

After years of silence Bob Dylan gave an interview to Ed Bradley.

Bradley: You wrote “Blowing in the Wind” in only ten minutes. Is that right?

Dylan: Probably.

Bradley: Just like that?

Dylan: Yeah.

Bradley: Where did it come from?

Dylan: It just came. It came from, ah, like... right out of that wellspring of creativity I would think, you know.

And Leonard Cohen made *this* remark on the occasion of receiving an award:

“If I knew where the good songs came from I’d go there more often.”



Albert Einstein wrote in *Autobiographical Notes*:

“Invention is not the product of logical thought, even though the final product is tied to a logical structure.”

What way to use the *mind* does lead to invention? And to the sort of creativity that will empower us to think outside the box and *change course*?

Dejan Raković of the University of Belgrade undertook to find out; by studying the creative process of Nikola Tesla; whose creativity you’ll wit-

ness by just turning on the light switch; whose *phenomenology* Tesla himself described in *My Inventions*. Key to Tesla's *creativity* was his ability to *intuit complex things*. His first invention—the induction motor with rotating magnetic field, which is used in Tesla automobiles—materialized in his mind in a flash while he was walking in a park and reciting lines from Goethe's Faust; Tesla stopped and sketched the induction motor on the ground with his walking stick.

Raković identified two kinds of creativity: *direct* and *indirect*.

We are *indirectly creative* when we painstakingly try to fit disparate pieces together; and *directly creative* when the whole solution to a complex quest presents itself in intuition.

Genius is etymologically related to genie, to that big and powerful fellow that Aladdin found in a lamp. *Direct creativity* is experienced as if *someone else* did the job; as this fabled exchange might illustrate:

Dr. Lutz: May I ask you something? Why do you insist on referring to yourself in the third person? It is intensely irritating!

Hercule Poirot: Because that helps me achieve a healthy distance from my genius.



In the age of alchemy, before science and human development separated, and while both were inextricably tied with cosmology, slow and gloomy Saturn was the symbol of the philosopher.

Imagine if it turns out that high IQ is *not* what distinguishes a genius!

That genius is really just a different way to use the mind; which is *slower* than its high IQ counterpart; which necessitates a certain relaxed yet sustained attention, or *mindfulness* as **Buddhism** calls it. What if the *ecology of mind* we now live in makes *direct creativity impossible*?

At the point where we *vitaly* need it!

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