Healing Noble Brains and Nobel Laureates as Peacemakers

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Introduction

Saint Hildegard’s work, rediscovered and valued by the neurologist and medical historian Prof. Heinrich Schipperges, Heidelberg, will be regarded in relation to Viktor Frankl’s logotherapy and to brain research of the Nobel Laureate of Medicine R. Sperry.

Books like ‘Das Teil und das Ganze’/The particle and the whole/, ‘Schritte über Grenzen’/Steps beyond frontiers/, Werner Heisenberg’s and ‘Aus dem Nichts’/From nothing/, of Gerd Binnig, both Nobel Laureates, were inspiring to organize science events in dialogue with researchers.

The author’s articles, research gate, e. g. ‘Noble Brains and Nobel Laureates’, are related to the mentioned events. Further sources of inspiration of them were books of the Nobel Laureates Gell-Mann, Eccles, Eigen, Kandel & Co. and books of the neurologist and psychiatrist Viktor Frankl, who succeeded to survive a concentration camp, creating the logotherapy. He helped his patients with logos- or language-guided healing methods to find a meaning in life. Hildegard used the ‘logos’ in her views of nature and man in similar ways in healing actions, briefly outlined by the following dialogue between a female doctor, (Fem. Dr.) and a patient: (The following text follows freely translated by the author.)

Fem. Dr.: Fulfill the noble need for a new creating deed, Thales in Goethe’s Faust, part II

Patient (P): Thank you, 30 years after the wall of Berlin fell, words of Goethe are thankfully reinforcing me in the Humboldt year 2019 looking back to the performance of Schiller’s ‘Ode of Freedom’ with music of Beethoven’s 9th symphony in the great hall of the University LMU.

Fem. Dr.: I read about this event at the Ludwig-Maximilians-University, LMU, organized by MünchenKlang eV/Munich sound association in cooperation with the White Rose Foundation.

Patient: Prof. Kurt Huber, mentor of the student movement ‘White Rose’, was executed by the Nazis like the leaders of the anti-nazi student movement, Die Weiße Rose’, the ‘White Rose’.

Fem Dr.: I think, Prof. Huber wrote the book, Leibniz Philosoph der universellen Harmonie’.

P: Thank you, yes. He wished to recall the good German into the mind of coming generations.

Fem Dr.: What can we do for improving the health conditions in favour of these generations?

P: Prof. Aaron Bernstein from the Medical School of Harvard University referred in his lecture 2010 in the great hall of the LMU to the book ‘Sustaining Life’ showing that our health depends on the preservation of biodiversity on earth, (appearing as spaceship in the cosmos). Fem. Dr.: The biodiversity of the creation on earth is indeed in danger and we need healing forms of cooperation and instruction to avoid new wars, environmental and species destruction. That is why Nobel Laureate Linus Pauling prefaced Roger Walsh’s book ‘Staying alive’. Following Hippocrates, Asclepius and Saint Hildegard, a new creating deed should succeed, if we regard others according to Goethe and Viktor Frankl’s logotherapy as they should be, helping them to become how they could be, i. e. noble, helpful and good as Goethe proposed.

P: In the Max Planck Year of mathematics 2008 Prof. Günther Hasinger mentioned in the IMPRS Interdisciplinary Symposium 2008 “New Frontiers in Science” of the International Max Planck Research Schools the 1st article of the year in, Bild der Wissenschaft’. In this journal the whole universe was presented as a huge quantum computer consisting of zeros and ones.

Fem Dr.: Recalling words of Leibniz into mind: Omnibus ex nihilo ducendis sufficit unum.’ To derive all from nothing the one is sufficient. Is this verse stimulating and inspiring you?

P: Yes, if we remain silent, awaiting nothing, being void, destitute of anything, the One can give us fullness by grace. I think, that Hildegarde had nothing else in mind than to serve the One, becoming human, the light of the world, the verb, the way, the truth and the life. So the Holy Spirit gave her inspiration for becoming prophet, praising the One and his creation.

Fem Dr.: In the view of Saint Hildegard man was created as man and woman in the image of the one creating God, seeing him always at work in his creation or cosmos with all creatures.

Patient (P): Does that mean, that in Saint Hildegard’s view man was chosen by God as his co-worker, responsible for the wellbeing of all living beings in his contemporary world?

Fem Dr.: Yes, I think she really wanted to be a devoted worker in the vineyard of the Lord including healing interventions as medical doctor and her teachings as religious instructor. Fascinated by David’s psalms and healing words and actions of Jesus, she was a pioneer in environmental medicine, anticipating with her knowledge of the healing power of plants and her universal views of man within the cosmos modern methods of a
holistic natural medicine.

**P:** I think, Saint Hildegard should be mentioned with Berta v. Suttner, Alexandra David-Neel, Rita Levi-Montalcini, Barbara McClintock, Christiane Nüsslein-Volhard, Sophie Scholl, Getty Spies, Ruth Pfau & Co. in new versions of the research performance Weltentöchter. (B. v. Suttner received the Nobel Peace Prize for her engagement for peace in our world, R. Levi-Montalcini, B. McClintock and Ch. Nüsslein-Volhard the Nobel Prize of Medicine for excellent research. Sophie Scholl deserves to be admired for being ready to die in dignity for her anti-nazi fight within white rose actions, Getty Spies for having survived a KZ by writing encouraging poems and books, seeing in humans of all religions brothers and sisters similar

To Saint Francis. Dr. Med. Pfau earns admiration for healing patients in Pakistan from Lepra.

**Fem Dr.:** I regard these women with similar respect as I look on Leibniz, Kant, Goethe & Co.

**P:** Perhaps we should also mention Bach, Beethoven, Mozart and Schiller in this context, as Saint Hildegard was not only a pioneer in natural science, medicine and philosophy but also a composer, author, playwright and public speaker, corresponding with popes and emperors.

**Fem. Dr.:** Like Job or Jona (s), one of the last prophets, to whom Jesus referred, when he was asked for a sign, she had to suffer before becoming prophet. According to Wikipedia “One of her better-known works Ordo Virtutum (Play of the Virtues) is a morality play.” It reminds of “Science and Moral Priority” Roger Sperry, Nobel Laureate of medicine, had written.

**P:** According to Heinrich Schipperges, who wrote a biography on Hildegard von Bingen, medicine and salvation knowledge were the core of Saint Hildegard’s world view and these domains will in the view of Schipperges probably be decisive for the new third millennium.

**Fem. Dr.:** Schipperges was right in regarding Hildegard as pioneer of a medicine, that com- bines a well-founded anthropological thinking with an ethically and ecologically responsible action. For that Frankl proposed a statue of responsibility completing the statue of liberty.

**Conclusion**

If we take the results of Roger Sperry’s split brain research into consideration, we have best reasons to conclude, that Saint Hildegard’s dominant and subdominant brain hemisphere were consciously and unconsciously well cooperating, permitting her not only to be an excellent teacher, speaker, healer and writer, but also ‘prophetessa teutonica’, who got humbly her visions, becoming sick until she followed the divine impulse to write, feeling the grace of being touched and guided by the holy spirit. This enabled her about 100 years before Saint Francis to praise the sun and the ‘living fight’. Regarded as holy universal teacher of the Catholic Church by Benedict XVI, who had also nominated the pioneer of biomedicine and Nobel Laureate of Medicine, Werner Arber, as president of the Pontifical Academy of Science.

Hildegard’s work can be used as key to the picture language of the Bible with its symbolic or metaphorical meaning. This may also be helpful for the cultural or intercultural hermeneutic and the existing and new houses of culture and religion like the future house of One in Berlin. As Saint Hildegard became like Jona prophet of the One, venerated by Christians, Jews and Moslems, we conclude that Saint Hildegard’s work correspond to healing needs of man in the 3rd millennium to overcome wars, environmental disaster, species destruction or genocide. Often due to misunderstandings of the peace messages of the Bible, to abuse of language, lack of morality/virtues or brain disorders. Fondations like the Weinreb- or Jona Stiftung, logotho- rapy and Hildegard’s work lead to healing knowledge, love, helpful actions as fruits of peace.

**Postscriptum**

In the 2nd part of this article some conclusions of the former Harvard Prof. of mathematics, Robert Kaplan, will be presented, who wrote ‘The Nothing That Is, A Natural History of Zero’, which may lead us to a better understanding of the history of science. Like- wise we present Gerd Binnig’s book, ‘Das Spiel!’ The game or the play, referring to Schiller, poet and medical doctor, in whose view we become human by playing.

Hildegard’s, Schiller’s, Frankl’s and Sperry’s insights can foster humility, gratitude, confi- dence, empathy, care, ‘fair play’ and health in our personal life and in relations with others. In ‘Staying alive’ R. Walsh advises to find and to play a game, as if our life would depend on it. In his view our life really depends on it. Hildegard recalls us ca. 2020 years after the birth of Christ his good news for Peace on Earth into mind. Saint Hildegard Day and Thanksgiving Day can lead in a Christian way to gratitude, humility, holistic healing methods and fair play. Believing in the one creating God like Viktor Frankl and the pioneer in biomedicine, Nobel Laureate of medicine, Werner Arber, Saint Hildegard saw in God the great medical doctor, ( magnus medicus ) acting like a medical doctor, when seeing the sick, who like to be healed. According to the researches of the neurologist, psychiatrist and historian of medicine, Prof.Schipperges medicine in Christian Europe becomes with Saint Hildegard a healing service (diakonia) based on God’s merci/misericordia/ and compassion with all needing help (miseri- is compatiens) like the Samaritan (imitans Samaritanum), cooperating with human sympathy. Nobel Laureate W. Arber wrote in his welcome word for the IMPRS Interdisciplinary Symposium 2010 “New Frontiers in Science”, in which leading researchers like Nobel Laureate W. Ketterle, the Prof. Martin Heisenberg., E.-P. Fischer* and K.-H. Maurer* gave lectures:

‘As an invited participant and lecturer of last IMPRS Symposium I herewith confirm my very positive excitement on the interdisciplinary debate on the steadily moving frontiers in science. In your daily research activities you must concentrate to your own chosen scientific discipline you hardly find time to follow other developments in science. But at the “New Frontiers in Science” symposium you have the chance to receive highly competent information on scientific investigations and advance in other fields of science. Thereby acquired interdisciplinary knowledge may at some later time exert unexpected impacts on your own knowledge base.

This can be practical by offering a novel research strategy that can serve in your own pro- jects or it can be more philosophical by enriching your scientific word view. For many of you, this symposium can represent a Highlight in your advanced education’ In W. Ketterle’s view the “New Frontiers in Science” symposium presents excellent science in an interdisciplinary- nary context, valuing the researcher as person. This was the author’s intention as mentor in this symposium, encouraging the young researchers to give priority to morality in science in the Sperry refers in’ Science and Moral Priority’.
Prof. Karl-Heinz Maurer was an excellent lecturer/moderator in the symposia taking also care of financial support, this helped to overcome the Jonas complex symposia taking also care of financial support. This helped, as we shall overcome the Jonas complex (Abraham Maslow), preventing us from following the divine inward voice in order to do, what we should do for saving plants, animals and people

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