

The exquisite communication, or painful lack of it, between men and women is a fundamental ingredient in nearly all the dramas, real or otherwise, of our adult lives. It seems so unreasonable at times, but looking into the mind that makes meaning for us, we might find a few good reasons for this challenging state of synchrony and misunderstanding. With the recent discoveries of a number of structural, organizational, and biochemical differences, research now indicates that our brains themselves are quite specifically male or female. If our thinkers come in two models, we're not only physically different, we think differently too. The brain, it seems, evolving to coordinate bodies equipped for distinctively different roles in life, develops differently enough to make a real difference between the way he sees it and the way she sees it for as long as we live.

So naturally we think we're different. We hope we're different, we fear we're different and we know we're different. We are sexually mentally idiosyncratic, so mindfully differentiated that when we find mutual understanding through love, luck, or simply necessity it can change the course of our lives, joining two isolated individuals in such an intensified sense of new meaning and purpose that it completely alters their perception of life. It is our ability to mate male and female consciousness, our minds themselves, that is the special secret of our species. When we can merge our solitary virtual reality into the mindscape of another's dreams, we transcend our own limitations in a way only humans dream about. It makes miracles out of moments, magic out of matter, and more of us by the millions. It is the extraordinary ending of a story that started with sex and ended with love.

It seems reasonable to expect some problems interfacing more specialized cerebral hemispheres. In the male this may be responsible for a series of statistics which are otherwise difficult to explain. Males appear to have a more difficult time with communication-related issues. Boys suffer more often from autism (four to one), hyperactivity (five to one) stuttering (five to one) and dyslexia (six to one). Environment alone could not be responsible for this. Jerre Levy, a University of Chicago biopsychologist who studied under Nobel laureate Roger Perry agrees "The evidence is, you see, the hemispheres of the male brain are specialists; they speak different languages verbal and visual-spatial. The hemispheres of the female brain, on the other hand, don't seem to be such specialists. They may be able to communicate in a much less formal, less structured, and more rapid way."

If this is so, it is entirely possible that females are considerably better than males at integrating verbal and non-verbal information; at reading the emotional content of tones of voice or intensities of facial expression. This extends to interpreting social clues such as posture and gestures, quickly fitting all sorts of peripheral information into a complete picture. This may be at the root of what we call female intuition, the ability of women, which men find illogical, to respond to a danger sensed rather than directly perceived such as "my baby's in trouble", or produce a complete character analysis, later often proven right, of someone they've met for only ten minutes. Males may be at a double disadvantage in their emotional life. They may be emotionally less sophisticated. And because of the difficulty they may have in communicating between their two hemispheres, they may have restricted verbal access to their emotional world.