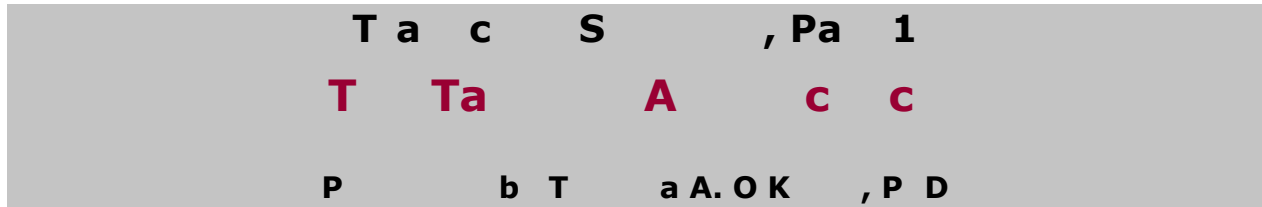


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So adolescence, what is it? I get that question quite a lot when I address this. And I want to simply start by saying I'm considering the long transitional space, the movement from childhood to adulthood.

Now sociologists and psychologists will subdivide that into sections, and that's their purview and their bread and butter. That's fine. And I find their work helpful, not to question that, but what I'm looking at is what's happening across this very long transition.

It's a very old word, adolescence. Some people will say it only started in the 20th century, but that's not in fact the case. It's been around since the time of Aristotle. I think there's first reference of him using it in bemoaning the fact that "they're so useless."

In it, it's always been understood as a time of movement and change, and I would suggest to you this is the kind of movement it is. We're talking about moving from childhood to moving to adulthood.

Now sometimes we know what that means. And that's one of the interesting things in the literature is to discover that when people are measuring the movement toward adulthood, nobody ever says what adulthood is. They usually pick exterior markers like you have a job, you live on your own, you pay your bills, whatever else, external markers. And I'd suggest that most of those external markers are largely determined by socioeconomic situations, not by the individual's ability or circumstance.

So I had to really think about this when I was working on my work, say well where is it we're going? If I know where the goal is, maybe I have a chance at helping people get there. So I paid attention more to what was expected of adults. And you

tion to that. So

when you're looking at children, you see in children a self-interest but it's an unselfconscious self-interest. They think they're the center of the world, but they don't think of themselves as thinking that they're the center of the world. They just act that way.

And in some ways, it's charming, and after a while, it gets irritating, but you're just like,

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