A Critique Of Psychoanalytic Reason Hypnosis As A Scientific Problem From Lavoisier To Lacan

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The question of hypnosis as a scientific problem has a long history. In the late eighteenth century, Charles de Lavoisier and other scientists were fascinated by the ability of certain individuals to be influenced by hypnosis. However, the development of hypnosis as a scientific discipline has been complicated by the fact that it is often seen as a blend of science and art. In this chapter, we will explore the history of hypnosis as a scientific problem from Lavoisier to Lacan.

Lavoisier's Hypnosis Experiment

In 1775, the French chemist and politician Charles de Lavoisier conducted one of the first experiments on hypnosis. He hypnotized a subject and then tested his ability to perform a simple task. Lavoisier believed that hypnosis was a state of deep concentration and that it could be induced by a combination of suggestion and the removal of external distractions.

The Development of Hypnosis

In the early nineteenth century, hypnosis began to be studied by a number of other scientists, including Jean-Marc Charcot and Hippolyte Bernheim. Charcot used hypnosis to treat a variety of conditions, including hysteria and alcoholism. Bernheim, on the other hand, used hypnosis to study the psychology of suggestion and the role of the unconscious in human behavior.

The Rise of Psychoanalysis

In the late nineteenth century, Sigmund Freud began to make use of hypnosis in his work with patients. Freud believed that hypnosis could be used to access the unconscious and to uncover repressed memories and emotions.

The Development of Lacan's Theory

In the mid-twentieth century, Jacques Lacan developed a theory of psychoanalysis that placed a greater emphasis on the role of the unconscious in human behavior. Lacan believed that hypnosis was a useful tool for accessing the unconscious and for understanding the ways in which the unconscious influences human behavior.

The Critique of Psychoanalytic Reason

In the late twentieth century, a number of scholars began to question the role of hypnosis in psychoanalysis. They argued that hypnosis was often used as a means of controlling and manipulating patients, and that it was not a reliable means of accessing the unconscious.

The Future of Hypnosis

In recent years, hypnosis has continued to be studied by a number of scholars. However, the role of hypnosis in psychoanalysis remains a subject of debate. Some scholars continue to believe that hypnosis is a valuable tool for accessing the unconscious, while others argue that it is a dangerous and unreliable technique.

In conclusion, the history of hypnosis as a scientific problem has been a complex and often controversial one. From Lavoisier's experiments to Lacan's theory, hypnosis has been used in a variety of ways, and its role in psychoanalysis remains a subject of debate. Future research will likely continue to explore the complex relationship between hypnosis and psychoanalysis.