

EARTH AND THE SENSATION FUNCTION

by Margi Ross

The psychologist, C G Jung, discovered that there are four functions, sensation, intuition, feeling, and thinking. Each person has a superior function and an inferior. The superior function is where we have skill and refinement: it is the house in which we live.

Each function is equated with an element, so sensation = earth, intuition = fire, feeling = water and air = thinking.

Earth and water are by tradition feminine elements. In today's culture they are seen as slow and less interesting than fire and air. This is because they have not been differentiated or sorted and they are not understood.

If someone has sensation as their superior function, it means they are good with the earth element. Great mountaineers, footballers, sailors, surgeons, all have to be accurate judges of matter. On a more everyday level, dealing with money and mortgages, our bodies, food, caring for animals and plants, all these activities demand that we judge matter and the needs of life with accuracy.

A function can be extroverted or introverted. The examples I gave you in the previous paragraph are for extroverted sensation: the person has a good relationship between themselves and matter in the external world and they can work with skill and accuracy. Introverted sensation is more difficult to understand because it is not acknowledged at all! The person with this as their superior function is able to organise and define how external things to do with matter affect them and other forms of life. For instance, we live in a world where more and more noise is being allowed in shops. The un-evolved person will think 'it has been proven to boost sales, so let's have piped music'. Sound is energy and the person who is an introverted sensation type will feel like their body is a receptive disc, like the big ones used to receive Sky television. They can't use their head to shut the sound out, so it goes straight in. It's like being tortured. In countries where the sensation element is strong and is respected, there is more control over noise and better boundaries in the case of a crisis involving matter. Germany's response to BSE and Foot and Mouth is such a response. The British response is that of a thinking type country backed up by intuition: hence the appalling way these crises have been handled in this country.

Each function looks after an element and an aspect of life. If people are not conscious of this, the wrong people have control over areas of life in which they have no expertise.

The potential strength of people with introverted sensation is to advise us all on how noise, colour, sound, roads, supermarkets and other aspects of life should be designed so that the humans and animals, plants, and other forms of life, are not adversely affected. If introverted sensation people have no voice or self-respect, they can't do this.

Another aspect of sensation is respect for instinct. Like the animals, we have warnings when something awful is going to happen. We are not taught in school how to respect and understand instinct and what it tells us. Often people who are murdered or robbed or those who are caught up in such disasters as plane crashes or boats sinking are forewarned, but they do not know how to act on the information they are receiving. What is happening when people have these sorts of warnings? Is it sensing danger in the energetic field ages before the danger becomes life threatening? I sense it is.

If we look at the sensation function from a more spiritual or scientific perspective, we live in an energetic field, a field of energy. The sensation function and type helps us understand this field with skill. There is also the energy of the plane of the soul in everyday life. This is the area of expertise of the feeling type. It is a field of energy, like the ocean. If feeling types and sensation types can be given the chance to explain and respect their reality, then they can make life easier and safer for all living beings.

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