

Inner Realm



The Hundredth Monkey, A New Myth

by Sylvia Golbin

According to legend, on a mythical isle, a monkey discovered how to peel a banana – rather than eating it with the skin. Other monkeys copied her and at some point (when the 100th monkey learned) this behavior “magically” appeared in monkeys on other islands – who spontaneously began to “know” and use this information. This myth is based on an experiment reported by Ken Keyes and bolstered by the observation that “transfers” of knowledge can be observed as “paradigm shifts” that jump from individuals, to groups, to entire populations. With the emergence of the internet and other forms of technologically assisted “telepathy” it has become easier for ideas and behaviors to spread and communities of individuals to align thoughts and actions. The myth suggests that when “critical mass” is reached, ideas and behaviors take a “quantum leap” from personal/local knowledge to general practice. From an evolutionary perspective, this would mean that change is constantly happening, but it becomes apparent rather suddenly when it makes the leap.

Today, many people believe that we are embarked on an evolution of consciousness. This evolution has the potential to transform not only our thinking, but also our biology and our reality. The concept of the 100th Monkey is closely related to this quest because the monkey (evolution in action) brings into consciousness the concept of critical mass. This is the same critical mass that, when reached, causes an atomic explosion. If this energy can be harnessed to change our paradigm from one of selfish interest to one of mutual respect and concern, it could lead to actions that propagate the common good.

To fully understand the implications of the Hundredth Monkey Myth to an evolution in consciousness, it is important to note that it is impossible to tell when the 100th monkey peels the banana. The first monkey makes the discovery or shifts his consciousness and, by the time the 49th monkey gets it, there is no way she can know she is number 49. This means that, to shift the consciousness of humanity, we have to keep going on faith. We have to believe and keep learning. Also, it's important to know that every monkey is important. Whether you are number one or number 100, the shift cannot happen without your participation.

Most of us are familiar with the concept of the Collective Unconscious, popularized by Carl Jung. This is the "group mind" or genetically encoded consciousness that we inherit with our DNA. This "unconscious" mind holds the archetypes and collective myths that create the world as we know it. Because these archetypes are unconscious (although they appear in our Fairy Tales and Mythology as well as Advertising and Propaganda) they are operating behind the scenes to create our reality. The difference, now, is that we are ready to consciously create the myths and take possession of the power that has, up to now, been operating from the realms of the unconscious.

The unconscious forces that create the world are encoded in our biology, our societies and our belief systems. On an individual basis, we can realize this, but we cannot change it. The forces creating the way it is are too powerful and too entrenched. This is why we need to resonate with others, creating a morphogenic field and finding common ground from which we can create a new paradigm. The concept of co-creation enables us to transcend our separation and consciously choose to create in partnership with others and with Spirit. Invoking "Sprit" helps us to recognize that we are part of a living universe which is composed of energy and which possesses an intelligence that is beyond our comprehension, although we can experience and appreciate it.

Since reality seems to exist as separate from us, we assume that we do not or cannot influence it. Yet, we do. Thoughts become reality. We decide to build a house: we get an architect, gather materials, and hire contractors and – eventually – the house manifests. We are familiar with this sort of creation. What we are now learning and accessing is the knowledge that all our thoughts are, potentially, creating. Einstein showed us that the universe is made of energy and that energy can be transformed into matter. As our understanding of the nature of the universe and reality evolves, we are becoming empowered and gathering the will forces, discipline and beliefs that enable us to become the authors of our reality.

If we are all creators, and are constantly creating, why aren't our lives perfect and harmonious and why is the world in a state of chaos and suffering? The reason is that we have been creating unconsciously. Our collective and individual minds are filled with beliefs, ideas and information that we did not choose. We have been programmed by

society, religion, our family. These programs have created the world as we know it, both good and bad. Also, our programming is often not harmonious with that of others or coordinated for the common good.

Our individual egos, which are necessary to maintain diversity and create a dualistic world in which there is differentiation and, hence, life – have reached a stage of development and maturity in which many individuals are now able to maintain their ego strength (and, hence, their sanity) and, at the same time, marshal their will forces to join together with others for the common good. We are ready to transcend our separateness and find the common ground that will enable us to make a huge shift.

What is the “shift” that the monkey myth points to? Many people believe that we are living in “end times.” Can we shift from Armageddon to Dis-Armagedden? Dis-Armagedden is part of the new mythology. To become reality, it must become our belief and intention to choose life and sustainability over death and destruction. There is evidence that some of the ideas that could signal a shift have already made the quantum leap to the collective consciousness. The popularity of “The Secret,” which makes the Law of Attraction accessible to the population at large, is an example of this phenomenon.

The full nature of the shift has yet to reveal itself, but –certainly – it will involve a willingness to take action for the common good as well as to take whatever steps are necessary and appropriate to bring our own piece of the puzzle into place.

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