

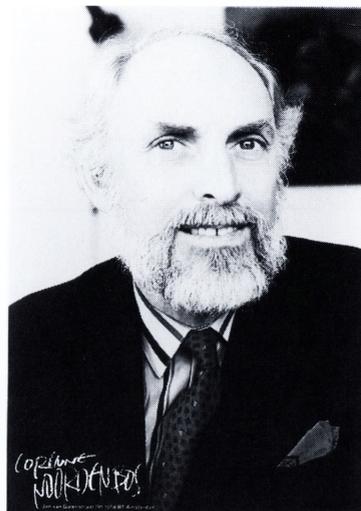
John-Richard Turner: Discovering His Whole-Self

I very clearly remember a man calling me from Zurich. As President of ISPPM, I was in the last frantic weeks of organising the 8th International Congress for Badgastein, Austria in 1986. He had been speaking on Prebirth Consciousness at the European Humanistic Psychology Congress and had just been told of the ISPPM's existence. He was so excited about learning that there was an organisation of prenatal and perinatal people in Europe. He was asking me if there was still a possibility to give a lecture at the Congress. Although his call came immediately prior to the start of the Congress, I instinctively felt I wanted to meet this man with the American accent. So, I said, "Yes!" The man I met was John-Richard Turner. Now eight years later, I am very happy I followed my intuition for I count him amongst my most loyal and supportive friends. Not only did a wonderful personal friendship develop as a result of that phone call, but John Richard has brought many new ideas into the ISPPM which have enriched our organisation and our work significantly. His hypothesis on the inherited charged emotional patterns from our parents constituting an emotional DNA could have a profound influence on the understanding of how human consciousness is created. Needless to say his theory could become one of the pivotal concepts to influence the future destiny of humanity. His work is simple and therein lies its power. But I am ahead of my story. It begins 60 years ago.

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John-Richard was born on 13 March 1934 in Bridgeport, Connecticut, USA. His father was a prominent Dental Surgeon, President of the Connecticut Dental Society as well as the Red Cross Chapter during World War II. His mother had been a patient in a Tuberculosis Sanatorium when she was a teenager. Upon release, because of her slight and frail condition she was told never to have any children. Some years later when she married it was a great shock for her to learn that she was pregnant. His birth created numerous challenges. The forceps delivery apparently contributed to what he came to experience as a myriad of learning disabilities. His family thought he was a mute because he did not begin speaking till he was over three years of age. He had dyslexia linked with diminished short term memory. And, he was a classic case of hyperactive behaviour. John-Richard says that as a general pattern he experienced that most of his life his brain "just did not give him anything to say". That was all part of the history which laid the foundation for John-Richard's exploration into what he came to call the Prebirth Analysis Matrix upon which he built his model of Whole-Self Psychology.

In spite of his verbal disability, in his early teens, he would lie in bed at night listening to radio broadcasts from Hollywood and visualize having his own radio show in Hollywood. He attended Unquawa School, a private school dedicated to educating “the whole child”. Eight years of classical Jesuit education at Fairfield College Preparatory School and The College of the Holy Cross were very difficult but laid a foundation in logical thinking which developed his mind and which he believes gave him the inspiration for his therapies. He received a BA in Greek/English in 1956. While at Holy Cross, for three and a half years he failed auditions for the campus radio station. Not realising that he had a disability he just kept trying and one day to his amazement he was hired to announce five evenings a week at a Worcester radio station. Because his brain “didn’t give him anything to say”, he played more music than other radio stations and in a few months had the largest audience there. He was finally accepted to do a program at WCHC the campus radio station.



John-Richard continued to work for WAAB Radio for six years after graduation eventually moving to Boston where he managed WCOP-FM the first automated radio station in New England. He worked in television for several years before establishing his own successful advertising and public relations business.

In about 1970 he began an inner journey into his own disabilities and how human consciousness functions. He gave his business to his assistant and began lecturing on his research. One of the key points he discovered was that he had not been aware that he had disabilities. He just knew that he had to keep doing something till he got it right. This led him to develop a general principle that he had not come into life to do what he knew he could do but to do what he knew he could not do. Now he is grateful to those companies which allowed him the opportunity to work despite his handicaps; to keep trying again till he got things right.

Eventually his lecturing took him first to San Francisco and then to Los Angeles, California. He was invited to work at the Santa Monica Holistic Health and Medicine Clinic under Dr. Richard Furman. A year later, Dr. Walter D. Hofmann invited him to work at his Psychiatric Clinic in Glendale. After a year there, John-Richard opened his first Institute for the Whole-Self in Beverly Hills. Getting referrals from therapists who had given up on specific patients he was inspired with the idea that if he could regress those persons back to the nine months before their births those persons would have very rapid recovery. Patients discovered that not only were they the synthesis of the physical DNA of their parents but they were also the inheritors of the charged emotional and mental attitudes of their mothers and fathers from the nine months of gestation. John-Richard hypothesised that there is a parallel DNA which for want of a better name he calls the emotional DNA. It is this EDNA by which, in effect, the consciousness

“borrows” emotionally charged thoughts and feelings from mother and father and is born with a full array of emotions. This led him to the idea that “we do not come into life to keep doing these pathological trance patterns but to change, overcome or transcend them” – this is his idea of evolution.

By 1984, John-Richard was lecturing in England and met Troye Groot, a psychiatric nurse at the Valerius Clinic in Amsterdam. Troye was astounded to hear him discussing the same prebirth ideas she intuitively had used to heal herself of the eating disorders anorexia and bulimia nervosa and a terminal melanoma. He was invited by Dr. Dolf van de Scheer to work with patients in the south of Holland. Since he had to travel through Amsterdam, Troye invited him visit her for a few days to see her beautiful city. Realizing their mutual interests it took about two years for John-Richard to establish a branch of the Institute for Whole-Self Discovery & Development, Inc. from Santa Fe, New Mexico in Amsterdam. Troye became his Co-Director and five years ago his wife as well. I was honored to have been the Best Man at the wedding which was also attended by Elda Mazzocchi Scarzella. John-Richard and Troye are sensitive and talented lecturers and with Troye’s organising abilities they have lectured and taught their Whole-Self Psychology in 24 countries delivering their pioneering Whole-Self counselling, therapy and Life’s Streams Seminars to professionals and to the general public.

The Turners both believe that the pivotal point in their professional lives, as with so many others, came with the discovery of the ISPPM at Badgastein, Austria in 1986; their first trip together. They were astounded to meet so many people who were working in the birthing arena. At the 9th World Congress in Jerusalem in 1989, John-Richard was elected to the Executive Board of ISPPM and since the 10th Congress in Cracow, Poland has served as a Vice President. He is one of the co-editor International Journal of Prenatal and Perinatal Psychology and Medicine. This year he took on a commitment to help Elda Mazzocchi Scarzella, whom he met at Badgastein, to continue her dream at the Villaggio Della Madre E Dell Fanciullo.

In conclusion, let me say that John-Richard believes that it was his very birth induced handicaps which gave him his most important skill in understanding how the human consciousness works. Because his “mind did not give him anything to say” he was forced to listen very carefully not only to what people were speaking but more importantly what they were saying. Oh, and about that dream of having his own radio program in Hollywood? On 29 January 1979 as he was driving across the San Fernando Valley he realized that for three years he had been driving to radio station KPFK in Hollywood to do his own radio program. It had taken him all that time to realize that he had in fact fulfilled his teenage dream. It was on his way to do his last broadcast before moving on in his quest to find the Whole-Self.

Dear John-Richard, the ISPPM, the International Journal and myself, wish you a very Happy 60th Birthday with many more creative and inspiring years of service to humanity ahead in your professional life; and, happiness, fulfilment and satisfaction in your personal journey together with Troye.

Peter G. Fedor-Freybergh