

Primal sense (e.g., "hot" when the child touches a hot stove) requires no interposition of human mentation, but secondal sense is the seeing/knowing that "thinking" produces ("I see," in this sense, meaning "I make the connection"). Riddley Walker (novel title, of Rus. Hoban, Summit Books/80) becomes "the connexion man" when his father, who was it, dies; and he's aided by Lorna, a woman whose connecting power is intuitive: she's the tribe's shaman, always talking about folks' getting "first knowings" and "tels" and "reveals.".... This thinksheet is about this human rational/transrational power, about its blessing/bane, how it can be right/wrong in operation, how it can be driven by fear/faith, hate/love, traditional/original ("old/new," "present"/"future").

1. On "traditional/original," did you look up (above paragraph) "secondal" in your dictionaries? Since you didn't have to in order to grasp its meaning as formed on "primal" in the same sentence, you looked it up--if you did--to see if the word "exists" (the traditionalist being under the illusion that only those words exist which are in the dictionaries). I looked it up for a third reason, viz., to see if the word existed before I used it. It didn't, 'sfar as I can see. I made, from "primal," a simple extension or projection or extrapolation-- a connection from existent to new-existent; thus "old/new, present/future." In being thus "original," I was like Lorna more than like Riddley; like a foreteller or oracle or (less close) a biblical prophet.

2. Isabel Venenci, a young Parisienne who lived with us briefly, as a law grad of the Sorbonne could be expected to use logic as connector more than most folks do; so I assumed, when she arrived, that she was beginning many sentences with "Inference:...." It seemed stilted, but I accepted it. Then I noticed that not everything following her sentences' first word was an inference. She had been saying "INF'r'nce," i.e., "In France,...."! I had made a wrong connection! We are often self-misled by our expectations. It's sometimes funny, sometimes tragic. "The only thing they understand is force": that's a generalization (one more kind of connection) based on an assumption (another kind of connection), and Reagan (seeking military solutions for economic-social-political problems) is tragically using it for planning (a further kind of connection).

3. One of the questions setting us above and beyond the other earth-creatures is this: "What's going to happen?" Futurists (a well-paid breed of connectors) extend "trends" both dismally and optimistically (e.g., Herman Kahn going through his stages). Gloom-and-doom demographers-ecologists-conservationists fail (says Julian L. Simon, THE ULTIMATE RESOURCE: THE ECONOMICS OF POPULATION GROWTH) to observe the long trends, which are optimistic: actually, for human-kind generally the cost of basics has been decling for centuries, and now there's less hunger and starvation. I hope he's right; because I extrapolate otherwise, I think he's wrong. From the fact that common folk are more survival-resourceful than theorists take into calculation, Simon extrapolates that we're going to make it again this time: I extrapolate, from the present flow of flesh and pollution and earth-impoverishment, that we've outrun this adaptive potential and have created for ourselves problems insoluble by us--the extrapolation which forms the second assumption of the Lord's Prayer (the first being that God, who is in ultimate charge, loves us)....Malthus, says Simon, was too short-line as well as two straight-line in his projections. Say I, Malthus needs modification, not rejection....

4....which is what I say also of Darwin, who extrapolated mega-evolution both from micro-evolution and from the explosive changes caused by the Industrial Revolution, whose process-spirit he interpolated into bio-process, then extrapolating from years-changes into eons-changes--3 false extrapolations in 1! And a 4th false extrapolation of his: If we can understand a process, God is not its doer. This atheistic generalization is more than an assumption; it is, in both senses, a presumption....In the sphere of socio-process, Marx committed the same atheistical sin vis-a-vis the same false extrapolations....Freud was

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misled into false extrapolations by the same set of mechanistic-materialistic assumptions as Darwin and Marx. Ours is history's most powerful civilization, and we've gone powerfully wrong. The Christian fundamentalists and I say back to the Bible, but how great a difference between them and me!

5. Prejudice is another instance of connection, a false one because it adds to pre-judgment (which may be true or false) (1) inflexible generalization ("All... are....") and (2) malicious arrogance (an evil alliance of false superiority and illwill). Freud's bromide "Biology is destiny" is true of all us girls and boys, but look at what sexist use he put it! "Women are emotional" is also true (the menstrual cycle subtending an emotional rollercoaster, with no male parallel), but sexism perversely (1) generalizes that all women are equally emotional and (2) extrapolates that "therefore" women are irrational creatures, inferior to "the rational animal," i.e., (masc.) "man." How're we going to learn from Lorna if we, even secretly, believe Riddley is the real "connexion man"? On the other sexual side, we're facing a lot of female arrogance, anti-male prejudice--e.g., false extrapolations from male arousal (eyeballs toward "sexual ojects") in invidious comparison with female arousal (skin), as though "relationship" were superior to "flesh" (the Manichean-dualistic error) within the created order, "soul" superior to "body." Female prejudice against males is now adding grief and woe on the pile of grief and woe mounded up by male prejudice against females. Thesis, antithesis, (I pray) synthesis?

6. Regan's supply-side economics extrapolates (I fear, falsely) from traditional capitalist motivations, a radical swerve away from Keynesian extrapolations in vogue since FDR. Lord, may it work; it isn't now (Nov/81).

7. Interpretation is another type of connection. P.50 of my 1943 ThD thesis has a diagram showing false ("scribal") extrapolation from literature to life ("The Bible says....") vs. true extrapolation from life-then to life-now (the sequence: life to literature to reconstructed life to life).

8. Integration is an ultimate term for connecting--meaning connecting everything in sight, in field, or even in existence. My integration seminars seek to help folks connect their life/ministry/feelings/thinking/fearing/loving/hoping/dreaming/relating. More than anything else, I am a "connexion man."

9. Exegesis-exposition is connecting then; preaching-teaching-counseling is helping folks connect now (by modeling, confronting, encouraging).

10. Games are connection at play. The 13-year-old genius who figured out (and has made a mint on) the Rubik Cube says its "sheer logic": you get the four corners of one side the same color, and you move down on one side if you've just moved up on its opposite, and.... Experience doesn't pay: kids are better than youth and age at the Cube: experience, while enriching, fouls up simple-minded "thinking," i.e. "reason," i.e. "logic." Logical connecting is something but not much, and it's far better done by computers than by us. But power tends to operate at a simple-minded, humanity-unconscious, age-13 level. Mark 10.

11. In church yesterday, the minister began his sermon by asking "What saying of Jesus first comes to your mind right now?" Me: "Stop being afraid, little children! God wants to give you the Kingdom!" Extrapolate your faith, not your fears! Connect with God in truth and trust and love, not with "the enemy" in fear and violence....False extrapolation: Since we've survived other wars, we can survive a nuclear war (in spite of the chaos caused by one Trident accident, and the fact of EMP [electro-magnetic knockout of all computers by one nuke 200 mi. above Lincoln Nebr.]....False extrapolation: We've taken care of all our shit before, so we'll somehow manage nuclear wastes....Dives' false extrapolation (L.16): I've had it good here, so I'll have it good there.

12. True extrapolations: Shalom out of obedience to God, hell otherwise (SHLM=all-connections-go); guidance by obedience (Abraham, Moses, Jesus, Paul, we).