



Orphan Therapy

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Stillborn Parents

“Prably it kilt him soon it come down on him, he dint have no time to drown in the muck. That gret big black thing. I began to klime all ovr that black thing then. I were looking to see if it had a name stampt in or raisd up in the iron of it. I cudnt fynd no name, I sayd, ‘My dad been kilt by something I dont even know the name of, aint that a larf?’ And then I begun larfing and I cudnt stop.”

- From "Riddley Walker," by Russell Hoban

Ranging through coming-of-age stories, which I read to my son, I find so many orphan stories. They're not just kids who lost their parents, they're kids who never had any. Why are there so many of these stories? The pundits say it's because orphans are free to create themselves, to grow up independent or stay forever Peter Pan.

“Orphans ... attract trouble and luck and magic. Without parents to protect you, enforce order and inflict grown-up priorities ... orphans are free to run wild and live large and daring lives.”
Katherine Rundell

This is not right. The orphan story is not just a dramatic

backdrop, it's our childhood. The orphan story is not so much a genre as a reality. Why are people so culturally blind to not see this?



... it is each other's friendship that they desire more than anything. - Kyra Gregory's "Chameleon (Forgotten Children #2)."

In our culture we are all orphans. Our parents have been isolated from us, replaced with school teachers, soldiers, Santa Claus and Uncle Sam ... who "wants" us. In Western culture we are orphaned by a devouring mindset.

Mowgli's parents were eaten by a tiger, and he was taken in by a family of wise and friendly wolves, freed from restraints of civilisation. - Kipling's "The Jungle Book."

Anne is an orphan hungry for love in a quest for friendship and permanence. - "Anne of Green Gables," by L M Montgomery

Frodo lost his parents at 12 in a boating accident, was adopted by Bilbo, and became the one soul in all of Middle Earth capable of resisting the One Ring's power. - J.R.R. Tolkien's "The Lord of the Rings."

Batman was created when Bruce Wayne witnessed his parents' murder. Superman, Spider-Man, The Hulk, Daredevil, Robin, Aquagirl, and countless other heroes grew up as orphans.



Parents Removed Like Tonsils

"... the name 'community' hardly applies to the way we interact with each other. We live in networks, not communities, and everyone I know is lonely because of that." - John Taylor Gatto

Orphans were rarely found in Native American cultures because of the elaborate kinship systems of Native societies. In Native American myths children are raised by relatives after the deaths of their parents. These children were not considered "orphans" by Native listeners because they still have families.

Speaking of the indigenous Australians a tribal member says: *"There's no such thing as an orphan in Aboriginal society. Like me, I have three other mothers."* Aboriginals do not base their stories around orphans. We do.

Our orphan-hood starts with our being taught we are individuals. It's not that we have lost our "coming of age" rituals, we've destroyed them, we have nothing to come of age into. Our culture keeps us perpetually in childhood by keeping us separate. We are not functional individuals, we are cookie-stamped identicals.

Our culture trains us as consumers to identify ourselves according to what we own. The closest we come to family is looking alike. We are commercially related in what we wear and how we talk. Speaking Twitter and "liked" on Facebook, we are factory cells, lost souls.

"Modern civilization suffers from the overly one-sided dominance of the rational, intellectual mind, a one-sidedness that seemingly disconnects us from nature, from empathy, and from ourselves. ... Wetiko is a disturber of the peace of humanity and the natural world, a sickness which spawns aggression... our collective insanity is so pervasive that it has become normalized.." - From "The Wetiko Virus," by Paul Levy

Orphan Therapy



In hypnosis you get to talk to the brains behind the operation, and once you've talked to the deeper person who resides in everyone there is little purpose in going back to the receptionist. The receptionist is our ego identity, who we think we are. The "brains behind the operation" is our subconscious, a loose community of actors, guides, agents, demons and angels who speak in symbols and metaphors, when they choose to speak at all. The purpose of hypnosis is to hear their voice.

When you gain the audience of the subconscious you don't need to find the right question to ask, all you have to do is listen. You, the listener with your own egoic identity, cannot truly speak to the subconscious because the subconscious has no fixed language. Speech itself distorts the message, which is why there are many voices. It's boundaries are porous with far less certainty and individuality than our

conscious self. It covers a larger territory, carrying a richer memory.

The best connection our conscious self can make with the subconscious is to connect with our own chaos and confusion, to let go of our boundaries. When we do that, we enter a dreamtime, and in that dreamtime we can better appreciate the question-based reality -- different from the answer-based reality of our conscious mind. Allowing ambiguity allows contradictory elements to simultaneously exist. It allows us to "try on" realities that don't fit.

To the subconscious we can ask "Where is your family?" In our own hypnoidal state we can hear the response that comes to us not as an answer, but as a nest of questions and feelings. In hypnosis we recognize the little dream of our waking state and replace it with a bigger one of the dreamtime.

Herein lies a therapy we need to rebirth ourselves. As mothers and fathers we do not know how to be mothers or fathers. Our love for our children is no clearer than our love for ourselves. We need to relearn this from our children. We need to speak to both our inner child, and our biological children and ask them where is our family.

Orphan therapy is recognizing our orphanhood and our broken hearts. A closed heart will stay closed, only a broken heart can be fixed. We are looking for family, moving toward it as earthworms nosing forward. We've lost our knowing of it and must turn to our bodies to intuit it.

Hypnosis speaks the body language that's always changing and rephrasing itself, a dragon language that transforms the fear Wetiko and births a deeper, wider human family. This is our work.

"Theres some thing in us it dont have no name... it aint us but yet its in us. Its lookin out thru our eye hoals. Its in us lorn and oansome and sheltering as it can. It puts us on like we put on our close. Its all one gret big black thing. Tremmering it is an its afeart, afeart of being birtht."

- From "Riddley Walker," by Russell Hoban



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