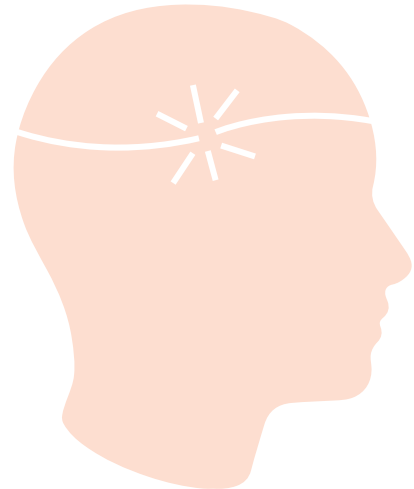
Psychologist John Watson, who codified behaviorism, stated:

“Psychology as the behaviorist views it is a purely objective experimental branch of natural science. Its theoretical goal is the prediction and control of behavior.”

(From the article, “Psychology as the behaviorist views it”, often referred to as the ‘behaviorist manifesto’, 1913, p. 158).

Behaviorists saw no fundamental distinction between human and animal behavior. B.F. Skinner, one of the prominent behavioral psychologists, conducted his laboratory experiments with rats (famously known as the Skinner Box) and pigeons, and thereby created an overly simplified view of human nature.

In this reductionist approach, he denied free will and the uniqueness of individuals. The human being has become one who is only conditioned to behave, with human motivation being boiled down to the pursuit of pleasure and escape from pain.



LOSS OF SOUL

The image of humanity that was provided by psychology was pessimistic. Psychology, with its adherence to empiricism, stripped away human dignity. It depicted us as lacking in autonomy, being subject only to genetic and environmental determinism.

I began to recognize how psychology, with its narrow definition of what it means to be human, has been hindering the development of our innate capacity for love. This extreme one-sided view of ourselves not only discouraged me from continuing my studies, but it also made me almost lose hope for humanity.



What happened to psychology? How did it fail to acknowledge our greatest potential?

In seeking for answers to those questions, I explored the history of psychology. The origins of psychology can be traced back to ancient Greece, 400–500 years BCE.

The word “psychology” is derived from the two specific Greek words — “psyche”, which means “soul”, “life”, or “spirit”, and “logia”, which means “the study of”.

Philosophers have always been interested in the nature of people. Aristotle and Plato debated all areas of human knowledge. This psychology, rooted in philosophy, went through major changes in the 19th century. In 1879, psychology was established as an empirical and experimental science.

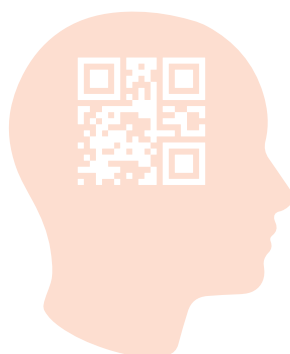
When psychology separated from philosophy, it lost its spirit. While it has become a science, it has lost its soul. What is a soul? The soul is the essence of a human being, that which makes each of us unique individuals.



RIGIDIFYING IDENTITIES

Behavioral psychology, in gaining great popularity, increasingly threatens the existence of this soul. By denoting the notion of free as fictitious, it denies self-agency and renders human beings into a faceless and nameless “it”.

Behaviorism’s rejection of the inner life of humans took hold of our society. The fiat system, with infinite money printing, applied the method of prediction and control of behavior to advertisements and the mass media.



A consumer economy that was engineered with inflationary monetary design creates an enclosed apparatus that functions like Skinner’s operant conditioning chamber. It incentivizes spending by using instant and short-term gratification. By manipulating desires and instincts, the system treats people like animals, rendering them passive reactors to external stimuli.

This system, in denying the freedom and uniqueness of individuals, makes us adapt to dominant values and rigidifies our identities. We are made to put on a mask of socially desirable persona, and trade our authenticity for acceptance.

Despite my discontent with psychology, I could not give up on our potential for love that inspired me in my adolescence. Being driven by a sense of mission, I entered into a clinical psychology program and decided to pursue a path of licensing. I wanted to become a psychologist, so that I could change psychology’s distorted and incomplete view of humanity.

MEDICAL MODEL OF PSYCHOLOGY

Psychology, having lost its soul, moved towards the medical model. Establishing statistical norms for humanity, it began to define the parameters of health and illness. In this framework, a psychologist becomes a clinician who is conditioned to see people as broken. Like medical doctors who treat “patients” who are ill, the role of psychologists is to find something wrong with the individual and fix them.

Now branded as medical practices, psychology became a force that oppresses free activities of the soul. The Diagnostic Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) became the profession’s Bible. This handbook published by the American Psychiatric Association (APA) is used by clinicians and psychiatrists in the United States to diagnose psychiatric illnesses.

As a student, I went through training to master this diagnostic tool. I was taught to categorize complex conditions into a series of codes that are designated for mental disorders for insurance purposes. Medicalization

of psychology opened it up to the influence of pharmaceutical companies. It is a little-known fact that drug companies provide massive amounts of money to fund research supporting diagnoses that could then be included in the DSM, to which they could target their medications.

From bipolar to autism, I worked diligently to identify mental conditions that deviated from the norm. As I became caught up with nuts and bolts of administrative tasks, I began to question the medical logic on which the entire system is based. Under these DMS criteria, children’s abundant curiosity and spontaneity is

viewed as Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD). Youth’s healthy distrust of authority and consequent rebelliousness are framed as Oppositional Defiant Disorder (ODD). Both are regarded as traits that need to be corrected.

Although I do not deny that this kind of identification could be helpful for some cases, I saw this as medicalization of normal human experience. I felt that it could do more harm than good. I started to wonder whether, through those acts of labeling, I am engaged in pathologizing; suppressing diverse and unique expressions of individuality.

Furthermore I asked myself, by doing this, are psychologists unwittingly made to serve the interests of Big Pharma? Are we not trying to medicate a soul by restricting behaviors that are not approved of by the powers that be?

WHEN A SOCIETY ITSELF IS ILL

In his speech to the American Psychological Association in 1967, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. challenged psychology’s construction of norms and the concept of “maladjusted” that the discipline uses to justify its intervention. Recognizing how our society itself has become ill, this leader of the civil rights movement noted that he was proud to be “maladjusted” to the dehumanization happening in his time:

“There are some things concerning which we must always be maladjusted if we are to be people of good will. We must never adjust ourselves to racial discrimination and racial segregation. We must never adjust ourselves to religious bigotry. We must never adjust ourselves to economic conditions that take necessities from the many to give luxuries to the few. We must never adjust ourselves to the madness of militarism, and the self-defeating effects of physical violence.”

What if the standards of our society are ill? What if our adaptation to the requirements of “normal personality” actually makes us act pathologically?

Our highly materialistic society deprives us of purpose and meaning. The suppression of creativity creates depression and anxiety. In a culture that rewards conformity, we become disconnected from our essence. Underneath a well-maintained mask of normalcy, our individuality suffocates. In a seeming oneness and togetherness of collectivism, loneliness breeds.

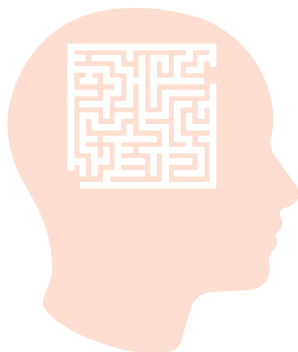
The fiat system, by tapping into our internal emptiness, hooks us into self-destructive behavior. From alcoholics and shopaholics to sexaholics and workaholics, people look for stimulation to get temporal highs. Nowadays, people are plugged into the internet, being addicted to social media clicks, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Here, psychotherapy has become a multimillion-dollar industry. Instead of dealing with the real causes of problems, it focuses on adjustment to the status quo. It aims to help people suffering from dysfunction to cope with their pain and to successfully return to “normal society”. By offering a pill for a quick fix, therapy is used as a Band-Aid to simply cover up symptoms.

TRAPPED IN A MAZE

From psychological assessment to intelligence testing, I took classes steadfastly, acquainted myself with clinical jargon, and maintained excellent grades. Despite my smooth academic performance, inside I was always confused. I was constantly in doubt as to whether I was on the right path.

Entry into the clinical program felt like entering a labyrinth of no return. In my search for the soul of psychology, I started to feel as if I was losing my own self, my ideals and passion. Immersed in professional training, those aspiring to become psychologists appeared like rats in the Skinner Box.



Most of my classmates disliked the learning process, yet they were willing to push themselves to jump through the hoops to get a license. I heard them repeatedly say, "Once we get a license, we get to do whatever we want. Until then we just have to endure".

A majority of students didn't question the medical model of psychology and the role of the profession within it. Many of them even embraced it. They were pushing for the right of psychologists to prescribe pharmaceutical products, like psychiatrists. Some told me that they had wanted to become a medical doctor, but thought it would be too hard, so they decided instead to become a clinician.

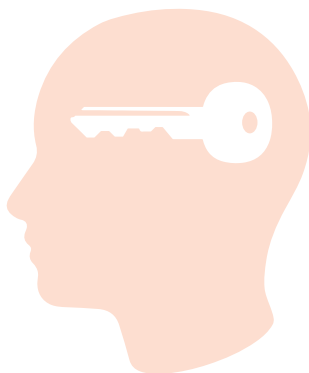
Economic incentives prevent prospective psychologists from asking hard questions. They are heavily invested in the system, going into debt with student loans for the promise of financial success. Their identities are wrapped up in professional status and titles.

Being trapped in a maze, they could not see or critically examine how the dominant theories and assumptions of psychology sustain the oppressive structure.

RENAISSANCE 2.0

Throughout my time in graduate school, I was haunted by questions that have become taboo. Voices inside me got louder and louder until I was unable to ignore them any longer. Not knowing what I was going to do next, I decided to exit the clinical program.

This act was a leap of faith that opened up a new horizon. I found Bitcoin, and with it the soul of psychology that I was looking for. Dubbed as "A Renaissance 2.0", this breakthrough in computer science has brought a humanistic revival, enabling a resurgence of the arts and freedom of expression.



**From the heart of Bitcoin, a new vision is arising.
It brings hope for humanity, liberating us from psychology's
central dogma; its limited view of our being.**

With its core value of censorship resistance, Bitcoin enables the freedom of individuals to defend the dignity of man. Freedom is a foundation for our capacity for love — a radical acceptance of our differences. It fosters diversity, allowing each person to express his or her own uniqueness.

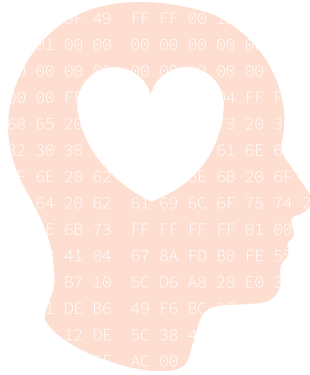
Bitcoin, rebirthing a lost human spirit and wisdom, now enlightens us. A new economy created by this freedom money now generates new incentives. It encourages all of us to become true to ourselves and behold ourselves in our entirety, recognizing our beauty and perfection.

We are beginning to realize there is nothing wrong with ourselves, and that we are not broken. We come to understand what needs to be fixed is the system that is built with a distorted view of humanity.

BITCOIN IS LOVE

I was trying to restore the soul of psychology. Bitcoin not only enabled that, but also helped me reclaim my own soul. Buscaglia, who dedicated his life to understanding what love is, noted that the first step of learning to love is for each person to truly love themselves.

One by one, people from all walks of life, all around the world, began to exit the fiat system and its mechanism of control. My sojourn has now intersected with others. We have been called misfits, geeks, rebels, lunatic fringes, and dreamers by the system. All of us are now finding our way into the Bitcoin rabbit hole.



Bitcoin lowers time preference (to delay immediate benefits and place more emphasis on future needs), engaging us in the process of self-discovery to help us to find our own individuality.

I opted out of the path of becoming a clinician, but I now think my youthful dream came true. Just not in the manner I expected. Around this new technology, a Love Class is being formed. Gathering people of all nations, cultures and religions, Bitcoin holds a space for each other's differences. It is now creating a community of love.

I found people who are like-minded and share the same values in all parts of the world; some of them I connect with only online and have yet to have met in person, while others I see regularly at a local meetup. Wherever Bitcoiners gather, there is a love fest, filled with hugs, curiosity, and openness. From friendship and brotherhood and sisterhood to lovers, a myriad of relationships are now blossoming.

In this age of technology, as the deployment of AI and machines accelerates mechanization, assaults on the soul intensifies. With the implementation of central banks digital currencies creating the China-style social credit scoring system, economic forces are used to make people become automatons.

Love requires work; our willingness to learn to care about each other. Proof-of-work offers us a formidable defense for our soul, engaging people around the world in the art of becoming fully human.

Love is the highest value that we can produce. Now bitcoin, the currency that carries our greatest potential, enters the world economy. Love that circulates through our networked hearts, nourishes our authentic expression and exchanges to heal our broken world. 🐾