

With/Beyond the Unsolvable Question

An essay on major questiology (an introduction)

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French psychoanalyst J. Lacan termed those who speak language as *parlêtre*, or, “neurotic.” The author defined “neurotic” as a “subject who lives within an unsolvable question” in the graduation thesis.

The unsolvable question is created through the Oedipus complex from the relation between human beings and language, and this is the essence of the question “What am I?”

A “neurotic” or *parlêtre* is a *sujet*, in Lacan’s terms, who is ruled by language and the unsolvable question, and who is “unfree.” Namely, a “neurotic” is a “slave of language” and a “slave of the unsolvable question.” Thus, a “neurotic” is “question-driven.”

French psychoanalyst J.A. Miller compared the “unfree neurotic” to “sleep.” A “neurotic” is a “sleeping *sujet*” who is “talking” to create “meaning” and watching a “screen of such meanings.” Further, psychoanalysis is the working that wakes up a “sleeping neurotic” who lives within an unsolvable question; therefore, the essence of psychoanalysis is “questiology,” which deals with the unsolvable question. The author terms it “major questiology,” abbreviated as “MQ.”

In this paper, the author proposes MQ from psychoanalytical and other perspectives. By approaching it in this way, we can create an “MQ-tern” and we can search for the “freedom” of the “neurotic” who is a “slave of language and of the unsolvable question.” This is a journey that leads us from “sleep” to “awareness.” This journey is called the “*michi* (road = ethics = unknown in Japanese) to freedom.”

MQ has “three axes” and “two references.” The “three axes” are composed of: (A) the development of the *parlêtre*, (B) deepening the unsolvable question, and (C) the state of time. The “two references” are composed of: (1) the psychoanalysis of Lacan, and (2) the thought of “here and now,” which is advocated by a contemporary spiritualist, E. Tolle. In this paper, however, we do not address (C) and (2).

Due to limited space, the details are abbreviated in this abstract, thus please see the text for more discussion.