

Opening of the conference about Dark Forces, 6th of April 2017

Amsterdam

Ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues and members of the EPF

On behalf of the Royal Dutch society of Science, the society of arts, and the board of the Foundation Breukvlakken (meaning fracture(d) surface ) I welcome you on this conference called Dark Wisdom, in commemoration of 100 years Freud in the Netherland. My name is Jan Swinkels and I am chairman of the Breukvlakken Foundation. For 2017 the Breukvlakken Foundation planned more activities, democracy falling apart on the 21 and 22 of September, a conference the 24 of November about Freud and neurosciences anno 2017, and a great international exhibition and conference on the 31 of October on Charlotte Salomons who overcame her suicidal plans and fear by reconstruction her past in paintings and music, but was murdered during the Holocaust. In 2018 we are planning democracy adrift.

First I will explain what the Breukvlakken Foundation aims. Second some remarks about psychoanalytic knowledge and third about dark wisdom.

The name Fractures/breukvlakken stands for the conflicts and traumas in live which everybody experiences. When conflicts clashes too much or are excessive like child abuse they can be a source of mental problems or disorders which can be treated psychological by psychoanalytic treatments. Although the resilience for mental disorders is often high the conflicts and traumas can be devastating for your personal life, and can lead to a life full of unhappiness, anger and dissatisfaction and sometimes to irrational citizens.

Breukvlakken stands also for the devastating psychosocial consequences on people of social conflicts like exclusion, violence and war, which we can be seen in this media era now a day on any moment anywhere in the world. Although for example the chance to be killed is much lower it's seems by social media more frequent than in the past and can make people anxious and angry.

Breukvlakken foundation is convinced that a lot of the psychoanalytic ideas started by Sigmund Freud are still useful for understanding and can help solving these problems in life and society. A part of the psychoanalytic knowledge is outdated and Freud was not a saint but a scholar and a human being. The remaining and further developed psychoanalytical knowledge invites us to ask

relevant daring questions. These questions are important for the need for cultural criticism and to deal with new and old psychological fallacies and biases in our own thinking. One example, the danger of the lake Wobegon effect. This is based on a hoax (fake news) or frame of an American radio host that in a fake city in Minnesota, the women are strong, the men handsome and the children very intelligent. People believed this fake news. There is a lot of evidence for that humans like to overestimate themselves, f.e. 94% of the academic scientists think they are the best.

Are we our brains is a world-famous question in the Netherlands. Yes it's true, but not the whole truth because our brains don't know, even can't know, who we are! Reduce humans to their brains is a dangerous form of dehumanizing. The mind as a psychological concept exists, likes numbers and mathematics are human concepts which can bring us to the moon, our self-reflecting mind can make us choose for the best, a lion must kill when he is hungry, we can go fishing. On the other hand we humans are not at the endpoint of the evolution. It's an inconvenient truth, according to Freud, that humans in their passions are aggressive animals.

Commemoration of the Freudian ideas must be understood in the reconsideration of his work with the recent scientific knowledge in the broadest context and the actual burning questions in society. The greatest part of our thinking is unconscious. This is another inconvenient truth. If you know how to influence the unconscious, you can influence our emotions, thoughts, behavior, our desires and even our physical wellbeing. Mostly this dark wisdom, i.e. artificial intelligence (Watson) can understand all forms of data, interact naturally with people, and learn and reason, at scale. It's used for the gain of a small group of people in business and politics but must and can be used for the sake of welfare and health of all people.

Humans can differentiate between inseparable but discernable observable outside world and an experienced inside world. The arts and linguistics are in between those two worlds and can help to translate and can give understanding the inner world. How the inside and outside world connect is in my view in the domain of the natural science but it is till now unexplained.

Bas Heijne a Dutch journalist compared and explained by Freud's *das unbehagen in der kultur*, why forgotten excluded blue color Americans voted for Trump. They were so frustrated in their lust principle (i.e. they lost their homes, jobs and retirement income) that they become irrational and do things

against our own interest. Lesson learned here: include all people in the democratic process!

Today we have our first conference as Breukvlakken Foundation, as a preconference of the European Psychoanalytic Federation (EPF) congress about Dark Wisdom.

We know the dark web (world wide web), the dark force in the movies star wars and dark wisdom. Dark means it's hidden, not seen, not in the spotlight and wisdom is, in the easiest definition the ability to use knowledge and experience to make good decisions and judgments. This hidden (dark) psychological and psychoanalytic knowledge and experience is used to do evil, i.e. make war to sell weapons, let people smoke or excluded people i.e. on the base of their religion, that hurts and make people very very angry. You can use dark wisdom bad, then you get the opposite of your intentions. What we want to do is use dark wisdom good, so that it liberates us from evil and protects us from bad wisdom.

This afternoon several distinguished speakers try to bring dark wisdom to the light.

At last but not least we must give thanks to the Psychoanalytic Funds Foundation who supported Breukvlakken Foundation and the Royal Dutch society of Science and Arts who supported this conference. At last we must thank Mrs. Rolien van Mechelen de Goede, clinical psychologist/psychoanalyst who was the steering woman for the board of Breukvlakken Foundation. Rolien without your caring friendly and persevering mind this conference should never be held. Thank you for that.

Ladies and gentlemen I hope you all have an inspiring conference, so you can use this dark wisdom for the good of us all, thank you for your attention

Prof. dr. J. A. Swinkels, psychiatrist, *chair of the Breukvlakken Foundation*