

## **A Story About Hang Gliding**

### Changing the World Through Understanding ‘Atypical’ and ‘Typical’ Intelligence

I have been a teacher, a researcher of cultures, and an investigator into the nature of intelligence. There is something in me that has always wanted to know the big picture and how we are to know it. The original indigenous cultures, well steeped in the knowing of nature and their connection to her and the world beyond, lived lives of constant resourcing of life-supportive information, drawn from their open and connective intelligence that was afforded them as part of the whole of life, living here within an ecosystem of all living and nonliving creatures, and the planet.

In addition to recognizing this in indigenous culture, my eye for the connective, big picture perceiver was surprised to find this in a large group of individuals, now long misunderstood for their connective intelligence abilities and also their difficulties with our disconnected societies. Here to remind us of our own connective intelligence, individuals on the ADD-autism spectrum are to be understood as being here with a differently-gifted orientation to our world, rather than the way we normally live.

Having written many short and long papers about this, early one morning a story was wanting to evolve from my heart and mind to help paint the full picture.

Suddenly awake, three am found me asking: “What analogy is there to communicate what has and is happening? Where is that image that could powerfully convey this different and full use of our intelligences, now seen in the ‘atypical lives’ of so many young people?” These are the young people with Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD), Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder (ADHD), dyslexia, Asperger’s Syndrome and autism.

The question was left to my coherent heart and brain’s natural intuitive and picturing abilities, and after a few fleeting images, I was shown a dynamic experience.

The picture: Fort Funston, California, and hang gliders starting out off a cliff cresting 100 foot bluffs beside the vast blues of the Pacific Ocean and the even bigger blue sky...

What was happening? What was the intent in this action? To fly as the birds as so many of us have yearned to do. This an age-old wish: we remember the films of

attempted flight by humans, flying contraptions made and tested, so many of which failed until finally, the Wilber brothers.

But, we notice, hang gliding has so little contraption to it, and so much human. To what is owed any success at all which, by necessity, has to be significant on the very first run?

Of course, there was prior study, reading or listening to and watching others, and getting the best equipment. Practice 'runs' along the ground, maybe as a bird starts to prance, while exercising those powerful man-made wings. Trial positioning of the glider in relation to the body, and attempted careful consideration of the wind...

And then after enough preparation, equipment and human go over the edge, catching the gale.

What knowledge before and now is kicking in? Of course, what studied, but now even more active, the connective interaction in the body's reading of how it might all work together. Studied knowledge incorporated, now a part of responding to and joining active body/mind knowledge in response to the force of the wind.

And the result, maybe not totally perfect this first time, but the wonder of being aloft, sailing through the air carried by the coastal winds now to be navigated, carried in a medium of magical transport. Magic and mystery experienced, breathlessly in touch with the forces of life.

What an exhilaration it must be to hang glide!

However, there's something for us all in this. I contend that all our lives every day are to be like this, acting in concert with the body's and our other intelligences that know details but most fundamentally are receptive and integrative with life forces all around us. Life is meant to be exhilarating, steeped in cooperative creative interaction with its powers. We are built to be able to do so, just as hang gliders have learned.

We are equipped to meet life in exactly this way, as humanity has been from the beginning of time. As I described, there was a time when indigenous peoples lived in connection to the forces of life, using our intelligences similar to those of the hang glider, and likewise experiencing the beauty and exhilaration of this

integrated, intelligent, successful co-mingling or communion with life, which was also abundantly fruitful and joyous for those tribes knowing in this way.

Very unfortunately, after some time we veered away and have remained quite lost for many centuries. We have not soared in harmony with the forces of life only possible by using the full array of the intelligences gifted to humans.

What have we done instead? Using the glider analogy, let's say we have overly focused on our legs, feet, and hands and the *instructions* regarding gliding, rather than joining those with our body's and our intuitive knowledge to read and respond to the wind. Our extremities and instructions, used here as symbols of our mental knowledge, would definitely be important in their positioning, strength, and contribution to the whole flight. But, extremities and mental knowledge alone cannot create a glider flight.

Hence, in our lives we stop short and do not leave the cliff, because we have not trusted our inner intelligence abilities to interact with life. We are many, many, thousands of potential gliders, yet still walking, running around, forever experimenting and looking for that fulfilling, fruitful experience, or special knowledge to create or solve problems, without ever leaving the cliff.

We have forgotten how to call in our deeper inherent interactive body/mind intelligences. Thus, our mental, assumed 'typical' linear left-brain processes, used so predominantly, fall far short of what is possible for integrated living, and instead, our attempts tie us in knots of unresolved problems, disputes, most terribly leading to human and environmental degradation, near destruction, and a lack of true fulfillment.

The possible wholeness of life is in the open receptivity to broad subtle information, known by our body, coherent heart and our right brain which draw answers from the earth and the realm of what I will refer to as a unified field of expansive intelligence, our right/heart brain open to this like a satellite dish. These abilities in our physical life are exemplified by the hang glider. A shift occurs from just mental to non-linear interactive abilities which create this whole experience.

Imagine taking the body and intuitive knowledge of the hang glider fully responding to the wind, and now see him or her walking on the Earth, still open and engaged with connective life responses. Including the body's response to physical forces, the life laws that exist here both *are* and *govern* our connectedness

to plants, animals, and humans, we all dependent upon the resources of the Earth. All this combined is humanity's hang glider equipment of wings and body and our potential response to the wind. With this, we are to create 'flights' of success in regard to the land and the people that live on it. This is the way it is supposed to work, and has worked in our indigenous past and in the lives of some of our most famous humans.

An Alaskan Aleut tribesman, speaking recently in a public gathering, shared that Aleut children, fully exposed to the outdoors and the interactive ways of his tribe, supported by encouragement, would develop *all* the intelligences needed to intuit, learn, know, and perform in cooperation with seen and unseen forces, and with all in our environment, including each other, with which and whom one must harmonize in order to survive and flourish.

A poet leaves the mere writing on the page to soar in words arising from an inner non-linear source of experiential knowledge, this from a pictorial and felt place. Einstein envisioned sitting on a light beam and thereby understood the life principals involved, later encoded in  $E=MC^2$ . The sculptor/envisioner of Mount Rushmore drew upon an inner compulsion and inspired knowledge, as did Nelson Mandela, Rosa Parks, Winston Churchill in World War II... Can you feel the life power of extended intelligence and connection in all of these: the verbal, scientific, physical, and societal expressions?

Our inherent abilities are no less than this complete potential. Ask yourself, what would our mental knowledge joined with our inherent intelligence, both of these dancing within our connective relationship with all things, optimally create for humanity and the Earth? Our connection is real, and these seeming 'atypical' intelligent intimations, inspirations and responses that live within us are to be drawn upon and need not be learned for they are already there, ready to function with our use and practice. These can be called our connective intelligences.

This inspired knowing is a non-thinking intelligence, which lives within as our many intuitive intelligences coming as our body knowledges, gut-hunches, inspirations, Ah'ha's, out-of-the box thinking, something-told-me-so's, epiphanies, our passions, and our deep truths for justice, fairness, reciprocity, generosity, and so on. Individuals on the ADD-autism spectrum are hard-wired toward these intelligences. ADD not being Attention Deficit Disorder but Attention Differently Directed.

We experience our inner inspirations, but for the most part have stopped listening to and using them. It is like we have two hands, but are using only one, that being our mental, factual, mainly linear intelligence of letters, numbers, and concepts to create our world. The use of this makes our world only flat, unimpassioned and often unjust, rather than robust and exhilarating in its well-being creativity for all, in short, beautiful.

Linear functions are very important and are the processes of our left brain. However, our inner connective wisdoms, received through our body, right brain and our heart, are what connect us to each other and the forces of life, enabling us to interact and create in an integrated way. When drawing on these, our inspirations can work for the betterment of all, then shaped by left brain details of measurement, quantity, etc., to create our contribution for our world.

Animals have instincts to keep them in connective balance; humans have receptive abilities that affirm our connection, and also left brain delineating abilities to shape our inspirations in order to share life-supportive results with others.

If we are approaching life primarily only with left brain mental thinking, we are only using one hand, and we have and will continue to miss the sense of ***belonging*** that comes from inspired action brought forth for the good of all, acting in a realm and with a purpose that is bigger than just ourselves. Receptive, integrating and exhilarating intelligence belongs to us all and we are here to create with it, in combination with our left brain structuring skills.

Alert: be on the lookout for hang gliders, seen as ‘atypical’ individuals in our world. Don’t try to ground them in our typical fashion. They are here to catch your attention in various ways, and to help us realize we are all meant to learn to fly by recognizing and using our detailing as well as our connective and inspiring full-life intelligences.

