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## An anthropologist on mars oliver sacks pdf

Click on the image for more information. NI FEATURE - BOOKS FROM MY WORLD - COMMENTS Of the Year : 2019 Volume : 67 Issue: 2 Page : 621-623 Oliver Sacks: Anthropologist on Mars. Seven paradoxical tales by Sunil Pandya Department of Neurosurgery, Jaslok Hospital, Mumbai, Maharashtra, India Date Web Publication 13-May-2019 Correspondence Address: Dr. Sunil Pandya Defaded neurosurgery, Jaslok Hospital, Mumbai, Maharashtra India Source: No, Conflict of Interest: None Check DOI: 10.4103/0028-3886.258001 How to quote this article: Pandya S. Oliver Sacks: anthropologist. Seven paradoxical tales. Neurol India 2019;67:621-3 Author : Oliver Sacks Publishers : New York: Alfred A. Knopf Year : 1995 Pages : 340; The paperback Readers of this magazine are already familiar with the life and work of Dr. Oliver Sacks through a short but comprehensive obituary note by Dr. Apoorva Pauranik. The note also provided a report on Dr. Paurnick's meeting with Dr. Sachs in New York. He was a genius who did not make one feel less mortal. Many of our readers will be familiar with his books entitled The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat, Migraine and Awakening.

Many others will marvel at Dr. Sachs's superb portrayal of that consummate actor, Mr. Robin Williams, in a film also titled *The Awakening*. Those who haven't yet had the good fortune to read Dr. Sachs's gentle and sympathetic obituary on Mr. Williams would do well to find him under the apt title - *The Man Who Can Be Anyone* (2014). The anthropologist on Mars gives seven paradoxical tales. Two quotes at the beginning of the book sum up the content. The universe is not only weirder than we imagine, but weirder than we can imagine. Ask not about what kind of disease a person has, but about what kind of disease he has. Dr. Sachs tells us it's attributed to William Osler. This precaution may have been caused by the fact that some authorities attributed it to other great doctors of the past, starting with Hippocrates Cos. In his foreword, Dr. Sachs tells us that he wrote this book using his left hand, although he had a strong right hand as he injured his shoulder and was not allowed to use his right hand. (He wrote all his books by hand and translated them into the computer by his secretary.) On the consequences of the injury and its impact on the whole body, he concluded that defects, disorders, diseases ... to play a paradoxical role by bringing out hidden forces, events, evolutions, forms of life that can never be considered or even imaginable in their absence ... If they destroy specific paths ... they can force the nervous system to do other ways and ways.... This explains the use of the phrase seven paradoxical tales in its subtitle. The essay has the same title as book and explanation of this title appears at the end of the book. Following on the heels of an essay on autism and autistic geeks (p. 188-243), he describes the life and work of Dr. Temple Grandin. Mary Temple Grandin deserves to be treated so much. At home, she was referred to on behalf of an Irish girl named Mary who worked for the family. At the age of 2, Temple was diagnosed with brain damage. Her mother, Anna Eustacia Purves, was the daughter-in-law of the man who invented autopilot for airplanes. She stumbled upon an essay about autism and found the key to Temple's neurological anomaly. With the help of supportive mentors, she helped Temple overcome the difficulties and ridicule they made. Autism was brought to fame thanks to the work of Leo Kanner and Hans Asperger in the 1940s, Dr. Sachs points out the differences between them. Kanner seemed to be seen in this unlimited disaster, where Asperger felt he could have certain positive or compensating features - a singular originality of thought and experience that may well lead to exceptional achievements in later life. At the suggestion of William Carrick, a science teacher who worked for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), Temple built a hug box that has since soothed many of the spectrum disorders under the umbrella term for autism. (In pages 262-265, Dr. Sacks gives a vivid description of the concept and creation of this box by Dr. Grandin and its impact on her and on Dr. Sachs as he tried himself.) Dr. Grandin helped break the shame and stigma that individuals labeled autistic toiled under. She was one of the first adults to openly declare her illness. She became an expert on animal behavior and was included in *TIME* magazine the 100 Most Influential People in the World in the Heroes category. You get an idea of her contribution and witness her love for animals when you accompany Dr. Sacks around her livestock, followed by carnage, where she made several innovations to help minimize stress in animals that are about to be killed (p. 265-280). Don't miss the episode where she saved Dr. Sack's life (p. 294-295) or her thoughts on religion and how she hopes to convey something worthwhile by the time her life is over (p. 296). There are several sections in the chapter describing how she interacts with people. In pages 285-286 we learn about the causes of her celibacy. In her lecture, this wonderful lady concluded: If I could snap my fingers and be non-university, I wouldn't, because then I wouldn't be myself. Autism is part of who I am. Dr. Sachs summed up her achievements: ... one of the most wonderful autistic people of all: despite her autism, she has a doctorate in animal science, at Colorado State University and runs his own business. This is to read the chapter (along with the preceding it) for those who want to learn about autism. It also provides an explanation of the title of the essay and the book. During a meeting with Dr. Grandin, Dr. Sachs asked her how she had reacted to Greek myths and drama. Dr. Grandin replied that she had sequencing difficulties when dealing with back-and-forth narratives and could not empathize with the characters. Most of the time, I feel like an anthropologist on Mars. In each chapter, Dr. Sachs learns from the work of different parts of the brain and the nebulous essence of the mind in health and disease. *Prodigies* (p. 188-243) describes phenomenally gifted autistic people. In this chapter we provide excerpts from the work of Kanner and Asperger. Examples of special talents from such personalities have been collected since the 18th century. We met artists, huge calculators, people with supernatural memory, people capable of complex creations (including the guillotine that almost killed the attendant), athletes, acrobats and others. Dr. Langdon Down, one of the greatest observers in the field, coined the term idiot scientist. He described giving one of his patients Gibbon the decline and fall of the Roman Empire only to find that he memorized the entire book after one reading! He missed only one line - where he discovered and fixed the bug. Upon reaching this page, he will skip the line, go back, fix it, and continue further. Dr. Sachs takes us along as he visits and travels with some of the geeks, witnesses, and analyzes their creativity and gives us illustrations of his work on eight undernumbered pages (between page 202 and 203). The first essay in the book describes a successful artist (Mr. L) who suddenly turns color blind after a concussion. Shortly after the injury, he could not decipher the letters, but as it improved, he saw everything as if he were watching a black and white TV screen. Dr. Sachs sought help from his friend, an ophthalmologist, Dr. Wasserman, and they studied Mr. L for weeks and months. A change from a state where everything was unpleasant, a dirty look at a state where Mr. L could resume painting and even add one color (which he couldn't see) being recorded in fair detail. We were given four pages of his art before he lost the perception of color and how he gradually resumed painting. Over time, he also experimented with sculpture, which he had never tried before, turning to additional forms of expression of his artistic skills. Dr. Sachs discusses the neurological basis for color perception and what may have gone wrong in Mr. L's brain. Goethe (who wrote about his theory of color perception), Helmholtz, Clerk Maxwell, Edwin Land (who invented Polaroid Photography), Gordon Holmes, David Ferrier, Robert Louis Stevenson, Semir Sekki, Francis Crick, Damasio, and others. The latest hippie (p. 42-76) contains a discussion by Dr. Sachs about the damage to the large meningioma of the frontal and temporal lobes and diencephalon in Greg F. The feelings of Greg's parents as they watched the transformation of a lean, hairy son (in) fat and bald (man with) a constantly stupid smile ... their anxiety about his complete blindness, idiotic comments, and the state when they felt like he was scooped up, hollow inside is well described. Dr. Sacks follows Greg's course after surgery, analyzes the basis for each of his neurological deficits - especially amnesia - and records how, after such damage, there is no differentiation... great, trivial, sublime, funny... it's all mixed up and treated as equal. Related, Dr. Sachs also refers to the neurological basis and practice of lobotomy and psychosurgery. A reproduction of a fragment of a poem by Robert Lowell describing the lobotomized Lepke (p. 63) will interest many readers. (Also see Lowell 1976.) In his discussion, Dr. Sachs oscillates broadly and broadly through the literature of medicine in this, as in his other essays. By doing so, he gives us amazing ideas. Consider this quote from Fluorens: The brain highlights the thought of how the liver secretes bile. (Jean-Pierre Fluorens lived between 1794 and 1867 and proved by experiments that the mind was in the brain, not the heart). Of particular interest is the life of the surgeon (p. 77-107) as he describes the life and work of Dr. Carl Bennett, a victim of Tourette's syndrome, who has become a successful and safe surgeon. After tracking our understanding of this syndrome (on which he wrote extensively), Dr. Sacks tells us about people with Tourette's syndrome - even heavy forms - who have excelled in various walks of life like writers, mathematicians, musicians, actors, disc jockeys, builders, mechanics and athletes. Dr. Sachs knew of nine successful surgeons, three therapists, two neurologists and one psychiatrist with Tourette's syndrome. This story - like other essays in the book - reinforces our understanding of the disease and gives an insight into the minds and lives of those affected. We will also learn how they overcome their obstacles with remarkable success. The other two essays describe equally interesting people. To see and not to see (p. 108-152) tells us about Virgil, who was blind from the age of 6, but was able to see after the removal of cataracts shortly before he married at the age of 50. Dr. Sachs quotes a question posed by John Locke Molyneux, whose wife was blind: Suppose that a man was born blind and now an adult, and taught with his touch to distinguish between the cube and the sphere to see can he now his eyesight, before he touched them, to distinguish and speak, what was the globe, and what sphere? in his essay written in 1690, Locke decided that the answer was No. In 1709, George Berkeley came to the conclusion that there was no necessary connection between the tactile world and the world of sights - that the connection between them could only be established on the basis of experience. In 1728, William Sheselden successfully removed cataracts from the eyes of a 13-year-old boy who was born blind. Despite his high intellect, there were deep difficulties with the simplest visual representations. He had no idea about the distance ... space or size. And he was strangely confused by drawings and paintings.... Virgil has been almost blind since childhood. He had a thick cataract and retinitis pigment. Surgery to remove the cataract was performed hesitantly as he planned to get married. Dr. Sachs tells us about his subsequent progress. Together with him we accompany Virgil when he passes a series of tests and travels on a number of different local expeditions, including one to see the gorilla for the first time. The landscape of his dreams (p. 153-187) is the story of Franco Magnani, who became famous for the photographic accuracy of his drawings after seeing the landscape only once. Not only could he draw the scene right after he watched it, but he could do it with unfailing precision months and even years later, not only in terms of viewing, but from different perspectives, and as if he had seen it from a hundred feet above. It was as if Magnani had spent in his head endlessly detailed three-dimensional models of his village, which he could turn around and explore, mentally, and then reproduce on canvas with complete precision. There are unexpected historical nuggets as we travel with Dr. Sachs. On pages 18 and 19, for example, we learn that the eye of the great chemist John Dalton is still, pickled, on a shelf in Cambridge. His vast range of knowledge allows him to cultivate relevant concepts and conclusions that have been expressed decades or even centuries earlier. His search for literature on any topic is really exhaustive. Like all other books, as we finish reading this volume, Dr. Sachs leaves us full of admiration for his wisdom, breadth and depth of interest, perseverance, ability to recreate vivid scenes and enlighten. 1.Pauranik A, Dr. Oliver Sacks. *Neurol India* 2016;64:201-2. 2. 3.Available from: [◆](#) 4.Lowell R. *Memories of West Street and Lepka*. In: Selected poems. New York: Farrar, Strauss and Giroud; 1976. an anthropologist on mars oliver sacks pdf. an anthropologist on mars seven paradoxical tales by oliver sacks

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