

TOPIC A: Emotion and Power and the Power of Emotion

Sally Student

I am happy that the professor has given us power to shape the topic of emotion and politics, because when teachers shape topics *for* me, particularly when they tell me how I am to feel about politics, I become emotional. I do not always fit in (emotionless) with what ‘society,’ or a professor, tells me to feel. Power directs emotion, and it is powerful to direct emotion, and sometimes one is powerless to reply. But not this time.

Responsibility is enormous. We all have it, but still we need to take it. It is ours for the taking. This is what is meant, I think, by “the personal is political,” discussed in class. It’s easy to say other people are in charge or in power, but that is a form of avoidance of responsibility. You take on responsibility like a hat or a cloak; it is a realm in which you exist, consciously. Responsibility is one form of love. Acceptance and responsibility is the what being conscious and alive is; one works with the resources one has gradually but and insistently to move up Maslow’s needs hierarchy.

I have found a site with a video to allow us to see, together, how power is within each of us and not outside of us. The topic of power and emotion makes us think of politics, Washington, DC, authorities, wisdom—things so far, far away from us. But power is really within, as author Tolle tells us. www.mylinkhere.com shows this. I will comment after we view this 4 min video to spark a discussion.

The chapter on topic A Power and Emotion by Berezin, points out that emotion is higher when there is fragility in a group. I recognize that pattern when unemployment was a problem in my household. Unemployment breeds fragility and that fragility gives rise to emotion. It is probably an “echo” of that fear of or resistance to birth or something new, as the professor described Otto Rank’s theory. In Emotional zone terms, unemployment breaks (interrupts) the “fact field” that one built when entering into the contract of marriage or roommating.

Scantron Questions: For the class, since they probably didn't read this, I will first list the emotions surrounding Fascism, on page X. Then this is the Scantron question:

Which one is *not* one of Berezin's intensifying emotional identity with the fascist regime in Italy?

- A. Myth of the founding event
- B. forging of enemies and heroes
- C. The appropriation of the commonplace
- D. The takeover of central media
- E. The merging of the scared and the secular