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**THEORETICAL ASSERTIONS**

1. Humans not only have evolved a larger and more complex brain but the genetic capacity to spontaneously internalize a rich, multi-dimensional representation of their worlds and themselves.
2. Humans have the genetic disposition to develop a system of ideas regarding the nature of their worlds (and themselves) which facilitates their ability to function in their environment.
3. The human brain has evolved to process ideas below conscious level. Even the most fundamental ideas can be "invisible" to a person who can give "good" reasons for their behavior that are not the "real" invisible reasons.
4. Both the internalized representations of the world (and the person) and the ideas interpreting the world and the self are in subtle flux, although changes generally occur slowly and tend to be resisted if observations contradict important constructs.
5. As we age the mind is slower to change this internal world and assimilates new information to adapt it to existing impressions.
6. Both positive and negative affect are associated with objects, specific mental representations of these objects, and ideas. Affect can be experienced spontaneously in reaction to an object or to a thought. Emotions also function as "markers" that remind us of past consequences and guide our decision making.
7. Every human's internal world is unique. Therefore a person's perceptions (and subsequent behavior) must be understood in terms of notions and rules specific to that person. Character pathology reflects distorted long term representations and notions about the world and the self which impede a person's ability to adapt.
8. Beliefs, assumptions and expectations that are now maladaptive allowed the person to fit in adaptively to an earlier dysfunctional environment.