

Session III-1

**WITNESSING AWARENESS:  
NATURE OF CREATIVITY**

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The question of the nature of scientific creativity is investigated in relation to the involvement of the discoverer, and the role of non-algorithmic mental processing is highlighted. Direct sense perception and logical ordering are steps; so is non-verbal non-sequential mental processing. Even after the creative insight has been gained, there is a process of transcribing the inner vision into standard concepts, symbols, and sentences. Inasmuch as creativity cannot function without stimulation from external stimuli, one often thinks of these as the antecedents and bridge between the realm of creativity and the observation of the external world; but no insight, no creation is common scientific knowledge in the bridge between the inner vision and the expressed discovery is crossed. This bridge is the transducer between the inner vision and the spoken word, the mediation.

Some common features of creative insight are also discussed. These include the unexpected feeling of familiarity with the new vision. It is as if one had all along known what has just been discovered. This is so strong that the past is erased: one cannot imagine a time when one did not know! Second, often this discovery comes after the standard paths have been tried and exhausted. Two legends from Mahābhārata and one from the Gospels, allegorically pertaining to this circumstance, are recounted in the text.

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Where is the observer's individual mind in such creative events? The mind is essential as the bridge between the sense perceptions or interpersonal communications and the "seer," and also for the processor between the inner vision and communicable thought chains or logical processes. Yet it is not the logical mind which is the "seer." What is the role of the mind and the modality of awareness in creativity?

It is pointed out that the awareness functions in the "witness" mode, present but not acting. The nonlogical conviction that the insight is complete, the joy that finds at the moment of the vision, the feeling of oneness, of belonging, and of timelessness—all these suggest that the witnessing mode of awareness is distinct from the individuated ego awareness. Such witnessing awareness is ever-present, but we are conscious of it only at times: and these are the joyous extended moments of creativity.

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