

Alan Parkin



An Appreciation

Narinder Kapur

November 2001

Festschrift Symposium

British

*Neuropsychological
Society, London*

Alan Parkin

Letter from mother, October 8 2001

“When you are speaking of Alan to the conference I would like you to thank everybody for the honour you are bestowing on my son as I am very proud and I know his father would be if he was alive”

Alan J Parkin

- **Born Sept. 30, 1950. Schooling in London**
- **BSc in zoology at Reading University. MSc & PhD in Psychology at University of Sussex**
- **University appointments at Sussex - chair in 1993**
- **Partner - Frances Aldrich. Daughter Verity born in 1998.**
- **Died on November 12 1999 from head injury following collapse**
- **Obituary/tribute by M Kopelman in *Cortex*, 2001, 37: 284-289**

Alan Parkin

- **Outstanding teacher/communicator**
- **Prolific author**
- **Leading scientist**

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Video Clip

- BBC series on the brain, 1980s.
- Clip one minute long
- Discussing densely amnesic patient, Clive

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Published Books

1. *Memory and Amnesia* - 1986, **single author**
2. *The Neuropsychology of the Amnesic Syndrome* - 1993, **Parkin and Leng**
3. *Memory: Phenomena, Experiment and Theory* - 1993, **single author**
4. *Explorations in Cognitive Neuropsychology* - 1996, **single author**
5. *Memory and Amnesia 2nd Edition* - 1997, **single author**
6. *Neuropsychology of Memory* - 1997, **single editor**
7. *Memory. A Guide for Professionals* - 1999, **single author**
8. *Essential Cognitive Psychology* - 2000, **single author**

Alan Parkin

Books in Preparation

- 1. Memory: Phenomena, Experiment and Theory. 2nd Edition**
- 2. Readings in Cognitive Neuropsychology**
- 3. Essential Readings in Cognitive Psychology**
- 4. Penetrating Head Injury: History, Nature and Scientific Significance**
- 5. Herpes Simplex Encephalitis: A Neuropsychological Perspective**

Single-author texts by late neuropsychologists/clinical neuroscientists of the 20th century [Alan Parkin = 6]

Alexander Luria

8



Wilder Penfield

3



Donald Hebb

3



Laird Cermak

3



Oliver Zangwill

2



Henri Hecaen

2



Moyra Williams

1



Freda Newcombe

1



Roger Sperry

1



Karl Lashley

1



Norman Geschwind

0



Nelson Butters

0



Hans-Lukas Teuber

0



George Ettliger

0



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Scientist

- Early studies in experimental psychology of memory
- Residual learning capability in amnesia
- Differences between amnesic aetiologies
- Frontal lobe contribution to executive function and memory
- Category-specific memory disorders
- Autobiographical memory
- Ageing and memory
- Memory rehabilitation
- Child development and memory
- Numerous single-case neuropsychological studies - thalamic pathology, temporal lobe radionecrosis, nonalcoholic Wernicke-Korsakoff syndrome, focal retrograde amnesia

Alan Parkin

Possible secrets of success/ Lessons we can learn

1. Non-Psychology background
2. Had wide-ranging interests and thorough knowledge of the literature, and was able to make connections between diverse fields within psychology
3. Iconoclastic. Critical of sloppy thinking. Was prepared to challenge long-held, accepted doctrines
4. As teacher/author, had good 'theory of mind'
5. Could handle complexity and express it simply
6. Built up excellent relationships with patients and patient organizations
7. Had infectious enthusiasm for his work that inspired students and colleagues
8. Had well-organized bibliographic database
9. Had sense of humour

Benton, A. (1994). Four Neuropsychologists. *Neuropsychology Review*, 4: 31-44.

[Reviews achievements of Henri Hecaen, Oliver Zangwill, Norman Geschwind and Hans-Lukas Teuber]

“What traits did they have in common? The first that comes to mind is their drive, their stamina, and their prodigious productivity. They had immense energy and worked very, very hard.

A second important characteristic was simply that they were very, very bright. Their capacity to analyze and integrate information, to detect the significance of isolated observations, to get to the heart of a problem, and to do all this so quickly as to suggest multiple integrated processing was quite extraordinary”

The Nature of Scientific Endeavour

Scientist is communicator Endel Tulving -
“Scientific research can be thought of as a game of communication involving two parties: scientists and nature.”

Tulving, E. (2000). Concepts of memory. In: Tulving E, Craik F (eds). *The Oxford Handbook of Memory*. New York: OUP, pp. 33-43.

Scientist is explorer (“Explorations in Cognitive Neuropsychology”)

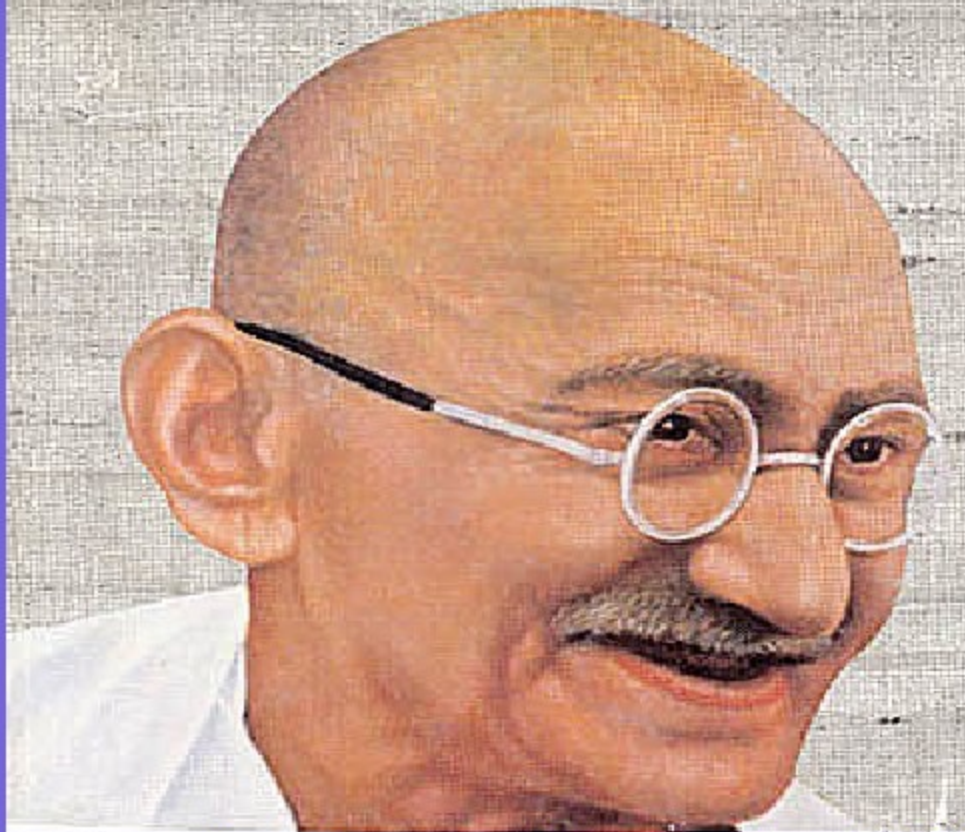
Scientist is truth seeker

AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY

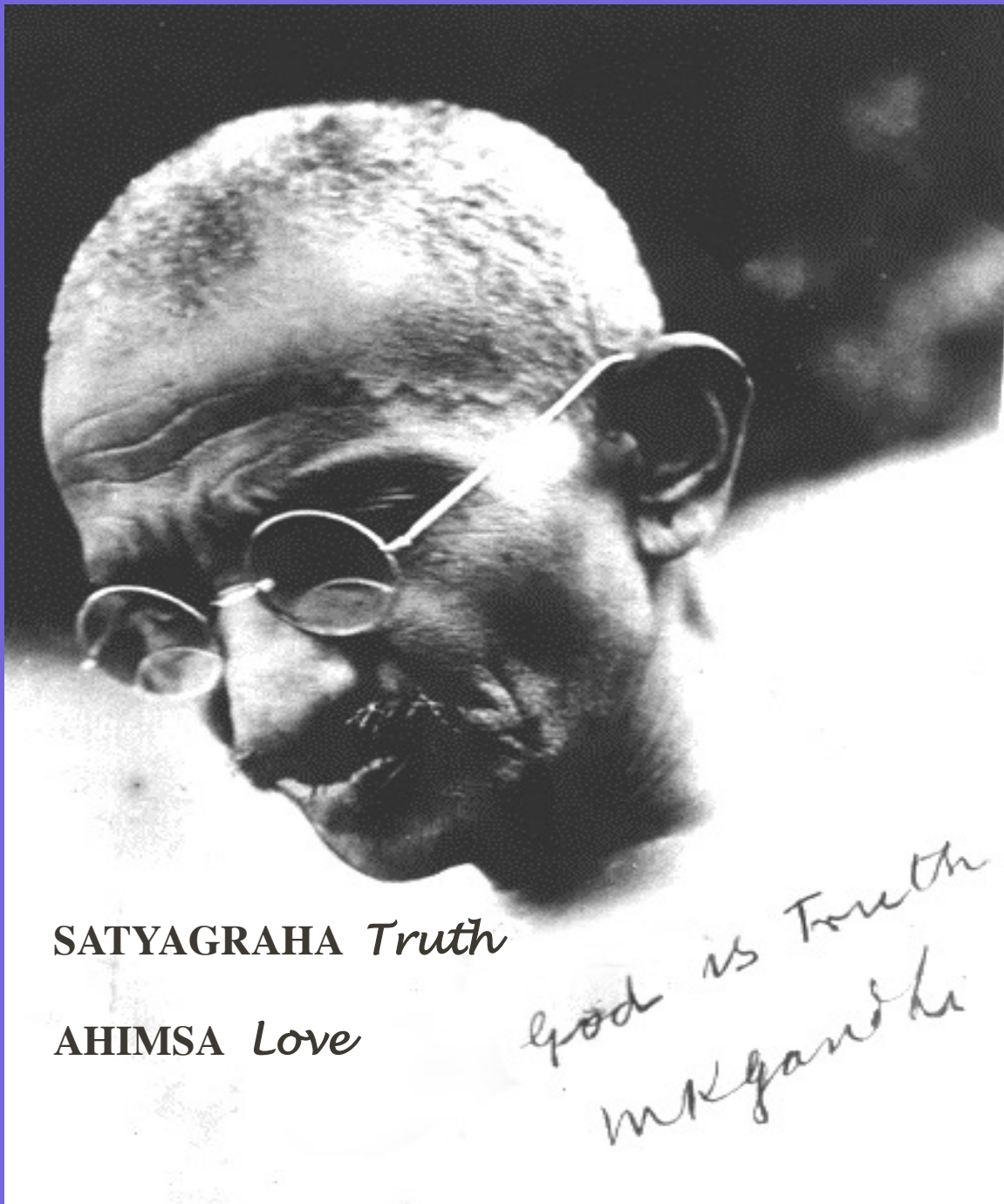
OR

The Story of my experiments with truth

M. K. Gandhi



Far be it from me to claim any degree of perfection from these experiments, I claim from them nothing more than does a scientist who, though he conducts his experiments with the utmost accuracy, forethought and minuteness, never claims any finality about his conclusions, but keeps an open mind regarding them.



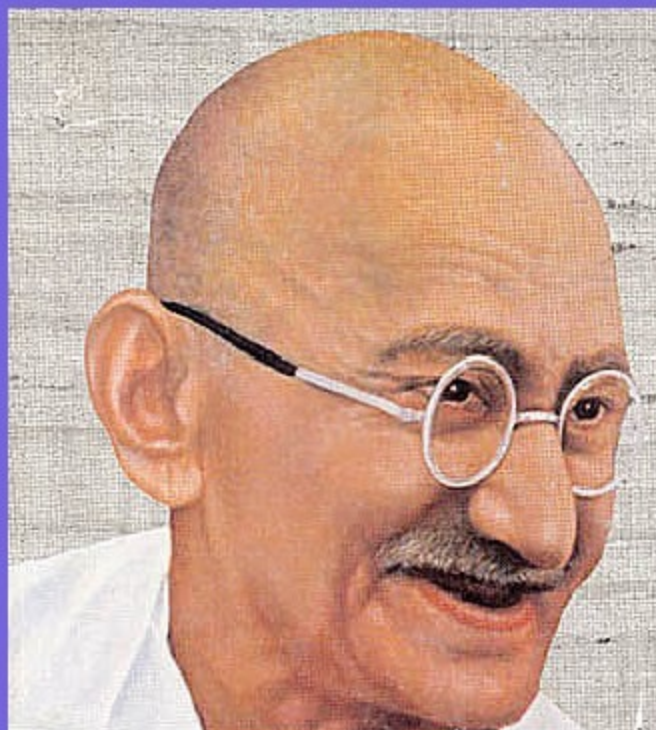
SATYAGRAHA *Truth*

AHIMSA *Love*

God is Truth
MK Gandhi



Born Sept 30, 1950



Born Oct 2, 1869



Libra