Causal chain to apathy and/or suicide, grief counseling the initiator (Anxiety)

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Abstract

Purpose: This discussion of the causal chain to apathy and/or suicide with grief counseling the initiator has the causal chain as an extension of loss (mourning) versus depression (melancholia), with references to protest, despair, detachment and grief the basis as set forth in the following statement: “Bowlby defines mourning as the process that ensues after separation and loss, a process that consists of three phases: protest, despair and detachment. He defines grief as the subjective experience of this process” [Italics added] (Mendelson, 1974, p.130; Bowlby, 1961).

Design/Methodology/Approach: To confront the simple either-or direction of activity in isolation that is immersed in a flurry of environmental and personal dynamics that are pivotal with respect to loss versus depression from three perspectives: (1) At the base of environmental is knowledge and experience; (2) at the base of personal is motivation; (3) at the base of the comingling of environmental and personal is the politics of medicine. To provide insight into knowledge and experience one must turn to Zeller’s reference to ‘Real’ (Zeller, 1875; Rogers, 1898). To provide insight into motivation one must turn to the idea of the wish as well as its basis (Humphrey, 1920). To provide insight into the politics of medicine one must turn to the historical basis of the shift toward a more biological orientation during and after the 1960s in the politics of medicine (Fenichel, 1945, chap. 1, pp. 3-10).

Research limitations/implications: Unpleasure being reduced to pleasure through the safe-harbor afforded by an individual’s appreciation for value and interest is the fundamental issue with grief counseling as a dangerous distraction.

Findings: The base issue has a dynamic causal chain to seduction and/or narcissism as the parent to a static causal chain to apathy and/or suicide, with seduction-aphathy and narcissism-suicide the linkages.

Social implications: Included here is a concern about the character of each cognition and chance. “Every step the mind takes in its progress towards knowledge makes some discovery, which is not only new, but the best, too, for the time at least” (Locke, 1689, p. ix). Once the proverbial first of Locke’s many steps has been taken the concern then becomes the accommodation of Zeller’s ‘Real’ with respect to the four-step sequence that results when reactive and proactive are viewed as a seamless continuum, where reactive is aligned with (1) pleasure and unpleasure and (2) the realness of knowledge and experience, while proactive is aligned with (3) pragmatism and its limits and (4) traits and personality. This in turn allows a generalization about cognition to be recognized with chance resolved in-stream on the strength of items (2) and (3): “Theory is the cross-section of the given state of action in order to know the conduct that should be” — (2) the realness of knowledge and experience; “practice is the realization of the idea thus gained: it is theory in action” – (3) pragmatism and its limits (Dewey, 1891).

Originality/value: This is about the rationalizations and their execution that fuel progression to the problem (Glover, 1936).

Keywords: seduction, narcissism, apathy, suicide, protest, despair, detachment, grief

Paper type: Original writing.