

The suicide of Rehtaeh Parsons

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IB1

Plan :



∞ Rehtaeh Parsons

∞ Language

∞ Media

∞ Emotion

∞ Reason

∞ Conclusion

Rehtaeh Parsons

- ✧ Born December 9th 1995
- ✧ Died April 7th 2013
- ✧ Raped in November 2011
- ✧ Attempted suicide by hanging 17 months after the rape
- ✧ Died after 3 days of coma
- ✧ 6 months after Rehtaeh's death one of the four rapist went to jail for a year accused of child pornography

Language

∞ What is language ?

∞ The tongue: a powerful muscle that can bring people up or down.

Consequences for Rehtaeh



- ❧ In Rehtaeh's case the people around her used language to make her feel ashamed and just to make her feel like she was nothing.
- ❧ She was feeling really bad and lonely mainly because of how people used their tongue through language.
- ❧ **Are we conscious enough to measure the impact of our words can have on people we talk to ?**

Medias



- ❧ A picture posted almost everywhere so everybody could see.
- ❧ On these social medias you can know everything about someone and see everything from bad to good.
- ❧ It made people believe that what they saw was how real life was.
- ❧ It's now an international language that can be misunderstood.

Media

- ❧ Can we really measure how something is going to hurt or encourage someone ?
- ❧ Are we smart and mature enough to control what we say and measure the impact it can have ?

Emotion and Reason



- ❧ What are they exactly ?
- ❧ Where is it located in our brain ?
- ❧ How do they work ?
- ❧ How do they affect our actions ?
- ❧ How did it affect Rehtaeh ? And why ?

Emotion - What is it exactly ?



- ❧ A strong feeling, such as joy or anger.
- ❧ An instinctive or intuitive feeling as distinguished from reasoning or knowledge.
- ❧ It comes from Latin “emovere” which means disturb.
- ❧ It also can be differentiated from a number of similar constructs within the field of affective neuroscience. Which are feelings, moods and affect.
- ❧ Is not the same thing as a mood.

Reason - What is it exactly ?



- ✧ It is the power of the mind to think, understand, and form judgments logically. It also tells you what is right, practical, or possible or inversely.
- ✧ Its origin is from Greece *logos*, which in English means “logic”.
- ✧ It then was translated in Latin as *ratio* which gave us the word reason.

Frontal Lobe
(Intellectual Brain)



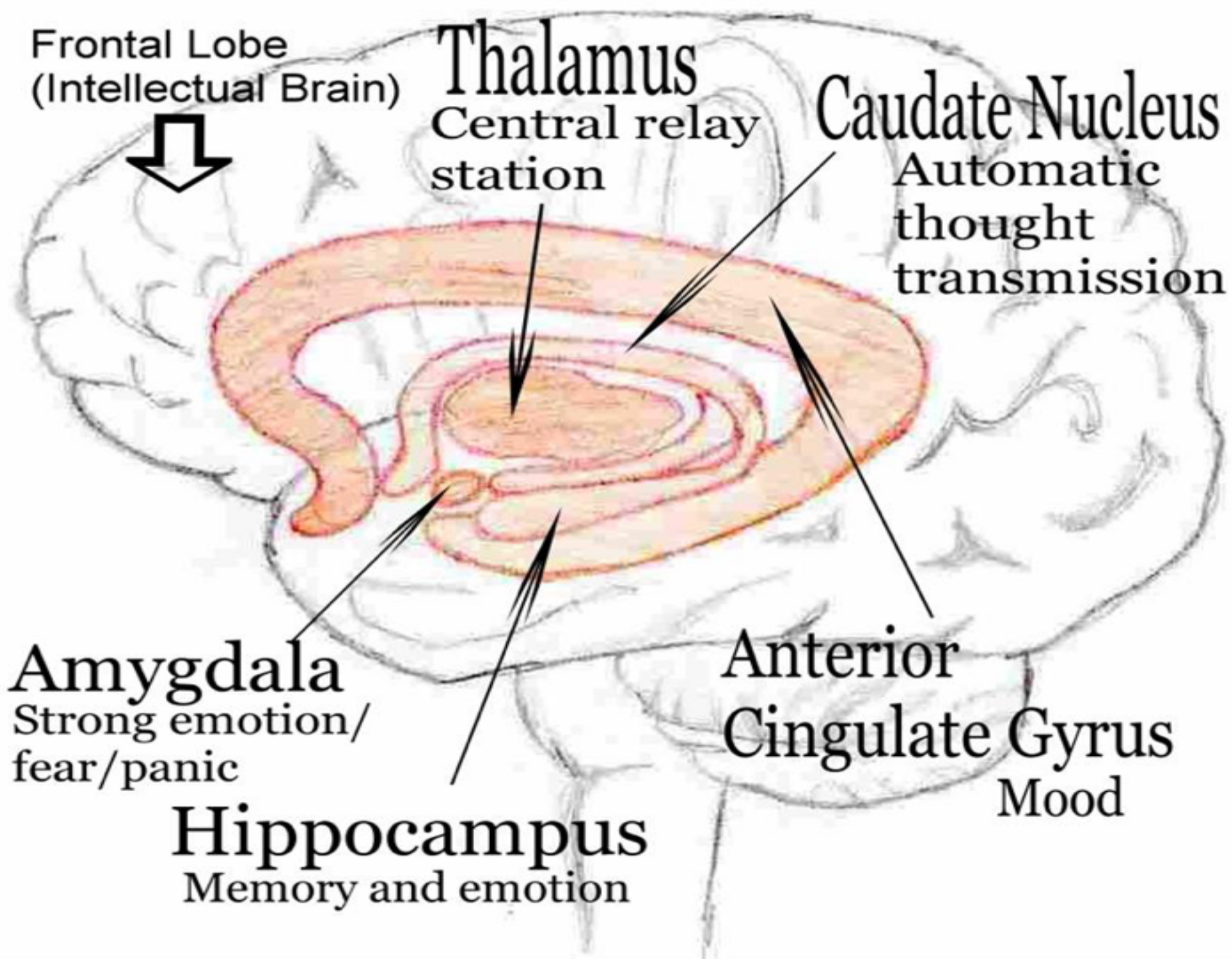
Thalamus
Central relay
station

Caudate Nucleus
Automatic
thought
transmission

Amygdala
Strong emotion/
fear/panic

Anterior
Cingulate Gyrus
Mood

Hippocampus
Memory and emotion



How does emotion affect our actions ?



- ✧ It will affect our temperament, personality, disposition and motivation. It can also affect a person's physical well-being, judgments and perception.
- ✧ They play a critical role in how individuals behave and react to external stimuli. They can also reduce the rationality in decision making.
- ✧ Emotions are the largest chemical balance or imbalance in the mind, so they can quickly cloud judgment and complicate social interactions without the individual being consciously aware that it is happening.

How does reason affect our actions ?



- ✧ In mostly all of our actions, emotions come before our judgments.
- ✧ The emotions are a much stronger feeling, which will be transmitted quicker than your reasoning.
- ✧ Many writers (like Damasio) further argues that rationality requires emotional input in order to function.

How did it affected her ? And why ?

- ✧ It mostly affected her because of the persistence of the others judging, bullying, ... her, which led her to death.
- ✧ This thought was constantly in her mind. Meaning that the Thalamus had the same information for a long period of time.
- ✧ She got a tattoo which meant “strength and courage”.
- ✧ She was receiving messages from people she didn’t even know if they could have an intimate relationship.
- ✧ One of her friends got stabbed by one of the rapists and got treated for a “non life-threatening injury”.