

PSYCHOLOGY

By the nineteenth century, after the major advances in hard sciences and cosmology (Galileo, Newton, Kepler) which defined early modern man's total home for the first time, a loose collection of philosophers, litterateurs, and medical professionals sprang up out of the fertile intellectual soils of Western Europe and America, with an abundance of notions about how the brain itself and the mind—the very centers of the human enterprise-- work.

The pursuit of understanding the mind, *the study of psychology*—in such as Sigmund Freud, Karl Jung, William James, James Watson-- the father of Behaviorism-- up to recent pioneers in neurology like Antonio Damasio—this pursuit, which vastly enriched our study of mind by the mid twentieth century, has by our time profited deeply from collateral biomedical research, which has enabled us by our moment to map the mind, to treat and cure diseases of the brain, and to act proactively on the social level, to evaluate and promote mental health. Concurrent advances in cognitive science have played an essential role in quantifying lab based data relevant to understanding the evolutionary stages of mind.

The topics asking our attention in the following assortment of states of mind—grief, loneliness, fear, isolation, boredom-- may be taken as a call to probe selected 'conditions' into which the human mental subject, on its transversal of the life journey, channels its awarenesses. These select conditions—one sees that their list will be as extensive as the human mind itself—are the existential bedrock of the human condition.