THE “KOULCHI SYNDROME”

“I HAVE PAIN EVERYWHERE”

“J’AI MAL PARTOUT”

CLINICAL EXAMPLES

• Moroccan woman (Rif)
  “j’ai mal partout ................................ (silence) »

• Central African man (R.C.A.)
  “il faut examiner mon sang, il faut tout examiner ...................... (silence) »

• Belgian man (Huy – Waremme)
  “j’ai des angoisses quand ma femme travaille la nuit .................. (silence) »
“MEDICINE” VERSUS “TRADITIONAL HEALING”

Every culture has its own nosological system!

• Transmitted through books
• Pedagogic approach
• Written Certificates

Oral transmission
Approach through initiations
Perpetual need to prove competences

• Ancient Greece, Rome, Egypt
• Classic Arab-Persian Medicine
• Medieval India, China, Japan
• Modern medicine

Planetary!
### FIRST CONSULTATION

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<th>“Traditional Art of Healing”</th>
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<td>✦ <strong>Anamnesis</strong> (patient speaks)</td>
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<td>✦ Differential Diagnosis</td>
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<td>✦ Physical &amp; Mental Examination</td>
<td>Verbalisation (Healer speaks)</td>
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CARTESIAN DICHOTOMY

R. Descartes (1596 – 1650)

- Failed in proving the existence of God through mathematics!
- Introduced a separation between

  “Natural Sciences” & “Human Sciences”

  Explain “How” things happen
  Mathematics, Physics & Anatomy
  Chemistry, Biology, ...

  Explain “Why” things happen
  Theology, Philosophy & Law
  Psychology, Sociology, ...
UZIMA

First translation Swahili to French: “Santé” (“Health”)
Father Tempels: “Force Vitale” (“Power of Life”)

Uzima is quantity (0 -> ∞), while “Health” & “Illness” form a dichotomy (1 or 0)

A man with very much Uzima will:
- Be in good health, become very old & be very wealthy
- Have many wives who work hard without quarrelling
- Have many successful children
- Generate no attacks of “Sorcery” upon him, or they will have no success
- Have machines, car, tractor, ... that never fail
- After his death be worshipped as an “Ancestor”
A single entity that includes following Western entities:

- Health
- Wealth
- Well-being
- Luck
- Chance
- Absence of adverse evil
- Transcendental fullness
- Fortune & glory in the visible & invisible worlds

“Invisible entities”, “supernatural creatures” have to cope with someone’s Uzimal.
That entity has a “gifted lecturer”: the “N’Ganga”
The Western negative elements of Uzima are:

- Evil
- Illness
- Misfortune
- Woe

Mal
Maladie
Malchance
Malheur
NON-CARTESIAN MONOTHEISMS

• Deistic approach: God created the Universe but doesn’t intervene in daily life
• Theistic approach: God gives & takes life, illness can be a part of His intentions to measure whether or not a person’s worship of Him is strong enough to give him a place in Paradise

=> 1° Concilium of Latran (1123) decided that clergymen shouldn’t “medically” intervene in situations of illnesses. In cases that illnesses come from God, they would be in alliance with the Devil if they would try to combat illness.

=> Universities (Bologna, Salamanca,...) were founded to form an elite able to understand whether illness comes from God or from the “Evil”

=> Faculties of Medicine are still strongholds in the fight against “superstition” & “unscientific arts of healing”
MEDICAL SETTING & DIVINATION

- The Belgian man

- “Doctor, I dreamed of you, I don’t come back”
CONCLUSIONS

• A “scientifically inspired medicine” can’t give answers to “Why” questions which emerge from the “Human Condition”

• This impossibility generates silence

• When we hear this silence, it is very difficult to answer

• The absence of answers increases anxiety and search for “sense giving evidence”