



PREFACE

Collage

Posted by: [edelgarcellano](#) | August 26, 2008

4. Magic

The "Great Tomsoni"[s] magic tricks, in a "report by Benedict Carey in *Nature Review Neuroscience*, can be scientifically explained.

Thus, "the magician has an assistant appear on stage in a white dress and tells the audience he will magically change the color of her dress to red. He first does this by shining a red light on her, an obvious ploy that he turns into a joke. Then the red light flickers off, the house lights go on and now the woman is unmistakably dressed in red. The secret: in the split-second after the red light goes off, the red image lingers in the audience's brains for about 100 milliseconds, covering the image of the woman. It's just enough time for the woman's white dress to be stripped away, revealing a red one underneath."

The scientists, "Susana Martinez-Conde and Stephen Macknik of the Barrow Neurological Institute in Phoenix, Arizona, raised hope that magic could accelerate research into perception. They found out that the brain suppressed activity in surrounding visual areas when concentrating on a specific task. Thus preoccupied, the brain may not consciously register activities witnessed by the eyes."

For instance, the celebrated David Blaine "said he started doing magic at age four and quickly learned that he did not need any drama or special effects. A strong and effective way to distract somebody is to directly engage the person [with an eye contact and other interaction]. That can act on the subconscious like a subtle form of hypnosis."

If a basketball coach, for instance, would be heard urging his players to focus on the game, what would that mean? There are peripheral things they wouldn't witness – & should a rumble flare up, rest assured they wouldn't know how it came about – their testimony of being on court & proximate to the event notwithstanding.

It stands to reason that the Jamaican Bolt, despite his protestation that he was only having fun & not necessarily being boorish, would surely be oblivious of his fellow runners' veritable frustration – after all, he had a tunnel vision while running the course. Did he dignify the Olympiad sport? Certainly not: it would take time before he is able to observe athletic protocol.

Is there really magic?

It is the alchemy of speed, knowledge & insight of the crowd that make for a credible performer. But few are gifted with, as it were, the Third Eye that is no more than a keen understanding of perception, & human behavior. Illusion, not altered reality, is the principle of the task at hand.

Thus, too often, on another plane of reference, a lawyer is bound to sound parochial & virtually misinformed if he persists on building up his arguments on truth based on the extrapolation of the letters of the law. The method is always suspect. He could only operate within the ideological limit of his discourse that is handicapped by the determinations of the discursive system itself – property ownership, *et cetera*. He would appear astute with his legalese, but certainly would miss the bigger picture ordinary bystanders are wont to perceive clearly: to note, Court of Appeals judges are just your ordinary influence peddlers & ten percenters hiding behind the so-called majesty of jurisprudence; Supreme Court justices need not take time to project judiciousness on MOA when all is simply "hogwash" & a sell-out for presidential purposes by a cabal out to make themselves more imperious in their nutty suits...

To cut the Charter to fit an agreement among thieves is most scandalous, absurd.

The mystification of the magical is invested also on state acts, but it can be, again, scientifically explained: "the brain uses neural tricks to do this: an approximating, cutting corners, instantaneously and subconsciously choosing what to 'see' and what to let pass... Magic exposes the inseams, the neural stitching in the perceptual curtain."

Unluckily, the Palace has an excess of bumbling power-brokers who are just small-time operators with gargantuan appetite.

We should not be mesmerized.

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