

THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF ALEXANDER LURIA

A Dialogue with The Making of Mind



Michael Cole • Karl Levitin • Alexander Luria

Michael Cole

Autobiography of Alexander Luria: A Dialogue with the Making of Mind



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Alexander Luria was probably the most influential psychologists of the 20th century. devotion to creating a comprehensive theory of the biological and cultural foundations of individual nature, it is conspicuous for the lack of information about the social context of his function and His established autobiography was written as a citizen of the Soviet Union, and while it provides a compelling story of his lifelong his personal struggles to be a decent person in indecent times. The current "dialogic autobiography" provides the vitality of Luria's ideas back again to life. At last, Luria's life and science are brought together in a single volume. The book will appeal to psychologists, neuropsychologists, and other scientists interested in Luria's lifestyle achievements. Their account is normally supplemented by a Dvd and blu-ray with reminiscences of leading psychologists from all over the world who understood and caused Luria. Michael Cole and Karl Levitin, both of whom knew Luria well and also have discussed his life and work, have written a cautiously researched introduction and epilogue to the initial autobiography. They offer readers, for the very first time, with information regarding the public and personal contexts of Luria's remarkable achievements.



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Essential Luria reading This autobiography with introduction and epilogue plus DVD is vital Luria reading. Beyond simplistic human brain localization of psychological functions, Luria attuned us to the fundamental need for phenomenological processes essential in rehabilitation. It brings him to life in today's era when traumatic human brain injuries in Iraq make Luria's work more relevant than ever. . Luria, no issue about it, represented through the XX century probably the most influential experts in social, behavioral, and neurological areas. His theoretical techniques and scientific interpretations, as mentioned in this book, continue being contemporary ideas." (255). With the excess sections of this book (prologue, epilogue, Dvd and blu-ray) that enhance his initial autobiography, the reader comes apart with the notion that it often requires a few different versions and perspectives to weave jointly a mosaic of a existence and come away with a more complicated picture than any one perspective can provide. Luria's telling of his existence focuses primarily on his academic research and analysis in neuroscience and psychology and therefore comes across as a sort of skeleton of a existence tale. Finally, Luria says on web page 43 that "Man is not only a product of his environment, he is also a dynamic agent in creating that environment. this interest was the guiding thread in all the different research programs that he developed across his lifestyle: measuring emotions, comparing identical twins, studying conceptual abilities in illiterate people, screening patients with brain pathology, analyzing mental retardation, approaching the part of frontal lobes in behavior, and others. Right now, his 1979 autobiography becomes alive, visual, and true, with the DVD that's included in this book. Michael Cole -very likely the person who best is aware of Luria's life and function- initially makes a fantastic presentation of Luria's life and research. It turns into easy to understand Luria's scientific profession and social context since his beginning in Kazan until his loss of life in Moscow. Further, a series of interviews with individuals who worked with Luria or had some significant professional relationship with Luria are included. This book is, simply speaking, a unique book in regards to a unique person. His enthusiasm, generosity, and profound understanding of human's nature, are repeated over and over by all the people who had the chance to meet up Luria, or acquired any type of relationship with him. Similarly, Cole reveals his own reason from writing the 2005 book within the last sentence of the epilogue: "It is indeed ideas that endure. In Luria's case, his lifestyle was censored by the Soviet copyright company (VAAP) but also by Luria himself, who "firmly believed that the reality of his personal life were of fleeting curiosity . Those people do not merely "come and proceed", but become a symbol of the most significant human endeavors: to comprehend the world, to understand ourselves, and to recognize that we socially share our lives. Luria's lifestyle appears as something direct, and specially, very real. Thus learning an autobiography from a guy who lived in a severely repressive social context is an extremely interesting exercise in observing what goes on to a life tale when pieces are left out or the life is censored. It was a period of rapid scientific development and profound social changes. Which means prologue, epilogue and two chapters that put Luria's life in sociable and personal context breathe lifestyle into the otherwise dry and distant autobiography. Furthermore, the realization that he could have got control over what he thought we would do in the given conditions of his environment also allowed Luria live in various directions, participating in different fields of medication and psychology and interacting with many patients, colleagues, learners, friends and admirers. . review of 2005 life story of Alexander Romanovich Luria In this 2005 book, the life of Alexander Romanovich Luria is composed through various attempts to comprehend and preserve that life. However in human history some times a unique combination of scientific understanding, intelligence, and personality characteristics is found. . In reading the epilogue and especially the last two sections and in

addition watching the interviews on the Dvd movie, the reader has the capacity to connect to the life of Luria a lot more and start to piece together a far more extensive picture of his lifestyle. Luria lived one of the most exciting historical occasions that any person can live, not only from the scientific, but also from the sociable perspective. He developed different research programs and worked in various environments. . Nonetheless it is human beings who provide them with life" (225). Since it is very difficult to relate with the Luria in the 1979 autobiography on a personal level, the interviews actually give existence to the non-public struggles and political pressures faced by this leading Soviet psychologist during his tumultuous life time. Furthermore, with the 2005 book the reader is given fragments of a existence that range from clinical research, personal interviews, entries from "THE FANTASTIC Revolution" diary written by Luria over civil war in Russia, a merchant account of a American psychologist and an effort to place Luria's life right into a sociable and personal context. Therefore the reader is given a variety of perspectives that present Luria as the psychologist, the Russian intellectual, the friend, the father, the teacher and the husband whose environment brought chaos and fear alongside of enjoyment and invention. But throughout his existence, his contagious enthusiasm in understanding human cognition was his lifestyle passion;" Hence it becomes clear that his existence was driven with what the interpersonal and political context of the changing times enable but also by individual agency. It had been Luria's passion and ambition to make a well-rounded and complex psychology that combined laboratory analysis with basic observation and regarded the impact of the public environment that allowed this man to make long-enduring contributions to the field of psychology. In the final section of the book entitled "Luria in Personal Context," the reader learns that Luria "could not write truthfully about the linkages between his personal experience and his scientific function without sever reprisals from the State. Furthermore, Michael Cole's investigation into Luria's work and life is motivated a enthusiasm to determine and perform justice to the life span of the Soviet psychologist. In Cole's contributions to the 2005 book, it is as if he is trying to complete the blanks of Luria's lifestyle still left by the ellipses in the 1979 autobiography. This great difference between what the two men thought a existence tale should contain is particularly apparent in the motivations given by each man to write both books: First, Luria claims in his autobiography, "People come and go, however the creative sources of great historical occasions and their important concepts and deeds remain" (188). As a result Cole's curiosity and need for a personal link with Luria, which is difficult to extract from the 1979 autobiography, allows this story to come alive. Cole immediately puts Luria's life story is certainly into context in the preface, using orientation clauses in a very comprehensive and straight-forwards narrative, telling the reader that Luria was born in Kazan in 1902, that he was among the leading psychologists of the 20th hundred years and that he passed away in 1977. Cole also highlights to the reader that "No where did Alexander Romanovich hint at the complicated ideological and institutional constraints that got produced his numerous research professions ." Although Luria never states this fact in his own 1979 autobiography, the pressures of the changing times in the USSR become specifically apparent to the reader in the epilogue and the two following parts of the 2005 book. A UNIQUE BOOK ABOUT A UNIQUE PERSON In 1979 Alexandr Romanovich Luria's autobiography "The Making of Mind" was published." (222). Thus the 2005 book comes across as an attempt to know the person, not merely the milestones and accomplishments of a life but also the motivations and feelings that drove such a existence. He calls this his "excuse" for writing his life story and for that reason one comes to realize why he targets his ideas and studies rather than his personal existence. It is true -as Luria frequently stated- that folks come and go and only the good work remains. Hence Luria's life is exposed in a

very much fuller and more personal way by outside people such as for example Cole, Levitin and the interviewees. Therefore Cole is interested in giving lifestyle to the individual behind the suggestions by paying homage to Luria himself with a totally different edition of his lifestyle. With this motivation to check out the human being, Cole softens Luria's autobiography by guiding the reader to discover Luria in a fresh way by revealing personal information about the focused life. After reading Cole's prologue and epilogue and realizing that Luria was a very passionate and humanistic neuropsychologist, a good host, a great "adopted father" and teacher to numerous pupils and a devoted friend, the reader realizes that the 1979 lifestyle story of Luria that relies exclusively on his work can be a self-effacing and for that reason incomplete representation of the man. It therefore will take Cole's contribution to this life story combined with the interviews by Cole and Levitin to complete the personal life of Luria, which perfectly complements his very own autobiography.



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