

The Last Word

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Four Fundamental Functions: extract from "Psychological Types" by C.G. Jung, in vol.5, no.18, April 1924:68-9

The conscious psyche is an adaptation - or orientation - apparatus, consisting of a number of psychic functions. As such fundamental functions one can designate *sensation, thinking, feeling* and *intuition*. Under the heading *sensation*, I wish to include all apperception by means of sense organs; by *thinking* I understand the function of intellectual cognition, and the forming of logical conclusions; *feeling* is a function of subjective evaluation, and *intuition* I hold to be apperception by an unconscious way, or the perception of an unconscious content.

These four fundamental functions appear to me, as far as my experience reaches, to be sufficient to express and represent the ways and means of conscious orientation. For a complete orientation of consciousness all the functions should co-operate equally; thinking should make cognition and the forming of judgments possible; feeling should say to us how and in what way a thing is important or unimportant for us; sensation by means of sight, hearing, taste, etc., should enable us to perceive concrete reality; and finally intuition should permit us to guess the more or less hidden possibilities and backgrounds of a situation, because these hidden factors also belong to a complete picture of a given moment.

But in reality it is seldom or never that these fundamental functions are uniformly developed and correspondingly under voluntary control. As a rule one or the other function is in the foreground, while

the others remain in the background more or less undifferentiated. Thus there are many people who restrict themselves chiefly to a simple perception of concrete reality without reflecting much about it, or taking into account the feeling values involved. They bother themselves little about the possibilities which lie hidden in a situation. Such people I describe as sensation types. Others are exclusively influenced by what they think and simply cannot adapt themselves to a situation which they cannot comprehend intellectually. I designate such people thinking types. Again, there are others who are guided in everything wholly by their feelings. They merely ask themselves if something is acceptable or the reverse, and orientate themselves by their feeling impressions. These are the feeling types. Finally, intuitives concern themselves neither with ideas nor with feeling reactions, nor yet with the reality of things, but give themselves up wholly to the lure of possibilities and abandon every situation where no further possibilities are scented.

In individual cases, extraverted and introverted attitudes can never be demonstrated as existing *per se*, but appear as the characteristics of the dominating conscious functions. Similarly, there is no attitude *per se* of the unconscious, but only typically modified forms of unconscious functions, and only through the investigation of the unconscious functions and their peculiarities can the unconscious attitude be scientifically determined.



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*portrait of Carl Gustav Jung
from New Era vol.5*

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