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FREUD, PROFILED: SERIAL KILLER

(TYPE: ROMAN EMPEROR)

[Sigmund Freud, the Father of Psychoanalysis, is profiled and typed, based upon the murders he committed, his “fit” with other Serial Killers in terms of personality type, family background, confessions of his innermost passions and habitual obsession with murder and established “profile” criterion of Serial Killer Characteristics developed by leading experts in the field and the F.B.I. Behavior Science Section]



1 CHAPTER ONE

In 1991 the hideous deeds of a young man in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Jeffery Dohmer, became public and horrified the world. A Serial Killer, Dohmer's apartment was filled with body parts of scores of victims. In his refrigerator he kept hunks of human meat upon which he dined. In his room, numerous human skulls were found which had been cleaned and even painted in bright colors. A terrible stench of rotting human flesh hung in the air in and about his apartment. But no one investigated the strange odor. The tragic horror of the situation was intensified when it was later learned that a young Asian boy of 14 had, shortly before discovery of the gruesome situation, run out of Dohmer's apartment naked and bleeding. Stopped by the police, the young Asian, drugged and nearly unconscious, was returned to his tormentor when Dohmer came out and assured the police they were lovers. It was only a lover's spat.

There is reason to believe the police didn't want to know the truth of the situation. No honest investigation was made. Attempts by neighbors to get help for the boy were rebuffed by the police. The situation was "taken care of." The boy, who by Western standards looked more like 11 or 12, had been wandering the streets, naked, bleeding profusely from the anus, drugged and unable to talk. Despite the boy's desperate condition, the police *returned* him to Dohmer. It is hard to believe Dohmer himself presented a normal appearance before the police that night. In any case, within minutes after the police left, Dohmer slit the boy's throat. Another name was added to

the list -- apparently with complete confidence the police would never follow-up on the status of the boy. Sixteen of Dohmer's victims have already been accounted for, more yet may be discovered.

Had the police attempted to look into the situation, they would have discovered that Dohmer had a police record and had previously been convicted and imprisoned for sex crimes.

The case of Dohmer stimulated, once again, the public's fascination with the Serial Killer and the strange drama of human depravity involved. Serial killing, a uniquely human phenomenon is also paradoxically an *inhuman* activity -- the work of moral monsters. Serial Killers do not kill for food, unless they have already acquired the taste for human flesh. They do not kill out of fear of their own lives, or to further a political cause, or even for specific acts of revenge. They appear to kill primarily for the pleasure experienced in the act of murder. It energizes them, lifts their spirits, and quiets their nerves. A successful killing is like a good meal after a great hunger, or special fun after a period of terrible boredom. It leaves a pleasant after-glow. On a recent TV show featuring live interview with Serial Killers from prison, most of them talked about the good feeling the killer got from murdering. The murder was "exciting," "enjoyable," it was like a "terrible burden being lifted."

As to the fate of the victim and their cruel sufferings the Serial Killer is stone-cold, unfeeling, without pity or remorse.

Obviously all Serial Killers are not the same though they have much in common. Some are cannibalistic and have sex with the murdered corpses, like Dohmer. Some disfigure their victims, some merely suffocate them; some

do it with a knife, hypodermic needle, gun, or other means. For some, the murder itself is enough, without the need of brutalizing or chewing on the bones. But we must not think that cannibalistic and necrophiliac tendencies stir only in the worst cases of the Serial Killer. Such impulses are to be found, in varying degrees, in many Serial Killer types -- including Sigmund Freud.

However much Serial Killers are differentiated in the individual case, all of them have much in common. What they have in common is called by forensic science their "profile." To forensic science the Serial Killer is different from the mass murderer who, in a single act, may take the lives of many persons. He is different from killers who open fire at a mall, set fire to a nightclub, or places a bomb in an airplane. It is not a single episode or situation which makes a person a Serial Killer. It is a continuing state of mind, a criminal state of mind of the worst kind imaginable.

Serial Killer Types

Famous names of Serial Killers readily come to mind: Jack the Ripper (believed by many to have been a doctor, because of his surgical techniques in hacking up his victims - 23 victims; the Boston Strangler (strangled mostly women - 10 victims; the Zodiac Killer (chose his victims with astrology) - 20 victims; the Manson Family (butchered and disemboweled victims) - 3 victims; Cardoza (mostly homosexual murders with necrophilia - 30 victims); Son of Sam (shot women - 7 victims). Many more, unfortunately, could be mentioned.

Almost daily, it sometimes seems, many recent names of Serial Killers are quickly being added to the list,

most recently Gary Ng, a Marine Sergeant, indicted for 17 murders but still at large. Not only is the population of Serial Killers increasing but the numbers of their victims as well. Here are a few of the more recent examples, along with a case, of particular interest to this investigation, from the 1940's.:

The Good Nurse, Liza Mills, was an LVN. She is believed to have murdered perhaps as many as 40 infants by giving them lethal injections in hospital and doctor office settings. She enjoyed the thrill and excitement generated around the death scene, in which she was in attendance as a nurse -- having herself caused their mortal condition. Apparently her spree started first by bringing the infants to near death then "saving" them so she could be hailed as a heroine. Later, she found it more exciting to just be done with it and kill them. Instead of near lethal doses, she administered lethal doses. Did she *decide* to kill again or find herself "unconsciously" motivated? Whatever the case for her "unconscious" motivations she was extremely crafty and cunning -- requiring considerable mental alertness -- in both the killing and covering her tracks.

An epidemic of infant deaths ceased when she left the hospital at which they were occurring. The hospital reportedly covered up the murders out of fear of massive legal suits against them.

The Good Nurse, herself had two children, which she appears to have treated well. Always ready to help others, she was considered an exemplary nurse. In fact, she was a conniver all her life. At 32 she tricked a 19 years old man into marrying her by claiming she was pregnant. Her tubes, in fact, had been cut long before. The doctor who employed her confronted her with her crimes. The Good

Nurse, knowing she had been found out, suddenly assumed her real form. The doctor testified she felt her sudden "coldness" and knew she was facing "a very evil person."

The Good Doctor Dr. Periot was a doctor in France who active as a Serial Killer during and right after World War II. When he was away from his house, a glut of dead and half burned bodies was accidentally found in the Good Doctor's basement furnace. 17 bodies could be distinguished, but there was another large mound of ashes also containing the remains of corpses. Dr. Periot separated, apparently with great care, the flesh from his victim's bones like Dohmer. Whole rib cages were skinned and found scattered on the floor along with hands, arms, and other body parts.

Dr. Periot's whole life showed a pattern of criminality. He had been diagnosed as "neurasthenic" - the same condition Freud diagnosed in himself. Dr. Periot was an outrageous liar and claimed he could cure everything from the common cold to rare diseases. He was as brutal of a killer one can imagine, yet hundreds of his patients swore by him. Dr. Periot would travel far distances in the middle of the night to help his patients. Often he would forget to even charge them. His patients were in shocked disbelief when they discovered he was a homicidal maniac, a Serial Killer. As Dr. Periot was a doctor and had many personality traits in common with Freud, we shall have occasion to return to him.

The Good Psychoanalyst Dr. John Rozen, a Freudian psychoanalyst, subjected his therapy patients to cruel and inhuman treatment. Some patients were locked in small rooms, bolted with two by fours, and containing only a pot for a toilet. He sexually and physically assaulted some

patients. He beat patients with his fists and murdered others. Recent disclosures of this case have met with stony silence from the professional psychiatrists and psychoanalysts. Here was one of their own. Dr. John Rozen was a prominent Freudian psychoanalyst; in fact he was referred to as one of psychoanalysis's leading "stars."
SALLY ZINMAN

The Prophet & The Cult: In a recent book, *The Prophet of Death* (1991), the case of another Serial Killer, Jeffery Ludson, is explored. This Jeffery fancied himself an instrument of God and ritually executed all members of a family of five, one at a time, beginning with the oldest and ending with a beautiful little girl of 6 years old. The victim sacrifices were bound and taped, leaving only space for their eyes to see. Jeffery had his victims put in a pit, and so the horrified victim could witness their own execution, he put a bullet in their heads, one at a time. Jeffery was absolutely pitiless and had no remorse at all for the deaths he caused. To this day he professes his right to "obey" God, despite mortal laws.

Jeffery was a cult leader of an off-shoot group of Mormons. We will have cause to return to him as his profile has much in common with Freud, who also fancied himself a death messiah. It would be hard to "cure" a Serial Killer who refuses to admit he did anything wrong. But it appears he can be stopped, Jeffery Ludson was given the death sentence and now resides on death row.

The Prophet's Wife: Jeffery Ludson's collaborators in the murders included his wife. She now claims she was suffering at the time from the "battered wife syndrome." She took part in the murders and had known her husband

was a crook, a liar, and a thief for years before he proclaimed his new lie of being God's prophet. Yet, she claims she believed he really was a new messiah. Now she is on the bandwagon of the "woman's rights" issue and loudly claims, from prison, that if her situation is not properly understood, "millions of women will suffer" because of it. Other witnesses, who well knew her, refute her words that she was abused and without "free will." She was an active member of all her husband's criminal activities. She herself was a criminal of the same kind and manifests the same characteristics.

All of the above Serial Killers put themselves in a position of dominance and control over the lives of others. Absolutely indifferent to the rights and pleas for mercy from their victims, they loudly scream over the criminal justice system violating their rights.

Beyond Good & Evil: Human Beings With Inhuman Souls.

General Schwartzkropf, when asked to comment on Sadamm Husein's behavior in the recent war observed that, so far as he was concerned, anyone who would set fire to a whole country after being defeated, out of mere perversity, was not only a criminal but "sub-human." Schwartzkropf's diagnosis of Sadamm would probably make many a psychiatrist and psychotherapist shudder. For if there were really a class of people recognized as sub-humans, what need would we have of highly expensive psychoanalysts when it comes to dealing with them? Instead of pondering

theories of the mind, we might simply adopt the biblical "diagnosis:" "By their deeds ye shall know them."

By designating someone as "sub-human" there is perhaps an implication that they are disposable, and like a social poison or disease should be eradicated. No doubt that was exactly what Schwartzkropf had in mind. Sadamm is a vicious and inhumane enemy a man who was, and is, prepared to kill anybody and everybody if it serves his purposes. One suspects Schwartzkropf, and most of the world for that matter, would have greeted news of Sadamm's death, as the news of Hitter's death was greeted -- with a sigh of relief. It is not Schwartzkropf's "psyche" that needs to be examined, nor do we need to examine Sadamm's psyche either. Schwartzkropf showed himself to be an extremely humane person, who's purpose was to defeat the enemy and cause as little destruction of life and property as possible. The opposite of Sadamm. Examining Sadamm's psyche will not change who he is.

Should we hold dear the life of all, even a sub-human, if by holding that life dear we expose innocent human life to the insane cruelty of the sub-human? Sub-human or not, the Serial Killer, whether "sick" or "insane" is a *criminal* and *morally*, if not legally or medically, diseased. Any psychological diagnosis of the Serial Killer failing to embody that fact as a primary element of the diagnosis is a diagnosis in league with the criminal. Let us be clear about one thing. A Freudian diagnosis of the Serial Killer, or in fact any murderer, primarily serves the interests of exculpating the criminal from his actions. The reason for this is simple. Freud, himself a Serial Killer, created a psychology intended for purposes of the "defense." As we learn more about Sigmund Freud, it will become quite clear why Freud curiously initially called his

psychology "The Defense." The implicit assumption of Freudian psychoanalysis is non-responsibility due to uncontrollable unconscious forces. A force Freud called the "Es" (in German) or the "It" in English. It was the *It* that made him do it!

The Serial Killer is the most depraved of all criminals. A creature of the dark, he lies in wait upon his next victim, sometimes with great patience. It may be a six month old infant in the crib, a prostitute roaming the streets, a child on the playground, an office worker at their desk. Any defenseless person caught in an unsafe place, made unsafe by virtue of the presence of the Serial Killer, may be a target. Anyone vulnerable, upon whom he can work his dirty deeds, is a prospect for "acquisition" or "sacrifice" -- if he believes he can get away with it and the prey is worth the having. He stalks his victims with a ruthlessness seen in no other creature on this planet. No other known creature kills primarily for the pleasure of killing and killing of its own kind.

The Serial Killer salivates over the idea of completely dominating the life of a helpless human being as the victim's life is bled away. Gleefully, he contemplates the death-dates of his victims. The Serial Killer does not so much "give in" to committing horrible deeds, he simply can't resist the pleasure experienced by the murder. He believes he has an inalienable *right* to indulge himself in whatever he wants to do. In Freud's own words he can permit himself doing a "small wrong." After all, the Serial Killer believes himself to be one of the truly Superior Ones, those to whom murder is permitted and whose permission they require from none but themselves. .

The Serial Killer is an alert and successful criminal who time after time gets away with it. That is why he is

called a Serial Killer. The Serial Killer takes pride in his unique place among the most terrible of criminals. He is in a class by himself. Nobody seems smart enough to catch him up. And with success comes carelessness, boldness, going too far, attracting attention sorely desired but highly dangerous. The Serial Killer desperately fantasizes being a Super Human because he knows himself to be a Sub Human.

The Serial Killer appears to have a near physical hunger for killing. He thrills in the sensation of the power of life and death over others, his ability to take precious human life and turn it into dead meat. In the act of murder, the terrible void at the center of his being is somehow empowered, enhanced, re-energized, the Serial Killer is reborn. After the death meal, the Serial Killer often confesses to feeling "normal." Serial Killers can make a sandwich after a murder, go to the movies, visit with friends, put the milk out for the cat, or help an old lady across the street. Curiously, the Serial Killer can be more dangerous when he is in his most rational state of mind. It requires an alert state of mind to plan and execute a premeditated murder without getting discovered. The craving for normalcy that the Serial Killer most wants satisfied, however, can only be temporarily achieved through evil deeds.

The Serial Killer is most often described as a kind of addict. Murder is his addiction, the thrill achieved in murder his "kick." This addiction requires a maintenance "fix." At first, the experience is wonderfully exhilarating, later the fix is needed to just feel normal again. It is a hard habit to break, the hungering sensation to consume another life returns. Between murders, they often play back video or sound recordings or look at photos made of

their previous murders. This voyeurism provides a surrogate death-meal until their next feeding.

How many Serial Killers, if any, give up their monstrous habits is unknown. Whether, after a few murders, they can cease altogether their killing, or whether they may be subject to a renewed "outbreak," has not been determined. Perhaps it never can be determined. It is not unusual that serial killings will stop abruptly. The police never know if the killer has left the area, died, quit killing, is in jail on some other offence, or is just keeping a low profile. Perhaps the truth is "once a Serial Killer always a Serial Killer." To my knowledge no serial killer has ever been "cured." How could one even decide such a question? Does the Serial Killer *choose* to kill or is he under the influences of "unconscious" forces, over which he has no control? Does the Serial Killer kill because his mind is diseased, or is his mind diseased because he is a killer and his "human side" revolts against the inhumane hybrid inside of him?

Not many months ago a man who raped and cut off the arms of a young girl about 10 years old was released from prison. He was a repeat offender and was obviously capable of the most hideous of crimes. How many victims he actually had no one knows. It would be a mistake to think we know all about the man's history. The community in which the man was to be released protested vehemently, but he was released anyway, into another community where the public would not know him. Did the psychoanalyst's give him a clean bill of health? Were the probation officers merely doing their unavoidable duty? I do not know enough of the details of this case to venture an opinion. But, if the probation officers and psychiatrists were sure that he was "cured" it might not be a bad idea of

releasing him directly into a community with a high population of psychiatrists and related legal professionals -- specifically, if possible, where the ones involved in the case lived. Of course, no one would wish that on anyone. In any case, who would trust their unprotected life, or the unprotected lives of their loved ones, to someone who "used to be" a Serial Killer, or who "used to" cut off the arms of children after sexually brutalizing them? Is there not some point at which we must all cry, "Stop." Whoever you are or whatever you think you know, "Stop."

The Right to Kill the Right to Lie

The life of the Serial Killer is dominated by lies. He feeds upon lies, uses them to weave his death-traps, to hide the leprosy of his moral condition. The Serial Killer, like any one, may shake hands with his neighbors, wish them good day with a smile, bid his fellow workers good-night in a pleasant voice and play sweetly with his children at home. The Serial Killer may be a Sunday school teacher, a professor, a nurse, policeman, a psychiatrist, politician, a general laborer or anybody. On the surface he or she usually appears as normal as anyone, sometimes even especially nice, courteous, and helpful.

But it is all a lie. The Serial Killer is far from being a normal person and well knows it. His life, like Mephistopheles, is completely dominated by the "spirit of lying," death and denial. In public, before the eyes of the world, the Serial Killer takes great pains to pass himself off as normal, even better than normal. The Serial Killer must constantly lie to prevent the truth of his inner nature from becoming known. He is especially alert and constantly on guard for making a mistake -- a slip here, a slip there. . .

something written down. . . a stray piece of evidence. . .
-- any thing at all may bring suspicion to him.

The Serial Killer reportedly often comes from a family background of incest and childhood rape. Raised to never betray horrible "family secrets" a deep inner need possesses him to tell on the offending father, mother, or close relative. As he himself was once a helpless victim, so others will be his helpless victims. Taking the American poet Auden's perception, "Those to whom evil is done, do evil in return." But the Serial Killer goes one further. He gives better than he gets, he inflicts damage greater than he ever received. Sometimes he is prepared to murder, as Shakespeare said, "even for an egg shell." But there is no cause behind his slogan, though to lessen his responsibility he will often claim he was serving a "higher cause." The ultimate cause, however, seems to be the lust to kill itself. That is the sole defining factor between the Serial Killer and the vast, overwhelming majority of mankind.

All speculations about the motivations of the Serial Killer somehow miss the mark. Some of the most ridiculous comments on the Serial Killer come from the psychiatric profession itself. In Dohmer's case, for example, a court approved psychiatrist diagnosed him as "lonely." The psychiatrist believed Dohmer became a Serial Killer because "his mother left him at home as a child and he killed people so that they wouldn't leave him."

The psychiatrist probably got his idea from Freudian theory and the fact Dohmer kept grisly body parts in his apartment and played with the remains of his victims, their murdered bones were as toys. Certainly something is lacking in this psychiatric evaluation. The analysis claims to find an "explanation" of Dohmer's deed in the fact of his parent's fault. The analysis misses a key fact, which must

have been known to the psychiatrist. Dohmer was a pedophile before he turned to murder, necrophilia, and sadistic mayhem. Was it "loneliness" which inspired him to sexually assault children? No doubt the psychiatrist would have reference to Freudianism to explain this complication of Dohmer's "Oedipal complex" -- Freud's own complex which he would have the world believe was a genetic desire to have sex with one's mother and to murder the father. Sham "soul-doctors" schooled in Freud's insane theories pass the theory on as though it were inspired by Holy Writ.

It is claimed that Dohmer, in keeping with the Serial Killer profile, was sexually molested as a child. But was Dohmer really molested? Who says he was, Dohmer? The psychiatrist who begins with the assumption based on theory? There's probably hardly a criminal in the whole criminal system, going for a plea of "insanity" who doesn't know what the psychiatrists want to hear. When a Freudian analyst gets "confirmation" from a patient-inmate of a basic assumption of his theories, he has a "fact" in hand. For this reason many a criminal has conned a psychoanalyst into becoming his "advocate" in criminal hearings. Of course, testifying for the defense, the psychiatrist is *paid* to come to mitigating circumstances; testifying for the prosecution, he is *paid* to arrive at conclusions adverse to the prosecutorial interest. For the defendant, his first goal is to be released, if not at once, then as soon as possible. The issue of what the patient was thinking or not thinking at the time of the crime, whether he could distinguish "good" from "evil," like a dream, only the dreamer will ever really know what he was dreaming-- no matter how many psychiatrists and Freudian psychoanalyst come upon the scene for *pay*.

One outstanding expert in the field, Dr. Stanton E. Samenow, comments on this issue of the killer knowing how to manipulate the psychiatrists for his own purpose.

When a person commits a particularly sordid crime, his sanity may be questioned. Three men pick up two girls who are thumbing a lift. A joyride turns into a nightmare when the teenagers are driven to a desolate mountainous area where they are bound and repeatedly raped. Two of their tormentors dig a hole and tell them to say their prayers. However, the men decide to prolong the torture and spirit the girls off to an apartment and brutalize them again. The girls are saved by a suspicious neighbor who calls the police. Eventually the court considers the rapists to be "mentally disordered sex offenders" and sends them to a psychiatric hospital, where they spend less than one-third of the time they would have served in prison.

Criminals learn to fool the psychiatrists and the courts in order to serve "easy time" in a hospital with the prospect of getting out more quickly than they would from a prison. From other criminals *and from their attorneys* [emphasis added], even unsophisticated street criminals learn the ploy of insanity. The game is for the criminal to convince others that he is sick so that he can beat the charge. After he is admitted to the hospital, he plays the psychiatric game of mouthing insights and

behaving properly so that he can convince the staff that he is recovering and deserves to be released.

In the field of psychiatry and psychoanalysis, it is not enough to say a person is simply evil or repeatedly gives way to evil impulses. No, they look for explanations of behavior, upon which they can hang one of the tags of their profession, to give an illusion that it is a medical matter for which their services are indispensable, for *pay*. Some primarily search for biochemical explanations, others, like the Freudians, for events and circumstances in the early life of the criminal which "caused" the criminal's condition. Still others find explanations of behavior in the criminal's pattern of free choices, his conscious decision to commit criminal deeds, the criminal state of mind. He knows like everyone else the difference between right and wrong, but chooses to commit the wrong if he thinks he can get away with it.

Not unexpectedly, most psychiatrists would say they give proper attention to both physicochemical and psychological factors. In all cases, however, the good doctors are presuming a physical-psychological determinism -- that somehow the criminal was "forced" into his crime or was not responsible on grounds of insanity. The legal basis for a claim of insanity is based upon three legal tests:

Does he know right from wrong (the M'Naughton rule)? Is the crime a product of mental disease or defect (Durham rule)? Does the defendant lack substantial capacity to appreciate the criminality of his conduct or to conform his conduct to the requirements of

the law (American Law Institute Model Penal Code)?

I dare say, regardless of how heinous the crime, regardless of the circumstances of the crime, defense attorneys have no problem at all finding psychiatrists to testify, for a pretty penny, that the criminal was "insane." The psychiatric profession, in collusion with the courts and defense attorneys, cede to the psychiatric hospital's staff the determination of whether the criminal is now "cured" or not. Hence, in effect, they preside over the legal system's authority to meet out "justice."

What's In A Name: A Serial Killer By Another Other Name Would Smell As Rank

With the Serial Killer, it seems particularly difficult to come to conclusions about their condition. It just might be this is so because we don't have a category for the "sub-human." We can all understand if not condone, someone killing in the so-called "state of passion" under certain conditions. We can even understand someone "losing it all" and killing everyone in sight, as has happened a number of times in recent months. Examples of these kinds of things abound in our daily newspapers. But, the actions of a Serial Killer, time after time, plotting, planning, preparing to murder innocent people, that is something else. How do we explain it to ourselves?

It is difficult for most to imagine that the sweet face of a new born infant masks a demon from birth. Most probably believe terrible things must have happened in the life of a Serial Killer which greatly influenced, if not determined, his twisted life. Yet, no one has shown, and

science can not show, that evil is not the primary ingredient in the make-up of the Serial Killer, whatever else may or may not be true.

I think it would be fair to say there is a liberal presumption that the new-born child is "innocent" at birth, and there is a fundamentalist presumption that we are all "born sinners." Those who believe, or want to believe, all are innocent at birth, even they are often not prepared to accept a simplistic Freudian "cause" and "effect" paradigm where the parents are *always* the primal cause of the child's problems. Likewise, many a fundamentalist is not prepared to conclude that because we are all "born sinners" we do not have responsibility for our acts. From this point of view, it might be argued because we are born sinners we are completely responsible for our deeds. In any case, in dealing with the Serial Killer, we are going to have to stretch all our concepts to try to describe the indescribable.

In the U.S. alone, millions of American children are reportedly sexually assaulted by their parents or others close to the family each year. But we do not have millions of Serial Killers. Far from it. The discovery of even one of them creates a national sensation and local horror in the afflicted community. Yet, many of these incest-abuse victims (the numbers exaggerated or not) were left alone and not paid proper attention to, like Dohmer. They, too, were "lonely." Dohmer's psychiatric evaluation, it seems to me, is not only worthless but misleading, dangerous and incompetent. The ordinary person almost involuntarily believes the Serial Killer like Dohmer is sick and insane. But is this necessarily the case? Again, Dr. Samenow challenges this point of view:

When a criminal commits a shocking crime, as did Berkowitz and the Tylenol killer, a gut reaction on the part of the average citizen is to say that he must be crazy. But this reveals only something about public perceptions, nothing about the mind of the criminal.

Berkowitz, the reader may remember, was "Son of Sam." It is almost inconceivable that anyone could murder seven women and be thought anything other than insane. Berkowitz at first claimed the Devil was talking to him through his dog and issuing commands to kill. Later he said he had lied. "There were no real demons, no talking dogs, no satanic henchmen. I made it all up via my wild imagination so as to find some form of justification for my criminal acts against society." Berkowitz said it was simply an "urge to kill" that led him to his brutal murders. But it was not an urge to do a distasteful thing; rather it was an urge to indulge in a wildly exciting pleasure. But does such an appetite for the murder of another human being necessarily mean the person is "insane," or psychotic? That is to say, the criminal could not distinguish, nor had the capacity to distinguish, right from wrong. Is it at all possible that the criminal chooses to be a criminal, opts to commit evil deeds, of the most horrible nature, out of defiance and hatred of the world and all its standards for civilized behavior? Is there even one such person on this planet? And does the possibility exist that it was not his mother or his father or his friends or his social position that made him do it, not a brain tumor or a physiochemical imbalance, but rather himself, of his or her own free evil will?

Diagnosis or Description

It matters little what we call the "condition" of the Serial Killer. Whether it is called "Paranoid Schizophrenic Homicidal Mania," "bad seed," the "sins of the father visited upon the child," or simply "evil," each reader will decide on their own. One thing we do know for certain is that the actions of the Serial Killer is *criminal*, however right or wrong the "diagnosis" of motivation.

However Serial Killers are described or "explained," they have much in common between themselves. They are first and foremost liars; their whole lives are ensnared in a tangle of lies. This point is worth keeping foremost in mind, particularly since the psychiatrist's examination of the criminal's past is based on what he is told by the Serial Killer himself. We can be sure, without fear of contradiction, that Serial Killers are not reliable witnesses of what experiences and thought processes they had as a child if a certain version of it will get them off or a less severe punishment via the "insanity plea." But we can know them by what they do, if we cannot really know them by what they think.

Serial Killers indulge in the most gruesome of crimes often including necrophilia (copulation with corpses) and even cannibalism. They generally have a history of sadism in their background and delighted in torturing defenseless victims such as animals or people. They often come from family backgrounds where crime and incest are prominent. They seldom express remorse for their sick deeds and seem to pride themselves on their indifference to the sufferings of their victims. Moreover, they often possess an insatiable hunger for fame, for being recognized as special, superior to others, better than the next guy. They are ruled by a

personal code: "if you cross me you'll pay," and "If you get in my way I'll destroy you." These are typical statements made by Freud in his personal correspondences.

The Serial Killer believes he has a right to murder, believes he is not bound to the laws of morality which bind other mortals. He permits to himself the impermissible. He is at once, in his own imagination a Superman yet he knows himself to be a miserably powerless creature. The Serial Killer can be unbelievably bold and daring and yet, in the center of his being, his craven cowardice seeks victims based on their helplessness. Once caught, they blame their crimes on the influence of others or the "injustice" of their background. Before they are caught they take pride in their crimes. Their victims are often chosen ritualistically, by means of numerology, magic, by orders from "God" or the "Devil."

The victim may have a name, body type, or color of hair in common with a hated figure in their lives; he may be known or unknown to the Serial Killer. The Serial Killer has no problem justifying to himself his *right* to murder. In many cases the Serial Killer merely identifies his victims as The Enemy or a "disposable" person who can serve his purposes. All of them are candidates for Freud's own confession, that he noticed others who got in one way could be gotten rid of "if one desires it." Further, they would subscribe to Freud's observation that the problem is not the deed but covering up the deed.

Even when the Serial Killer is telling the truth, even when he is confessing, he is lying. He may confess to crimes he did not commit and, at the same time hide others from the authorities. He tells the truth about himself only in a context of lies, in order to subvert an understanding of the truth. If the whole truth were to flood the scene, the

Serial Killer would be seen for what he is, something less than human, a monster hiding in human form, regardless of the forces that may have contributed to his condition. The nature of the Serial Killer is characterized as a flight from truth and humanity -- the truth of who he really is and the anti-human instrument he has become. While still at large, he is forced into the Underground, he tries to keep up appearances least he be discovered.

It is supremely ironic that the most famous psychoanalyst of all, Dr. Sigmund Freud, the man who provided much of the language-concepts used to "diagnose" the Serial Killer, was himself one of them. It is likewise tragically ironic that the American legal system gives preferential treatment to those convicted of the most monstrous crimes, and appeal to Freud's theory of the murdering mind of mankind.

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In *The Murdering Mind* (1973), Dr. Abrahamsen, a prominent psychiatrist specializing in murderers, presented a detailed psychological profile of the murderer. A nationally recognized top expert on the psychology of the murderer, Dr. Abrahamsen has examined hundreds of murderers over a period of some thirty years. He has provided expert testimony to Senate Hearings on Crime and has participated in some of the most notable criminal trials in the country. An unabashed Freudian, Dr. Abrahamsen sees murder through the lens of Freud's own confessional theories. Though an expert psychoanalytic psychiatrist, specializing in murder, his eye was not keen enough to see that his own profile, "Predominant Characteristics of the Murderer" fits Freud's own life to a tee. The fact is he shows

no knowledge or awareness of Freud's own personal life—as is true of many a Freudian psychoanalyst.

Were we to take Abrahamsen's word for it, he did not come to his knowledge of the murderer by reading Freud, but primarily from his own professional experience. It is strange, then, that everything we know about Freud precisely fits Dr. Abrahamsen's profile. Yet, in Abrahamson's dedication he tells his indebtedness to Freud, "This book follows the fundamental views of Sigmund Freud, without whose indomitable research into the working of the human mind it could not have been written."

I would ask the reader to remember that these supposedly "indomitable" researches were primarily derived from Freud's analysis of *his own mind*, not the mind of mankind. Far from it. Freud makes the case that murder is a natural state of mind whereas, in fact, it is rare. This is especially true when we do not deviate from our focus of the Serial Killer. "Only rarely," Dr. Abrahamson observes, "is the human mind obsessed with the total impulse to murder." The Serial Killer would come closest of all to a mind totally obsessed with murder.

In keeping with Freud's theories (confessions of Freud's own background), Dr. Abrahamson believes that it is from childhood experiences that the Serial Killer emerges. "As a student of Freud, I strongly believe that the mind of the murderer is charged with a turbulence of emotions stored from early childhood. When these often repressed emotions are tantalized, made hot, stirred up or activated, the mind, particularly when aroused or frustrated, becomes violent. And so it is that a person who may appear quite normal and well-adjusted on the surface becomes possessed by a mind that murders."

Before turning to Dr. Abrahamson's profile of the murderer, another point needs to be made, sketchily here, and later detailed in another chapter. The following facts are critical in forming a perspective on the relationship of the profile of the murderer, Freud's theory, and Freud's personal life.

1. Freud first based his psychological theory on the premise that all persons suffering from severe "repressed" childhood experiences, which charged their emotions with murderous turbulence, had been sexually abused as children. He claimed to a "certain knowledge" about this matter based, in part, upon his own family situation and the fact that his father was a sex pervert who raped Freud's own siblings and, no doubt, himself as well.

2. Freud could not openly admit this "certain knowledge," so he changed his theory. Instead of explaining repression as the result of *actual* experiences he introduced the "Oedipus complex." The theory of repression, then, originated not in deeds done to a child, but conflicts inborn within the child himself. A biologically determined "death drive" acquired at birth supplanted the reality of incestuous assaults in *Freud's own family*.

3. Freud claimed that when he discovered the so-called Oedipus complex he had discovered that the deepest motivation in his own mind was a desire to murder his father and have sex with his mother. Of course, he could not hold himself up as an exception in this matter so he announced his idea was a universal truth. Hence, Freud tried to dissolve the terrible uniqueness of his own serial

killer nature into an anonymous generality that applied to all people.

4. The most convincing specific case history evidence Freud ever gave of a mind haunted by a passion to murder was his own. He admitted his own turbulent emotions often turned into a rage and a desire to inflict gruesome punishments on others, even strangers. He also confessed that this attraction for the gruesome and his murderous rages were more extreme than in most people. Specifically Freud claimed his own rage vented itself in a desire to murder many people, including a younger brother, a slightly older nephew, his father, a sister, various friends and associates and opponents of his work. In his analysis of himself he compared his own situation to that of a homicidal maniac and said he had "wanted to confess to something analogous." Freud's own personal doctor, Dr. Max Schur, in his biography of Freud admitted that Freud had an omnivorous appetite to murder people, including his family members. Dr. Max Schur was a former President of the American Psychoanalytical Society and the truth of what I am saying can be easily found in his book, *Freud Living and Dying* and in my own work outing Freud as a Serial Killer.

TO BE CONTINUED...