



Study of Coma Cases of Munnabhai?

ABSTRACT: Editor: An interesting concept of a study of popular characters from films. But as it is not possible to prescribe with conclusive evidence or result, so it will remain an hypothesis. Nevertheless it a novel and interesting exercise, worthwhile to publish.



Dr. Mirza Anwar Baig M.D., Ph.D., F.N.C.P.

Director, Anand Academy of Alternative Therapy & Research, Mira Road (E), Thane

Tel: 28116765 / 23754069. Fax: 3723358

E-mail: homoocaf@bom7.vsnl.net.in. Web-site: www.homoocaf.com

ABSTRACT

Coma is as difficult to define, as it is to define oneself. In this condition our body is separated from ourselves! But the question is: What is self and where does it live? Inside the body or within the body? Then again, how do you say you are you, not me? In other words, how do you know you exist? Is it because you think, you feel, you take up space? At first glance, the question may seem silly. Of course you know you exist, even as a child you knew you were unique, that you were different from everybody else and that you were "You".

Thus philosophically, psychologically and personally, it's not that difficult to define Self. But Coma is a condition in which self is cut off from the awareness of the environment, which may also be altered by disease in many ways, resulting in such varied states such as confusion, delirium and disorientation, etc.

Gradually if reductions in the conscious level continue, it would lead into deep coma. In deep coma, patient's self will not response to any stimuli, even painful. Sometimes the self will be in a state of stupor or drowsiness, would react slowly to stimuli and drifts into sleep if left undisturbed. Such conditions we would term as semi-coma.

In the later stage, patient would show stupor with chyne-stokes breathing; the pupillary reactions and ocular movements will be modified by the effects of focal brain lesions, etc. Modern tests like brain mapping, reveals that, 'the people can have their conscious mind totally destroyed, yet their eyes will still scan the room and lock onto and track a moving object'; (Mapping the Mind, published in 2000 by Phoenix, Orion House, London).

One character, Munnabhai, in the Bollywood film-*Munnabhai MBBS*, with no conventional medical knowledge, yet with ordinary intellect, was able to perceive these changes with his naked eye. And in a dramatic way he proved his findings, that the patient who was considered as biologically dead, was curable, was having consciousness somewhere and he treated him accordingly.

He was a young man in coma, due to some shock, but was left to die since the doctors felt he was not treatable from any standpoints. There were no reflexes in the body, no emotions on his face, he was like a statue, except in his one eye. That eye wanted to convey something and that something was perceived by Munnabhai and with his constant effort, the conscious level of the patient was finally

brought up. Interestingly in the same way he treated one more case, who was also in coma but with a difference; was moving around with automatic motions.

He was an elderly man, who had no hunger, suffering from Alzheimer's disease, hence often forgot to eat. But he used to drink a glass of juice, while playing his favourite game of *carrom*. Every time when he was confident to win, this act of him was conducted automatically as if to celebrate his success, and satisfy his ego. Munnabhai knew this!

On one occasion patient forgot to eat for many days, became hypoglycemic and went into coma and had to be hospitalized. Munnabhai applied one trick, to bring his conscious level back. He arranged the same game inside the ward and played in front of him, which worked.

In Alzheimer's, a kind of neurodegenerative disorder is seen, which finally leads to cell death. Gradually this process damages the conscious level and he gets cut off from himself. The patient will do things automatically with his subconscious levels. Munnabhai's medicines in both these cases were his ideas. He used their self or willpower to bring them out from their disease traps. Now the original question raises its head again: can we define self? When self is cut off from the brain, where does it go? Or whether it remains inside within the brain? The great physician and philosopher, Aristotle, in his writing says; 'Human spirit lives inside the heart and psyche in brain'. Means he is identifying two living things in a person, soul and psyche. But medical science rejects the theory of soul. It only talks about psyche.

Ancient Indian scriptures defines human soul and psyche as two different identities: 'Aatma' for Soul and 'Aham' for Psyche. These vedic and philosophical scriptures, like 'Athar

Veda', defining 'Pran Shakti' is yet another living identity, which is also within the body. Allopaths don't consider this, while Homeopaths call this as 'Vital Force'. But most of us don't understand it.

VITAL FORCE IS AN IMMUNE SYSTEM

We all know intuitively that it is our thoughts, feelings, memories, emotions, belief, morals, and actions that add up to a singular total which is a unique sum of all our intellectual, behavioural and social parts that is ourselves and that interact with the world. But what makes us physiologically unique is our vital force. This keeps us physically intact, distinct from other people and makes one a biological entity separate from any other individual. Modern science termed this as immunity and immune system. This in fact is a physical barrier between the rest of the world and us. In short, one would not exist without one's immune system.

It is your immune system, which knows who you are and keeps you intact and maintains your boundaries. In 'Holy Quran' God says He had made us from a substance then entered His soul into our body, so as long as that is inside us we survive. The moment it goes away we are no more and that is why Kant has linked the source of vital force from the divine infinite. Modern science says the stem cell the source of immune system, but from where this cell has come? From bone marrow! How the bone marrow was formed? From DNA, from where the DNA has come? From self, and who made self, God or Accident?! However, as we know, the self has two minds; one is conscious and another, subconscious. Whatever we learned in conscious stage is memorized and stored inside the subconscious mind. Such as we have learned walking in a conscious state where the conscious brain was involved but now when we walk,

that act is not controlled by our conscious brain. On the contrary it is the subconscious brain, which holds us in the right posture when we walk or run, etc. Therefore even in a sleep or coma one can walk, or talk or do automatic conduct.

In the same way when we drive a car, we don't apply our conscious brain. We do our day to day routine things quite easily without using much of our conscious brain. Since our subconscious mind, also known as hindbrain, is a storeroom for so many things, which we have learned or known by other means.

Our brain is like a chemical computer, acts on the feedback mechanism, with co-ordination between conscious and subconscious mind, they work together with certain signals and in harmony and also share their work. As long as things go fine we are at peace, but when some wrong entry comes, peace is disturbed, therefore comes dis-ease then disease- depending upon the causative factors- such as chemical, mechanical or metabolic, infective or degenerative, stress or phobia, emotions, fears, or fright, etc.

When these two brains receive wrong information or produce wrong signals, which can also occur temporarily due to drugs or alcohols, would produce stupor delusions and hallucinations, leading to coma or semi-coma and that will again depend upon the causes and the state of brain cells.

MY UNDERSTANDINGS OF RUBRICS

FIRST CASE: In absolute coma, his doctors were of the opinion that his conscious brain is totally dead therefore he had no reflexes, not even blinking of eyes. He was totally listless. Was his conscious brain dead or subconscious? His eyes were open and he was listless! Such things may happen due to high-grade emotional trauma or psychological

shocks. Was he in an *Ignatia*- state or *Opium*? In *Opium* eyes are open when patient is unconscious. Or was that some other remedy! He was absorbed in his reveries and looked as if he was in shock. That's what Munnabhai also suspected, he tried his will to overcome upon his disease.

He was in profound sadness. His mind was benumbed. Though he looked stupid and stuporous, at times he also looked as if would speak. His limbs were weak and were not in his control. At times he looked as if he sees and listens, would speak but could not move or respond as if having no control?

Was that a *Cocculus* state of mind, which could also be caused by a stupefying poison, also producing paralytic muscular relaxation as if that person is dead. *Cocculus* also covers this symptom. Such types of persons of *Cocculus* constitution, are susceptible to fear, anger, grief and all mental disturbances. They will sit as if absorbed in deep and sad thoughts, they watch things but cannot move.

SECOND CASE: A demented old person, suffering from a mysterious condition. He used to forget his meals, except while playing carrom in which he was a champion. Whenever he took the queen and its cover, he was relaxed and celebrated with a full glass of juice (as if with wine, as if rewarding himself for his great game)!

See Kent's Repertory, Page 49, forgetful, (in old people), and Page 90, i) unconsciousness but does automatic, conduct.

ii Happiness with pride: Suspect *Lyco*, would be his remedy for his Alzheimer's Disease. Here his conscious brain was not alive or alert; but subconscious was alert. While in the first case his conscious was alert, dead was subconscious, needing *Cocculus*. But Munnabhai cured them by the influence of their self (will) power.