

A JANUSIAN THEORY

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The mind, generally, won't when you want it to, and will, brilliantly, when not expected to. A self-imposed phenomenon, to be sure.

You're a writer, stuck fast in your 'writer's block' while searching rabidly for your denouement. You begin writing a vivid description of the 'block' – its death-like grip on the throat of your creativity, the over-whelming fear that your font is not only dry but has left the premises, and you flat-out refuse to acknowledge the possibility of senility. You can't focus. Your ex-wife looms in and out of the back of your mind. She's the reason! If she would only...No! It's not her! It's him! Your dad. Yes. That's it! The SOB left you when you were only ten. Then nothing. Not a word for years. If you could find him you would knock him on his...WAIT!! Of course! That's it!! The boy finds his father!

Suddenly you've got your ending. Your novel is finished. Your publisher loves it. It's out and hits #1 on The New York Best Sellers list. You've made it and there you are, standing in front of your peers accepting your well-deserved Pulitzer.

Question: Given that the mind is interested only in the survival of itself, was it your mind that lead you down the above-mentioned path of discovery?

Atheists will go to any length, and have, to convince you that there is no God. Ask Bill Maher. Believers will die, and have, before denouncing their God. Thugs will threaten to kill their victims, and have, if they don't get what they want. Presidential candidates will lie through their teeth, and do, to get their ass into the Oval Office.

What is the common denominator between these folks and every other folk throughout history, including Adam, that has us all, at one time or another, 'do the dirty' to our fellow man?

Greed? To be sure. Revenge? That's a good one. Jealousy? Petty but powerful. Envy? Pride? Lust? All of the Seven Deadlies? Low self-esteem? We've seen the havoc that one wreaks. Put a man or a woman with one or more of these afflictions into a position of power and it's a recipe for the emergence of yet another self-ordained 'god'. This not only applies to the leader of a country but to any marital relationship as well.

Let's investigate a bit further. A couple returns home and finds their house ablaze. There are jewels worth over \$500,000 in the upstairs bedroom. Without a moment's thought the man races into the house bent on retrieving their fortune and dies in the process. We're all afraid of fire to some degree but what replaced this man's fear of fire or, at the very least, made him ignore it?

Enter the paradox. What of the man who is good of heart and yet, when faced with an impossible dilemma, can call for the decimation of hundreds of thousands of human beings? This was depicted brilliantly by Henry Fonda in the movie *Fail Safe*. It's also been said that Abe Lincoln had that same capability. I'm not sure that there wasn't something similar in nature with the man who ran into the burning building to save the family jewels.

I'm am equally unsure whether very many of us, other than Ghandi, Einstein, Edison, Mandela and those who live those possibilities, have posited 'imagining two opposites at the same time' as *the* solution to any of today's problems. And given that mostly those with genius credentials frequent this playground, would it work for despots, naysayers and evil-doers?

Again, what is the common denominator among those we've discussed? Would the ability to imagine two opposites at the same time make a difference with the trouble-makers? Possibly. My biased opinion is that it would, but only if it served their personal agendas.

Is that 'mysterious thing' something physical? Mental? Emotional? Perhaps spiritual? Is it something we're born with? Is it in our DNA?

I'm reminded of Edgar Allen Poe's *The Purloined Letter*, where the letter in question is hidden in plain sight. Could this item, or as Charlie Smith refers to it, this 'particle', be something we deal with every day? Something present in each of our lives since birth? Something we deal with almost in the same way we deal with breathing?

Finally, I believe that people, with few exceptions, are born 'good'.., people who would love to have a life of peace, abundance and an opportunity to contribute.., people who could acknowledge one another for a job well done and not be threatened by another's achievement.

Every one of the 'afflictions' mentioned has, invariably, something underlying each of them. What if it were not only identified but recognized as the culprit? I mean recognized at a gut level. Our first reaction would probably be, "No.., it couldn't be that simple." But what if it was?!

Another possibility is that once recognized, the 'issues' plaguing the world just might begin to break up. Wow! What a concept! Naw. Too simple. Too easy. Maybe. Some of us have had horrible relationships with family and/or friends for years. Then, out of the blue a conversation ensues, and everything both of you have always wanted to say is finally said. Completion. You see each other in a completely different light.

Reasonable or not, stranger things have happened. For a while now I've been alluding to what the common denominator might be, the one that I believe deserves some consideration. Just for the fun of it, *notice the first letter of each of the last four paragraphs (including this one), and you'll have it...*, the big culprit that gets in the way of our common goodness and the lives we dream of living. It's the paradoxical, opposing particle that keeps the *Interbeon particle*

referred to in Charlie Smith's article from running the show – the dormant terror that seems to be always lurking in the background, waiting for an opportunity to thwart our best selves once again.