WAR, MEMORY, AND MINTS

hallowed eyes of a woman from darfur:
sad, bleak, fear beaten out, no,
like eyes of homeless on the streets here.
screens in which shadows and sun snake
inside brutality pronounced on
and on like *in* and *out*
inside a shell.
I try to read story
from the calligraphy,
stop at *animal* and *stone*.

on tv: a fireball torching a village *maiming,*
mass graves, skeletons out in the open looking
images from darfur
project on walls outside the holocaust museum in d.c.;
it's part of our mission, director says, *to prod people into doing something.*
neither she nor the reporter suggest what:
call attention to call attention to call attention to
distance is a mind flight.

to pull out, or not to pull out
from iraq; this is the question.
today a mayor condemns cops for *excessive shooting*
killing a few men somewhere in new york;
the level of police protection in the minority 'hood
is referred to as "little iraq."
silent codas to the evening news:
photos, names, ages of each american soldier killed lately
fill the empty sound.

ancient peoples had gods.
we're all 1 organism and when people are sacrificed
they're only part of the organism.

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When a person undergoes trauma induced by electroshock, a feeling of light-headedness is evidenced; as if one is floating or fluttering like a butterfly. Psyche is the word for both “soul” and “butterfly,” coming from the belief that human souls become butterflies while searching for a new incarnation.

Some ancient mystics groups, such as the Gnostics, saw the butterfly as a symbol of corrupt flesh. The “Angel of Death” in Gnostic art was portrayed crushing the butterfly.

Heart of America Radio reports on how scientists are developing a pill to reduce the terror of a traumatic event:

“Imagine a world where victims of violence or trauma pop a pill to ease their feelings of terror and dim the memory of a car accident, rape, or other assault.” That's the hope of scientists at Harvard University who are developing a pill they say will prevent post-traumatic stress disorder in such victims. They’re hoping to alter the brain's reaction to traumatic events, lessening the strength of memories and softening the emotions they evoke.

Pitman has been conducting research on PTSD for the past 20 years, and says that scientists have a pretty good idea of how it works. When a person experiences a traumatic event, he says, the body releases adrenaline, a stress hormone that prepares the body to run from or attack an aggressor. When adrenaline and its cousin noradrenaline enter the brain, he says, they act on the amygdala region, which is involved in fear and memory. Basically, Pitman says, "The same adrenaline that's making you run fast has the ability to strengthen your memory."

This system was useful back in prehistoric times, Pitman says, when someone who was chased by a crocodile, for example, would need to remember where that predator lived. But in modern times, Pittman says, “This mechanism goes too far. For people who have PTSD, the memories are so strong they can have trouble living in the present.”

To counter the harmful effects of stress hormones like adrenaline on memory, Pitman has been experimenting with propranolol, a drug commonly used to treat hypertension. Since propranolol blocks the action of adrenaline and noradrenaline, Pitman thought it might prevent memories from being burned too deeply in the amygdala of the brain. “We figured we could give people this propranolol to affect the memory before it gets laid down," he explains. Pitman is quick to point out that the drug doesn’t cause people to remember things differently, just less strongly. "We would say it would more approximate a normal memory," he says.

Sounds like a win/win situation, but not everyone is convinced that propranolol is such a great idea. Gina Scaramella, executive director of the Boston Area Rape Crisis

Center, sees about 400 rape cases a year and says she and her colleagues have concerns about the use of the pill. Scaramella says it's important for women to feel in control when they are recovering from a sexual assault, and taking propranolol means giving up control over their memories. Secondly, she says, “anyone who took that medicine could be in trouble in a legal case,” since defense lawyers may say that the victim was so unstable that she needed drugs to cope, or that the propranolol may have altered her memory about the assault. Other ethicists say the pill may erase the rage that victims will need to go on and prosecute their attackers.

In a landmark study, test subjects were shown a series of photos, some extremely disturbing. After viewing the slide show, half the people were given propranolol while the other half received no drug at all. When tested a week later, the group without the drug vividly remembered the disturbing images while the propranolol group did not.

The possibilities soon captured the imagination of researchers across the country. Could propranolol work like an inoculation against post-traumatic stress disorder?

To test the theory, Dr. Charles Marmar, Director of Psychiatry at the V.A. Medical Center in San Francisco gave the drug to accident victims as they were being treated in hospital emergency rooms. In follow-up interviews, victims showed a remarkable lack of stress as they recalled their accidents.

“We're opening a pandora's box,” argues David Magnus of the bioethics department at Stanford University. “We could be facing a world where when people go through periods of, Oh I wish I hadn't done that last night, or painful breakups, they take these pills.”

While the debate continues over the memory-morphing potential of Propranolol, work is also advancing quickly with a second drug, D-cycloserine.

Dr. Barbara Rothbaum of Emory University plans to immerse veterans in a ‘virtual Iraq,’ a computer generated environment so real, it’s designed to trigger their worst memories.

Then she will administer a light dose of D-cycloserine which she believes strengthens the logical part of the human brain in the frontal lobe, which normally re-extinguishes traumatic memories over time, by slowly learning to reinterpret them. “And by exposing veterans over and over they have a chance to decrease anxiety,” says Rothbaum.

Rothbaum believes giving soldiers the same therapy could allow them to leave the battlefield behind and finally come home. “We don't want to make the same mistakes from Vietnam,” she says, referring to the thousands of cases of post-traumatic stress disorder that went untreated for decades.

Dr. Charles Marmar is currently recruiting local veterans of either Iraq or Afghanistan for trials using D-cycloserine. “We're particularly interested to determine if combination of cognitive behavioral therapy with use of D-cycloserine in low dose, administered a half-hour before the therapy session would lesson the number of

treatment sessions required, and even result in longer lasting treatment results," he says.

The National Security Agency (NSA) collects, processes and disseminates foreign Signals Intelligence (SIGINT). The old adage that "knowledge is power" has perhaps never been truer than when applied to today's threats against our nation and the role SIGINT plays in overcoming them.

The NSA's SIGINT mission provides our military leaders and policy makers with intelligence to ensure our national defense and to advance U.S. global interests. SIGINT plays a vital role in our national security by employing the right people and using the latest technology to provide America's leaders with the critical information they need to save lives, defend democracy, and promote American values.

The next stage is to embed and compress detailed commands or messages within. This is achieved through the use of hi-tech headsets, in conjunction with computer-driven generators which emit inaudible sound waves or harmonics that affect the covering of neuron pathways to the subconscious and unconscious mind. "Virtual reality" optical devices are sometimes used simultaneously with the harmonic generators projecting pulsating colored lights, subliminals and split-screen visuals. High voltage electroshock is then used for memory dissolution.

The NSA gathers information on U.S. citizens who might be of interest to any of the over 50,000 NSA agents. These agents are authorized by executive order to receive information on anyone. The NSA has a permanent National Security Anti-Terrorist surveillance network in place.

The NSA's DOMINT has the ability to covertly gather information on people inside the U.S.

Communications Intelligence (COMINT) is responsible for the blanket coverage of all electronic communication in the U.S. and the world to ensure national security. The NSA at Ft. Meade, Maryland has had the most advanced computers in the world since the early 1960's. NSA technology is developed and implemented in secret from private corporations, academia, and the general public.

The Signals Intelligence (SIGINT) mission of the NSA has evolved into a program of decoding EMF waves in the environment for wirelessly tapping into computers and tracking persons with the electrical currents in their bodies. Signals Intelligence is based on the fact that everything in the environment with an electric current in it has a magnetic flux around it which gives off EMF waves. The NSA/DoD has developed proprietary advanced digital equipment which can remotely analyze all objects whether man-made or organic that have electrical activity.

ELINT stands for Electronic Signals Intelligence, and refers to intelligence-gathering by use of electronic sensors.

MINT: [Cognate with Old Saxon muni- (in munilc lovable), Middle High German mun thought, intention, Old Icelandic munr mind, desire, love, Gothic muns purpose, intention, Dutch munten to aim at, to allude to)

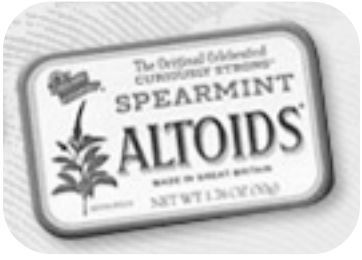
1. a. Mind, purpose, intention; wish, desire. (Only in Old English.)

   b. Remembrance, memory; to make min of: to make mention of.

[ad. L. intelleg-, intelligent-em, pr. pple. of intellegre (later intelligre) to see into, perceive, understand, f. inter between, within + legre to bring together, gather, pick out, choose, catch up, catch with the eye, read. Cf. F. intelligent (Cotgrave, 1611).]

HUMINT: Human Intelligence
COMINT: Communications Intelligence
SIGINT: Signals Intelligence
IMINT: Imagery Intelligence
ELINT: Electronic Signals Intelligence
DOMINT: Domestic Intelligence
MASINT: "Measuring and Signature" Intelligence.

MASTER OF MY DOMINT



THE CURIOUSLY STRONG MINTS