

LOG IN

REGISTER

SUGGEST A STORY

RSS

Search

PSYCHE | ECO | LIFE | TECH | COMMONS | ARTS | MULTIMEDIA | DOWNLOADS | ABOUT



## Most Commented

1. **Getting Past the Worldview of Scientific Materialism: Could Crop Circles Be the Key?** (16)

2. **New Age Fundamentalism** (9)

3. **Meditation: The Controlled Psychophysical Self-Regulation Process That Works** (7)

4. **DMT, Creativity and a Philosophy of Psychedelics** (6)

5. **Ending Empire: An Initiation Speech for the Class of 2012** (4)

6. **Diamond Solitaire: Washing Beets with God** (3)

7. **A Fish Out of Water: Occupy and the New Media Environment** (3)

8. **Converting Urban and Suburban Lands for Growing Food** (3)

9. **The Cosmic Hour: The End of the 5th Sun and the Beginning of Everything** (3)

10. **Awakening to the**

## Psyche

## Foxes and Reptiles: Psychopathy and the Financial Meltdown

Jonathan Zap



The present financial meltdown may only be the latest example of the incalculable harm done to civilization, and countless individual lives, by psychopaths, a subspecies of Homo sapiens. The purpose of this essay is twofold. First, I will provide a brief tour of the psychopath subspecies so that you understand who they are and how they operate. You probably already know psychopaths, and it is overwhelmingly likely that at some point in your life a psychopath that you encounter personally will try to harm you. Second, I will draw the correlative between psychopathy and the present financial meltdown and provide a suggestion of a relatively simple change that could decrease the likelihood of the sort of abuses that could lead to future meltdowns.

### Part One: What is a Psychopath?

#### History

Kunlangeta is a word Yupik Eskimos apply to "a man who . . . repeatedly lies and cheats and steals things and . . . takes sexual advantage of many women -- someone who does not pay attention to reprimands and who is always being brought to the elders for punishment." In a Harvard University study conducted by anthropologist Jane M. Murphy in 1976, an Eskimo man was asked how his people might deal with a Kunlangeta, to which he replied, "Somebody would have pushed him off the ice when nobody else was looking."

In the West, the formal recognition of psychopaths goes back at least as far as Theophrastus, a student of Aristotle, whose study of the Unscrupulous Man defines the basic characteristics of psychopathy.

## FEATURE

## Sponsored By



## Featured

1. **A Child of God in Misery: On the Origins of Spiritual Retardation**

2. **The Secret Sacred Use of the Belly Button**

3. **Evolving Towards a Partner State in an Ethical Economy**

4. **Diamond Solitaire: Washing Beets with God**

5. **The Unsung Intelligence of Life's Web**

6. **When You Have the Right Vibe, It's Not a Coincidence: Synchronicities, Energy Healing, and Other Strangeness in the Field**

7. **Empowered Public Wisdom Rising from the Grassroots**

## Synchronic Order (2)

### Popular Tags

2012

Alternative

Archetypes

ayahuasca

Community

consciousness

Eco-consciousness

Economics

Entheogens

Evolution

Healing

Indigenous

Love

Movies

Events

Psychedelics

Psychology

Shamanism

Sustainability

Transformational Culture

Activism

Economics

Astrology

Buddhism

Dreams

Ecology

Events

Film

Health

Internet

Money

Mysticism

NYC

Philosophy

Science

Sex

spirituality

technology

Yoga

more

Much later this condition came to be referred to as manie sans délire ("insanity without delirium"), a term that by the 1830s evolved into moral insanity, the key symptom of which is a "defective conscience."

By 1900 the label was changed to psychopathic personality, but it wasn't until 1941 that psychiatrist Dr. Hervey M. Cleckley of the Medical College of Georgia systematically defined the condition.

### A General Description

Very roughly (we'll expand on these characteristics momentarily) a psychopath is a person without conscience, empathy or even an ability to experience the range of human emotions. Their ability to feel is confined to a narrow range of primitive proto-emotions such as anger, frustration and rage. Psychopaths will tend to be pathological liars and expert manipulators victimizing family, friends and strangers. Often they are charming, charismatic, popular and admired, if not loved, by members of both genders. They are not mentally ill, not delusional, and may often be more coldly rational and intelligent than non-psychopaths. They are likely to be promiscuous and to abandon partners without remorse. They are prone to entitlement, grandiosity and find nothing wrong with themselves. They typically blame others for the consequences of their actions and engage in moral reasoning that is glib and superficial if not absurd. They usually have little fear of consequences and enjoy risk as they need novelty, stimulation and living on the edge to compensate for their emotional vacuity.

### Psychopathy Demographics

Across all eras and societies, approximately one in a hundred men is born a clinical psychopath, and one in three hundred women. About twenty percent of an average prison population, male or female, is comprised of psychopaths, but amongst the violent offenders it is about fifty percent. Psychopaths commit more than fifty percent of the serious crimes. For example, about half of serial rapists are psychopaths. About 25% of wife assaulters are psychopaths. Both male and female psychopaths commit a greater number of crimes, and their crimes tend to be more violent, abusive and predatory than those of other criminals. They also tend to recidivate earlier and much more often than other criminals. While psychopaths make up about one percent of the population, ten percent of the general population falls into a grey zone with enough psychopathic tendencies to be of significant concern to society.

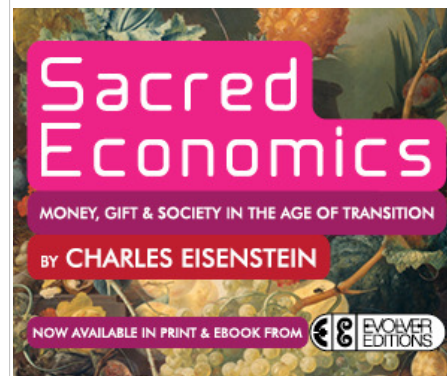
### Lack of Empathy and Emotional Depth

Most of us take emotional experience for granted and tend to assume that others have a similar range of emotion as we do. Most of the time this premise is correct, and this allows us to often accurately replicate the emotional state of another within our own perception. But among those to whom we apply this principal are psychopaths who often have a chameleon-like ability to replicate and counterfeit emotions in ways that allow them to manipulate our perceptions of them. We are very likely to accept as genuine their counterfeit displays of emotion, and thereby falsely attribute emotional depths to psychopaths who in actuality are entirely lacking the feelings we think we perceive. In reality they may be completely indifferent to the acute suffering of someone right in front of them, and can remain cold and unmoved by all sorts of things that what would emotionally affect most people. On the other hand, insignificant matters that most would react to with

8. **Physicalism: A False View of the World**

9. **Converting Urban and Suburban Lands for Growing Food**

10. **Viva Venosa!**



### Contributors

Daniel Pinchbeck  
Jonathan Talat Phillips  
Ken Jordan  
Michael Robinson  
Jennifer Palmer  
Starhawk  
Erik Davis  
Jonathan Zap  
Jay Michaelson  
Kelly Fragale  
Faye Sakellaridis  
Chris Kaplan  
Neşe Lisa Şenol  
Remi Gurak  
VerDarLuz  
Charles Eisenstein  
Propaganda Anonymous  
stefaniesara  
Tony Vigorito  
Chris Kilham  
Adam Elenbaas  
Mark Heley  
silentinfinite

### Contributors Index



minor annoyance can greatly enrage them.

Dr. Cleckley believed that psychopaths have a profound underlying disorder in which emotional and linguistic components of thought are not properly integrated. He called this condition semantic aphasia and concluded that it greatly reduced the capacity for developing internal control, conscience and the capacity for making emotional connections with others.

Functional MRI scans of the brains of psychopaths show that their patterns of brain response to words and images of strong emotional content have a fundamental difference with non-psychopaths. Ordinarily, limbic regions of the brain process emotional content, but for psychopaths, activations occur in regions of the brain associated with comprehension and production of language suggesting that things which evoke emotion in normal people are experienced by psychopaths as linguistic categories. A psychopath might scan the inanimate, animate and emotionally charged with the same neutral, indiffering coldness -- a rusting transmission over here, a person writhing in agony over there, an overturned trash can just up ahead, etc. They may be well aware, however, of how others might react, and can smoothly feign an emotional response if so doing serves their agenda.

For example, a psychopath who killed an elderly man during the course of a burglary, casually gave the following account of his evening:

I was rummaging around when this old geezer comes down the stairs and . . . uh . . . he starts yelling and having a fucking fit . . . so I pop him one in the, uh, head and he still doesn't shut up. I give him a chop to the throat and he . . . like . . . staggers back and falls on the floor. He's gurgling and making sounds like a stuck pig (laughs) and he's really getting on my fucking nerves so I . . . uh . . . boot him a few times in the head. That shut him up . . . I'm pretty tired by now, so I grab a few beers from the fridge and turn on the TV and fall asleep. The cops woke me up (laughs).

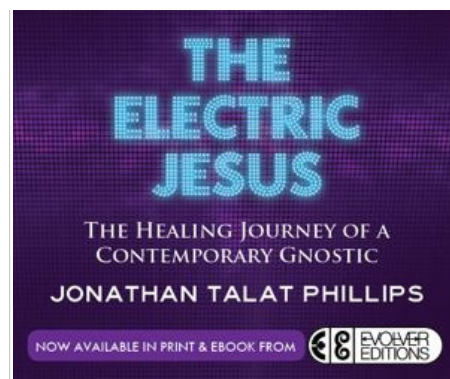
A researcher tried to find out if a psychopathic convict recognized the feeling of fear. When asked, the psychopath responded, "When I rob a bank I notice that the teller shakes or becomes tongue-tied. One barfed all over the money." The psychopath found these responses puzzling.

The researcher pressed the psychopath to describe his own fear and sked how he would feel if the gun were pointed at him. The convict responded that he might hand over the money, get the hell out or find a way to turn the tables. "Those were responses," the researcher said. "How would you feel?"

"Feel? Why would I feel?"

Psychopaths can, however, feel primitive protoemotions like anger, frustration and rage. Occasionally, even full-blown psychopaths like Eric Harris (of Columbine infamy) will display what seem like flickers of empathy. Eric appeared to feel bad for his dog when it was sick and, along with Dylan, apologized on his basement videotapes to his parents for the trouble he anticipated they would experience after the massacre. Since psychopaths are so often masters of feigning emotional responses, however, it can be hard to discern what might be an actual moment of empathy from another simulation.

A probable psychopath that I knew in the early Eighties seemed to have a subordinate part of his personality that had elements of conscience and empathy. For example, he once warned me that he was evil and that I should have nothing to do with him. Foolishly I responded sympathetically, and rather than heeding the warning I told



him I thought he was being too hard on himself. For a moment he seemed to take me behind the scenes of his inner psychopathic machinery. He said that he was just kidding when he told me that he was evil, but then told me that when he said he was kidding that it was just an example of his deceptiveness so that he could disown his own statement. Then he said no, he really was just kidding, and put on again his usual charming, smiling demeanor. Although this might seem like merely a mind game and a psychopath toying with someone, it was also a type of confession. He was intentionally going in and out of psychopathic mode to show me what he was.

That same evening, he related a specific incident in his past when he felt that his soul died. This did not seem a mind game at all; a palpable sense of suffering and bitterness was in the air as he confessed this. He also confessed many traumatic details of his life that I was later able to verify. Although it is a classic psychopathic technique to reveal some truths as part of playing someone, I don't think that was the complete explanation in this case. There also seemed to be motivations of actual confession and reaching out for help.

Months later I discovered a series of deceptions and thefts he had committed against me. In what appeared to be an act of calculated carelessness, he kept evidence of all his petty crimes against me in a place where I could easily find it, as though a part of him desired to be caught.

### **A Psychopathic Paradox**

In my research on psychopaths I noticed an obvious paradox: psychopaths, everyone agrees, are notoriously unempathetic, but they are also, everyone agrees, superb manipulators able to accurately read other people and gauge their weak points with fine precision. None of the research I encountered seemed to comment on or explain this paradox, so I'm going to offer my own speculation. Non-psychopaths are often inaccurate in their reading of others because of their own complex emotional lives. When emotions are swirling around inside of you it is all too easy to project feelings and expectations onto others. We also tend to assume that others must have a similar range of emotions as we have. Most dogs, for example, display a range of emotions that seem very recognizable to us, so it is natural to assume that our fellow humans must have these as well. The emotional vacuity of the psychopath combined with their cold rationality may allow their psyche to register an image of our personalities as if on a clean photographic plate. They may be able to recognize our needs and vulnerabilities much more clearly since there is little emotional confusion within them to obscure that. With a focused, predator consciousness as their inner baseline, they can see all of our characteristics that deviate from that baseline in distinct relief. Even if we are complex, it may not take complex insight to manipulate us because even complex people have very stereotyped vulnerabilities and therefore can be manipulated by flattery, sexual attention, greed, intimidation and fear.

### **The Charm, Magnetism and Charisma of the Psychopath**

"He is such a caring man. So intelligent. He can always find the right words to reach your heart. You must love him." -- Woman who befriended a rapist/murderer on death row.

Everyone who has observed psychopaths has noted their intense charm and magnetism, which will often cause them to be the most popular individuals in almost any social circle. Many of the most popular

movie heroes, Clint Eastwood's Dirty Harry character comes to mind, are psychopaths. In Cleckley's classic study of psychopaths, "likeable," "charming," "intelligent," "alert," "impressive," "confidence-inspiring," and "a great success with the ladies" are some of the most common descriptions of psychopaths. Most people labor under insecurities and psychopaths are often objects of intense admiration since they possess desirable traits such as overwhelming self-confidence, decisiveness and attractiveness to the opposite sex. Even well trained mental health professionals with substantial knowledge of psychopathy are deceived and seduced into sexual relationships with known psychopaths. For example, a prison psychologist had an affair with a psychopath and planned to marry him after his release. When a psychiatrist showed the prison psychologist a copy of *Without Conscience*, by Robert Hare, the world's leading expert on psychopathy, it had no effect on her love and marriage plans with the psychopath.

Hare writes about,

. . . A con artist who became Man of the Year, president of the Chamber of Commerce and member of the Republican Executive Committee in the town where he resided for ten years. When found out, this man was unconcerned, and stated that he knew if he was ever discovered 'these trusting people would stand behind me. A good liar is a good judge of people.' He was right in many senses. The local community rushed to his support. 'I assess (his) genuineness, integrity, and devotion to duty to rank right alongside of President Abraham Lincoln,' wrote the Republican party chairman.

I have a theory of the often-astonishing appeal of psychopaths, cult leaders, super salesmen and demagogues of various sorts that uses magnetism as an analogue. Most people are highly fragmented and oppressed by what psychologists call psychic entropy -- the anxious tape loops and other distracted thoughts and fantasies that crowd their attentional space. When a person of single-minded focus and confidence appears it is analogous to placing a powerful magnet below a sheet of paper on which there is a scattering of iron filings. The magnet immediately organizes the scattered filings into a coherent pattern that reflects its magnetic field. The scattered personality feels an immense relief to be structured in this way from the outside and craves further contact and submission to the magnetic personality that can produce this effect, relieving them of their default state of psychic entropy.

### **Psychopaths and Pawns**

"My belief is that if I say something it goes. I am the law. If you don't like it, you die." --Eric Harris

Psychopaths are predators and their predation is oriented toward members of their own species whom they view as pawns, suckers, targets and victims. They are unable to empathize with anyone and are therefore completely unfazed, if not contemptuous, by the suffering of their victims. Although they may appear charming and solicitous, covertly they are domineering, hostile and exploitative. According to Hare,

Their statements often reveal their belief that the world is made up of 'givers and takers,' predators and prey, and that it would be very foolish not to exploit the weakness of others. In addition, they can be very astute at determining what those weaknesses are and using them for their own benefit. 'I like to con people. I'm conning you now,' said . . . a forty-five- year-old man serving his first prison sentence for stock fraud.

Psychopaths recognize no rights of others while feeling infinite entitlement for themselves. They will, therefore, violate any boundaries to get what they want. Often they will take pleasure in dominating, exploiting and humiliating their victims.

### **Grandiosity**

"I hate the fucking world. I feel like God. I am higher than almost anyone in the fucking world in terms of universal intelligence." --Eric Harris (From his journal, which was entitled "The Book of God." Eric also wrote a composition for school entitled "Zeus and I" in which he compared himself to Zeus.)

Although other personality types also display grandiosity, psychopaths seem to be particularly high on themselves. Hare described a psychopath named Earl whose long list of accomplishments included stabbing a teacher with a fork in kindergarten, becoming a pimp at age 10 by procuring young girls including his 12-year-old sister, multiple counts of assault, rape, theft, fraud, attempted murder, sexually abusing his daughter, and raping his daughter's girlfriend. Earl described his self-esteem this way: "I'm always being told by others how great I am and how there's nothing I can't do -- sometimes I think they're just shitting me, but a man's got to believe in himself, right? When I check myself out, I like what I see."

### **Pathological Lying**

"I lie a lot -- almost constant, and to everybody, just to keep my own ass out of the water. Let's see what are some big lies I have told . . . No, I haven't been making more bombs." --Eric Harris

Psychopaths lie with such ease and coolness that they can become addicted to it and will often lie when it serves no practical purpose. They have no anxiety about lying and are often extremely convincing and are even able to pass polygraph tests. Polygraph tests register physiological stress responses to the anxiety of lying, but since psychopaths have no anxiety about lying, the lies register no different than their baseline. Psychopaths also lie to themselves and may get deceived by complex beliefs about their own talents, powers and abilities. As Hare put it,

Lying comes so naturally to psychopaths that one of them compared it to breathing. Often they take considerable pride in their facility with lies. One female psychopath, when asked if she lied easily, laughed and replied, 'I'm the best. I'm really good at it, I think because I sometimes admit to something bad about myself. They'd think, well, if she's admitting to that she must be telling the truth about the rest.' She also said that she sometimes 'salts the mine:' with a nugget of truth. 'If they think some of what you say is true, they usually think it's all true.'

### **Lack of Remorse, Shame, Guilt and Empathy**

A psychopath can commit the most heinous deed without experiencing a trace of remorse, guilt or empathy for victims. A lack of empathy, however, does not mean he will do harm. Many psychopaths are nonviolent and may instead be found amongst white-collar criminals. But when a psychopath also happens to be a sexual sadist, the lack of empathy can produce a catastrophic result -- a remorseless, efficient rapist and/or killer. Ted Bundy, who may have murdered as many as a hundred women, was once asked about guilt: "Guilt? It's this

mechanism we use to control people. It's an illusion. It's a kind of social control mechanism -- and it's very unhealthy. It does terrible things to our bodies. And there are much better ways to control our behavior than that rather extraordinary use of guilt." An expert on serial killers I once heard interviewed recalled an instance where he asked a serial killer what he thought about what he systematically stalked a young woman and prepared to abduct, torture, molest and kill her. He replied, "Takin' care of business." The shame, guilt and anxiety that might inhibit or trip up the average criminal may be entirely absent in psychopaths, allowing them to be cool, collected and efficient. Where we might hope to find inner conflict about an act of violence we may instead find only pleasure and considerable pride. On the block I grew up on in the Bronx a guy in his twenties would sometimes show up who carried a laminated clipping in his wallet that he showed off every chance he got. The clipping described how he had fatally stabbed someone for bumping into him at a dance.

### **Glib and/or Warped Moral Reasoning**

If a psychopath attempts to justify a crime, the moral reasoning is likely to be an act, but if sincere it will be glib and superficial or absurdly rationalized. A rapist psychopath justified himself this way: "What's a guy gonna do? She had a nice ass. I helped myself." Joyti De-Laurey, a female psychopath who stole more than 7 million dollars from her employers to lead a lavish lifestyle, felt sure that God was on her side. She kept notebooks she called "Bibles of Daily Thoughts," which contained her letters to God. In one of them she wrote: "Dear God. Please help me. I need one more helping of what's mine and then I must cut down and cease in time all the plundering. Please ensure my job is safe and my integrity is unquestioned."

While some might comfort themselves that religiosity should be an immunization of some sort against psychopathy, the opposite seems to be the case. Religion can easily be used by a psychopath like Jim Jones as a justification for an agenda of power, greed, sexual conquest and sadistic manipulation. Since religious communities tend to assume bonds of affinity amongst members, they are the perfect hunting grounds for psychopaths.

### **A Need for Risk, Excitement and Novel Stimulation**

Because of their emotional vacuity, psychopaths may have an extreme and overriding need for risk and life on the edge. They are often high-risk thrill-seekers, as this may be the only way they can feel anything. For example, a female psychopath said, "But what I find most exciting is walking through airports with drugs. Christ! What a high!" This need for continual stimulation, as we shall see later, is a key point of connection between psychopathy and the financial meltdown.

### **The Power of Now**

A related quality is that psychopaths tend to live for the moment and usually don't dwell on the past or future. They tend to be clever situationalists interested in getting as much stimulation out of the day that they can. They are usually less interested in long-range planning and tend to disregard consequences for themselves and others. A psychopath in high finance, for example, will be much more interested in making a windfall profit this quarter rather than doing what is in the long-term interest of his company or clients.

### **Disregard of Consequences**

Since psychopaths tend to live for the now, and are often unable to feel fear, they tend to have little concern about consequences for themselves and others. They are usually very poor at mentally picturing the consequences of their actions. Particularly fuzzy is any image they might have of consequences for their victims. The excitement of immediate rewards seems much more real than the vagueness of future consequences.

### **Don't Know Thy Self**

Psychopaths usually don't find any fault with themselves. They apparently don't notice the inconsistency between their enormous sense of entitlement and their stunning disregard for the rights of others. If they acknowledge anything wrong they can always blame it on someone else or on society. For example, a young psychopath said, "I wouldn't be here if my parents had come across when I needed them. What kind of parents would let their son rot in a place like this?" Asked about his children, he replied, "I've never seen them. I think they were given up for adoption. How the hell should I know?" A refusal to accept blame can also characterize a psychopathic culture, and I certainly can't recall hearing a single *mea culpa* during this financial meltdown.

### **Psychopath as Predator, Parasite and Chameleon**

Psychopaths typically lead a parasitic lifestyle. They are experts at finding people and institutions that can be drained of resources. The host could be a vulnerable person with a bank account or a Wall Street investment firm. Many researchers describe psychopaths as chameleons because of their great proficiency at blending in and disguising their true agendas and nature. As the author of *Columbine*, David Cullen, put it, most people think Hannibal Lechter when they think of psychopaths, but it would be more accurate if they thought of Hugh Grant. Robert Hare related a recent incident where he was taken in by a psychopath and he said that his "antenna" weren't aroused at all. One researcher described the psychopath as a "near perfect invisible human predator." Another described him as a chameleon that becomes "an image of what you haven't done for yourself."

Ann Rule's book, *The Stranger Beside Me*, describes how she worked across a desk from Ted Bundy at a suicide hotline and became his close friend. She had great trouble accepting that her friend and fellow counselor was one of the most notorious serial killers in history.

Psychopaths are known to be masters of tapping into the vulnerabilities of others, at first by appearing to be what victims are hoping to find, and later taking ruthless advantage of their fears and insecurities.

People frequently report that in the presence of a psychopath their hearts are racing and they are sitting at the edge of their chair. The air around them may seem to crackle with electricity, which some find thrilling and magnetic. According to a survey conducted by psychologists Reid and M. J. Meloy, one in three mental-health and criminal justice professionals report such feelings when interviewing psychopaths. In their paper based on the survey, Reid and Meloy speculate that this may be an ancient intraspecies predator-response system.



I've had some experiences that would provide a little anecdotal support to their speculation about an ancient intraspecies predator-response system. One time on a daytime train ride to Brooklyn I had the distinct feeling of close proximity to a murderer/predator. The feeling was quite unpleasant and seemed primordial and almost cellular, a feeling that seemed primitive enough not to be specifically human, but rather to be a feeling that a great many other organisms experienced. What I experienced was the very unpleasant sensation of my body as meat, as a possible food source for a predator. As I looked around the subway car, however, I couldn't locate the source.

Another time, around 1987, I had a very similar feeling, also on in the NYC subway system, but this time while waiting on the platform of the 14th Street Union Square station. I looked all around me, but the only people I could see seemed fairly harmless. A couple of seconds after my brief visual survey I saw two adolescent males, both of them relatively small and skinny, coming down the staircase. One of them was wearing an Eight Ball leather jacket. Eight Ball leather jackets, cleverly sewn together out of colored segments that depict a pool table and a large eight ball, were one of the hottest retail items in the inner city, the Air Jordans of that particular season. Having only just left a six-year stint as teacher and dean of a public high school in the South Bronx, where I was also the building security coordinator, I understood the significance of such a jacket. Five minutes after leaving my class, a student of mine, who had an imposing physical size and presence, was shot with a shotgun when he resisted giving up a different, though similarly popular, type of leather jacket. Anyone wearing an Eight Ball jacket likely took it from someone else and/or had the means to defend this high status item -- probably with a device that could easily make a series of nine-millimeter holes in a would-be jacket thief of any size.

Besides the implications of the one boy's jacket, these two adolescent males lit up as the source of my predator-alert feelings. Since Union Square was a well-populated station I didn't feel that I was in imminent danger, despite the sensation of my predator-response system, and decided to stand near these two adolescents when they reached the platform. The more dominant-seeming of the two appeared to be surveying people on the platform, many of them well-dressed professional types, and said to his partner, "So much meat on the hook and we can't do shit." I understood his statement to mean that he saw that there were many prime mugging victims around, but that the crowded station prevented them from acting.

If my feelings and suppositions were correct, this would be the second time that I had encountered a dyad -- a two person killing team. Some famous dyads include Bonnie and Clyde, Leopold and Loeb, and, far more recently, Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold. In both of the dyads I encountered, it was instantly obvious that one of the pair was dominant and acted toward the other like a puppet master. According to *Columbine*, dyads are much more likely to be complimentary rather than similar.

#### **Are Psychopaths a Subspecies?**

"How dare you think that I and you are part of the same species when we are so different. You are human? You are a robot. And if you pissed me off in the past you will die . . ."

--Eric Harris

Although psychopathy, like every other psychological attribute, has an environmental component, its source may be biological. According to at least one major study of identical twins, psychopathy does seem to have a strong genetic component. It is often impossible to account for

a psychopath based on his environment and upbringing. Psychopaths often occur in caring families amongst empathetic siblings. Eric Harris quoted Shakespeare in an entry he left in his day planner for Mother's Day : "Good wombs have borne bad sons."

Alan Harrington, in his book *Psychopaths*, states that the psychopath is "the man of the future." Other researchers, among them Dr. Marnie Rice, an Ontario-based psychologist, echo this sentiment by claiming that the condition isn't a "disorder" at all, but is more accurately considered an adaptive, evolutionary trait. From the point of view of this theory, in societies where most people are law-abiding and inhibited by conscience, a finely tuned, camouflaged predator can find a great, adaptive niche. Part of their successful evolutionary adaptation hinges on the fact that psychopaths become sexually active earlier and remain more promiscuous than their non-psychopath counterparts. Besides the frequency of their sexual transactions, their uninhibited use of coercion and exploitation, as well as their tendency to freely abandon partners and quickly take up with new ones, means that they are considerably better than average at passing on their genes. Psychopaths also seem to selectively target reproductively fertile women and are less likely to sexually target the same gender or the prepubescent.

### **Part Two: Psychopaths and the Financial Meltdown**

Two businessmen are walking together, each carrying a briefcase. 'We're only morally bankrupt,' says one. 'Thank God,' says the other.

#### **Are Psychopaths Uniquely Adapted to Succeed in High Finance?**

Although Harrington called the psychopath the "man of the future," when it comes to the world of high finance the psychopath may be the man of the present and recent past. R. J. Smith, in his book, *The Psychopath in Society*, views psychopathy as an orientation encouraged and rewarded by the materialistic, competitive, marketplace values of our capitalistic society. Our tour of psychopathy emphasized those who committed violent crimes, the easily defined psychopaths who, by their open acts of transgression, are available for study. However, the cleverer, more successful psychopaths are likely to elude detection and may even achieve great success in society. It is the failed psychopaths, those who are not able to blend in and restrain their impulses, whom we hear about in newspaper headlines. Most psychopaths are not violent criminals; they may be more likely to pursue white-collar crime, where the payoff is so much higher and the odds of detection so much lower.

Psychopaths are perfectly designed for success in many fields, especially business, law and politics. They have higher IQs on average than the general population; they are charming, charismatic and manipulative; they can be decisive and take risks without anxiety, and they are ruthless, cunning and coldly rational. Psychopaths often personify many of the traits that the human resource departments of many corporations look for in job candidates: confidence, charisma, decisiveness, emotional detachment, coolness under fire and relentless drive. Take for example Bernie Madoff, who was described by a reporter who grilled him for two hours as "cool as a cucumber." He was relentless in his drive for success and was not inhibited by conscience when he took money from friends, schools or charities. His all-confident charisma and capacity for deception took in many very astute people. Madoff was a master at making it seem like he didn't particularly want your business so that prospective customers had to court him, and when he acquiesced they felt privileged to be part of an exclusive club.

### **A Parasitic Agenda**

Psychopaths are natural parasites, and parasites always look for rich deposits of energy such as blood, sexual chi, and money. Wall Street and other spheres of high finance are like super-charged magnets for psychopaths. As Hare put it, "If I were unable to study psychopaths in prison, my next choice would very likely be a place like the Vancouver Stock Exchange." Vast deposits of energy in the form of money are available for the clever and ruthless manipulator with a head for numbers. In the process of manipulating money the ambitious psychopath may also achieve prestige, if not celebrity. Since they are emotionally vacuous, money fills up a psychopath; he can use money to fulfill all his needs and won't be tormented by guilt or a sense of emptiness.

### **World as Cookie Jar**

Opportunities to steal money are irresistible for psychopaths. As one psychopath convicted of selling forged corporate bonds put it, "I wouldn't be in prison if there weren't so many cookie jars just begging me to put my hand in." For psychopaths, known for their grandiosity and ability to "think big," the entire global economy is a planet-sized cookie jar begging to be plundered.

### **Psychopathy, the Nightmare from which We are Trying to Awaken**

The affinity of psychopaths for high finance is certainly not my discovery. My original working title for this essay was: "Reptiles in Brooks Brothers Suits." I abandoned that title when I discovered that Robert Hare, the world's leading expert on psychopathy, had co-authored an excellent book entitled *Snakes in Suits -- When Psychopaths go to Work*. I almost abandoned the whole project, wondering if I had anything new to say. After some consideration I realized that although the main hypothesis was already well established by others, I had a few new points to add and, in any case, the subject is so important, and with such vast implications for society, that I felt obliged to continue. The damage that psychopaths do to the global economy, and human civilization in general, is incalculable. As the James Joyce character Stephen Dedalus said, "History is a nightmare from which I am trying to awaken." Psychopathy may be one of the prime drivers of the nightmarish aspect of history.

### **Situational Psychopathy, a Confusion of Terms**

To understand the depth of connection between psychopathy and the financial meltdown we need to acknowledge that not everyone who acts like a psychopath is a psychopath. As we pointed out earlier, about ten percent of the population is in a grey zone where they are not full blown psychopaths but have enough psychopathic aspects to be of concern to society. A psychopathic culture can cause people who might otherwise be restrained or even moral to act like psychopaths. The stress and culture of combat, for example, can cause some soldiers to act like psychopaths, needlessly killing civilians even when not specifically ordered to do so. As veterans, these soldiers may be tormented by profound feelings of guilt and remorse. Many male subcultures have a psychopathic attitude toward women such that it is considered virtuous and manly to ruthlessly exploit women without remorse. Street and motorcycle gangs, organized crime families and

syndicates, all tend to have psychopathic cultures. The person who is most ruthless, cool under fire, and skilled in lying and manipulation will likely be deferred to or made the leader of a gang or other criminal enterprise.

Non-psychopaths who act like psychopaths are frequently called sociopaths. Sociopath is a term that many researchers dislike since it is often incorrectly used as a synonym for psychopath. A sociopath is someone who acts in an anti-social way, who commits transgressions without taking moral responsibility. Most psychopaths are sociopaths, but many sociopaths are not psychopaths. If that's not confusing enough, the DSM created a third unilluminating term, antisocial personality disorder or ASPD, which they define as "... a pervasive pattern of disregard for, and violation of, the rights of others that begins in childhood or early adolescence and continues into adulthood." Some say that ASPD is just psychobabble for "criminal."

My former writing mentor, E.L. Doctorow, once called such psychiatric terms "the industrialized form of storytelling." We do, however, have a rigorous way of defining and diagnosing psychopaths -- Hare's psychopathy checklist -- so it is the other two terms that seem to muddy the waters and create endless confusion. I propose, and will hereafter use, the terms "situational psychopathy" and "situational psychopath" because I believe these clarify the key difference. Some people, who are not psychopaths, will act like psychopaths in some situations and there are some situations that seem to bring out psychopathic behaviors in non-psychopaths. The stress of combat, as we discussed above, is the classic situation of situational psychopathy. Bond trading and the floor of the stock exchange are often described as combat situations, with people screaming and shouting orders amidst frantic activity and general chaos. Many areas of high finance seem to be psychopathic cultures (a culture that generates situational psychopathy) where psychopaths and situational psychopaths act similarly. Robert Hare was a consultant to the excellent documentary, *The Corporation*, which documents the psychopathic culture that reigns in many, but not all, corporations. As illustrative examples of how this psychopathic culture is generated we will next take a look at the movie, *Wall Street*, and the documentary, *Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room*.

### **Psychopathy on Wall Street**

No other artifact of popular culture captures the mythology of Wall Street so well as Oliver Stone's classic 1987 movie, *Wall Street*. Oliver Stone's father was a Wall Street trader and the film was meticulously researched and informed by insider information. Twenty-two years later it seems not just mythological, but also remarkably prophetic. The personification of Wall Street in the movie is a corporate raider, Gordon Gecko, a man who we are told, "...had an ethical bypass at birth," a description that sounds almost like a definition of psychopathy. The character is named after a reptile and Gecko lives in a super-charged atmosphere of reptilian proto emotions. He is continually saying things like, "we're in the kill zone, lock and load," and, "I want every orifice in his fucking body flowing red."

The main thing Gecko wants in prospective employees is killer instinct and emotional vacuity: "Give me guys who are poor, smart and hungry, and no feelings." He has complete remorseless contempt for his competitors and the thousands of victims of his hostile takeovers: "We beat them because they're sheep, and sheep get slaughtered."

Gecko seems motivated by risk and the atmosphere of combat. He tells his young protégé, Bud Fox, that it's "trench warfare out there pal. It's

better than sex."

Gecko is named after a reptile, but his protégé, Bud Fox, is named after a mammal. While Gecko seems pure psychopath, Fox is obviously not a psychopath; he is a man of conscience who eventually acts nobly. The Bud Fox character personifies the situational psychopath, a person who becomes seduced by a psychopathic culture into acting in ways that violate his essential human values.

### **Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room**

*Enron: the Smartest Guys in the Room* is a brilliant 2005 documentary about the Enron scandal. [Imdb.com](http://www.imdb.com) offers the following summary:

Enron dives from the seventh largest US company to bankruptcy in less than a year in this tale told chronologically. The emphasis is on human drama, from suicide to 20,000 people sacked: the personalities of Ken Lay (with Falwellesque rectitude), Jeff Skilling (he of big ideas), Lou Pai (gone with \$250 M), and Andy Fastow (the dark prince) dominate. Along the way, we watch Enron game California's deregulated electricity market, get a free pass from Arthur Andersen (which okays the dubious mark-to-market accounting), use greed to manipulate banks and brokerages (Merrill Lynch fires the analyst who questions Enron's rise), and hear from both Presidents Bush what great guys these are.

The film also provides fascinating glimpses into a psychopathic culture dominating a major corporation. It would be presumptuous for me to diagnosis any subject of the documentary as a psychopath. A diagnosis of psychopathy should be made by a professional who has significant access to the person in question and has been rigorously trained in the use of Hare's psychopathy checklist, the widely accepted tool for screening possible psychopaths. Most of the people involved in the Enron scandal were probably not psychopaths. As the director of the documentary put it,

These were not extraordinary people, extraordinarily bad people, they were everyday people and many of them off the job were extraordinarily decent people, but on the job they were killers and how did that happen? Well, in some ways, I think, the only conclusion you can come to is that the culture of Enron infected them in a way that they lost any sense of moral perspective.

It is easy to recognize many instances of at least situational psychopathy in the Enron culture. Many have pointed out how high testosterone and predatory competition dominated the culture of Enron. As one very candid former Enron employee put it, "Talking about my compensation -- If I step on somebody's throat and that doubles it, well I'll stomp on the guy's throat. That's how people were." Jeffrey Skilling said that he liked to hire "guys with spikes." In the most famous instance of situational psychopathy, a sound bite widely replayed on TV news, two Enron energy traders who knew they were being recorded, have a bit of informal conversation. The dialogue takes place when Enron was artificially creating rolling blackouts in California so as to manipulate the energy market through systematic extortion.

Here's a sample:

"Yeah, Grandma Millie, man, she's the one who couldn't figure out how to fuckin' vote on the butterfly ballot. Now she wants her fucking money back on the power you charged right up her ass."

Enron president Jeffrey Skilling, perhaps the most visible of the Enron

players, displayed a number of psychopathic values and tendencies. A reporter who interviewed Skilling just before he resigned from Enron, left absolutely convinced of the improbable story that he was leaving Enron because of family reasons. As the reporter put it in his interview for Enron,

Skilling convinced me that it was for personal reasons. I left his meeting feeling sort of emotional because of the concern that he seemed to be showing about the relationship he had with his family. He appeared to be distraught and I remember saying to an investor, 'If he's not telling the truth, then it's a good thing he quit his day job because he needs to go to Hollywood.' Skilling always seemed convinced of his own innocence despite all the dramatic evidence to the contrary. His moral reasoning seemed to embody the glib superficiality and sense of entitlement so common in psychopaths. At one point Skilling looks a video camera right in the eye and with a look of poignant sincerity says: 'We're the good guys. We're on the side of angels.'

Skilling and a number of the key Enron players seemed motivated by the exhilaration of risk even when it was at the cost of self-interest. In the documentary we are told by people who knew Skilling personally that despite the fact that he "... portrayed himself as somebody who very tightly monitored risk, in reality he's a gambler, he gambled away huge sums of money before he was twenty years old by making wild bets on the market." It's also pointed out that Skilling "... was a huge risk taker. He actually talked about wanting to go on trips that were so perilous that someone could actually die." In fact, Skilling organized many such dangerous trips for himself and other Enron executives. These high-risk adventures yielded many broken bones and other serious injuries and no doubt helped to inculcate the high testosterone Enron culture with its emphasis on aggression, risk and a thrill-seeking life on the edge. While there was so much evidence of the garish palette of reptilian proto emotions, there were few displays of other sorts of feelings and a noticeable lack of empathy. At one point in the documentary, Lou Pai, who would later flee Enron with a 250-million-dollar golden parachute, said, "I'm not feeling anything."

Enron as a corporation seemed to embody the parasite strategy of going after a rich deposit of energy and finding a way to drain it. Rather than getting into the energy production business, they were mostly interested in being energy middlemen using a variety of trickster strategies to acquire wealth and power without producing anything of value to society. Fed Chairman Allan Greenspan, and other true believers in the innate intelligence of the marketplace to self-regulate, was not wary enough about parasitic tricksters who like to take huge risks with other people's money. As a result, the Enron scandal came as a huge shock, but not enough of a shock to get the SEC to uncover Bernie Madoff's Ponzi scheme, which they had been warned about repeatedly. Also, as we are all now painfully aware, there was a remarkable lack of action by any government agency or regulatory force while sub-prime mortgages were being feverishly propagated by a whole sector of the economy that was infected by a similar trickster passion for gambling with enough of other people's money to threaten the economy of our entire planet.

### **The Flaw in Greenspan's Model**

During congressional testimony and several interviews, former Fed Chairman Allan Greenspan acknowledged that he was shocked to discover that there was an essential flaw in his model of the economy. Before Congress he acknowledged the flaw, but in densely abstracted Greenspanese. In interviews he described the flaw more

conversationally (unfortunately, I cannot quote verbatim) and said that he falsely assumed that self-interest would keep people from doing certain things. In other words, Greenspan recognized that his model had a psychological flaw that made an incorrect assumption about human motivation. I believe that Greenspan would have been quicker to recognize this flaw in his understanding of motivation if he knew more about psychopathy. Psychopaths are, of course, motivated by self-interest, but there is another, more primary motivation that will often trump self-interest. As we have discussed earlier, psychopaths are emotionally vacuous, and therefore they are powerfully drawn toward risk taking in order to feel anything. Psychopaths also live in the present and are not very concerned about consequences for themselves and others. Harsher penalties may not be much of a deterrent for psychopaths and might actually contribute to the adrenaline rush they often crave when they take risks.

### **Repairing Greenspan's Flaw**

If harsher penalties would likely be ineffective, is there any way to change the model so as to discourage psychopathic plundering?

First, we must repair the flaw in Greenspan's model. The assumption of self-interest as a psychological constant underestimates the irrationality that so often drives individual and collective psychology and behavior. Although psychopaths are more rational than average, any casino owner knows that, even for nonpsychopaths, the thrill of risk taking, combined with greed and over-confidence will often override rationality.

We must be aware of psychopaths, their techniques and their motivations, when we design financial structures. Usually I have little confidence in social engineering, and rarely make any suggestions in that direction, but I do have one for the problem of psychopaths and Wall Street. Sometimes when computer hackers are caught they are then hired by government and/or business to help defend against or catch other computer hackers. Kevin Mitnick is a notable example of a reformed hacker who now runs his own computer security company, Mitnick Security Consulting, LLC. Many have commented that the SEC tends to employ those trained in finance but who are not as clever, ruthless or determined as those they are trying to monitor. I would suggest that they be open to hiring psychopaths with MBAs and offer them multi-million dollar bonuses and recognition, celebrity recognition if possible, for catching high level scams. Since psychopaths are a force of nature we are unlikely to eliminate, we should instead harness their unique talents to serve the socially useful purpose of catching other psychopaths. Who could possibly be better qualified, better able to pierce strategies of deception, than other highly motivated psychopaths? To use Wall Street metaphorically, we need a highly motivated team of clever reptiles and foxes to catch other reptiles and foxes.

### **In Conclusion**

Most of the problems that the human species confront, such as racism, violence, warfare, environmental pollution, and economic issues, all stem from a common source -- human psychology. It is human psychology that decides short-term profits are more important than the long-term consequences to our biosphere. All wars are a psychological product. Money is a psychological artifact. By consensus we have agreed that these symbolic counters have value, and it is our psychology that decides what we are willing to do, or not do, to get hold of these artifacts. The irrationality and ever-fluctuating

emotionality of markets and economic structures are well recognized and rigorously studied in fields like Behavioral Economics and Behavioral Finance. In recent years neuropsychology and economics have merged and researchers have made fascinating discoveries by observing people with functional MRI scans while they make financial decisions. Allan Greenspan's most famous phrase is "irrational exuberance," and Robert Shiller, an American economist and Yale professor, wrote a bestselling book entitled *Irrational Exuberance*, which predicted the burst of the stock market bubble in the late 1990s, and warned about the emergence of a housing bubble after the dot-com bubble burst in 2000. Another of Shiller's books is entitled *Animal Spirits: How Human Psychology Drives the Economy, and Why It Matters for Global Capitalism*. The book opens with the following two sentences:

To understand how economies work and how we can manage them and prosper, we must pay attention to the thought patterns that animate people's ideas and feelings, their animal spirits. We will never really understand important economic events unless we confront the fact that their causes are largely mental in nature.

Many of the thought patterns and animal spirits driving economic events are generated by psychopaths and situational psychopaths, and to prevent another such economic catastrophe we must take this into account as we design regulations, checks and balances. We especially need an agency that, unlike the SEC, includes a core of highly motivated and talented investigators who understand the remorseless mind of the psychopath and who can stalk those who stalk us, the reptiles and foxes who will forever try to steal the world's treasure.

#### Notes

[i] Jane M. Murphy, PhD, Psychiatric labeling in cross-cultural perspective ( Science 191, March 12, 1976), 1019-28.

[ii] Robert D. Hare, PhD, and Paul Babiak, PhD, Without Conscience: The Disturbing World of Psychopaths Among Us (New York: Guilford Press, 1999), 87.

[iii] Hare and Babiak, Without Conscience , 94.

[iv] Robert D. Hare, PhD, and Paul Babiak, PhD, Snakes in Suits: When Psychopaths go to Work (New York: Harper Paperbacks, 2007), 18.

[v] Hare and Babiak, Snakes in Suits , 118.

[vi] Hare and Babiak, Snakes in Suits , 22.

[vii] Hare and Babiak, Snakes in Suits , 55.

[viii] Hare and Babiak, Without Conscience , 86.

[ix] David Cullen, Columbine (New York: Twelve, 2009), page#.

[x] Hare and Babiak, Snakes in Suits , 269.

Hervey Cleckley, MD, The Mask of Sanity (London: Henry Kimpton, 1941), 353-54.

[xii] Hare and Babiak, Snakes in Suits , 67.

[xiii] Hare and Babiak, Snakes in Suits, 279.

[xiv] Hare and Babiak, Without Conscience, 111-12.



- [xv] Cullen, page#.
- [xvi] Hare and Babiak, *Without Conscience*, 49.
- [xvii] Cullen, page#.
- [xviii] Hare and Babiak, *Without Conscience* , 99.
- [xix] Cullen, page#.
- [xx] Hare and Babiak, *Without Conscience* , 47.
- [xxi] Stephen G. Michaud, *Ted Bundy: Conversations with a Killer* (Irving, TX: Authorlink, 2000), 281.
- [xxii] Hare and Babiak, *Without Conscience* , 88.
- [xxiii] Hare and Babiak, *Snakes in Suits* , 237-38.
- [xxiv] Hare and Babiak, *Without Conscience* , 61.
- [xxv] Hare and Babiak, *Without Conscience* , 21.
- [xxvi] Hare and Babiak, *Snakes in Suits* , 39.
- [xxvii] John Seabrook. *Suffering souls: the search for the roots of psychopathy*, *New Yorker* (November 10, 2008).
- [xxviii] Cullen, page#.
- [xxix] *Medical News Today: Psychology/Psychiatry, The origins of antisocial behaviour, twin study*, <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/25078.php>
- [xxx] Alan Harrington, *Psychopaths* (New York: Simon and Shuster, 1973),
- [xxxi] Hare and Babiak, *Without Conscience*, 114.
- [xxxii] Robert Joseph Smith, *The Psychopath in Society* (New York: Academic Press, 1978).
- [xxxiii] Hare and Babiak, *Without Conscience*, 119.
- [xxxiv] Hare and Babiak, *Without Conscience*, 121.
- [xxxv] Howard H. Goldman, *Review of General Psychiatry* (Columbus, OH: McGraw-Hill), 341.
- [xxxvi] *Wall Street*, Directed by Oliver Stone (Century City, CA: 20th Century Fox, 1987).
- [xxxvii] *Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room* , Directed by Alex Gibney (New York, NY: Magnolia, 2005).
- [xxxviii] The Internet Movie Database, [jhailey@hotmail.com](mailto:jhailey@hotmail.com), *Enron: the smartest guys in the room*, plot summary,<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1016268/plotsummary>.
- [xxxix] Robert J. Shiller and George A. Akerlof, *Animal Spirits: How Human Psychology Drives the Economy, and Why It Matters for Global Capitalism* , (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2009), 1.

#### Works Referenced

- Cleckley, MD, Hervey. 1941. *Mask of Sanity*. London: Henry Kimpton.
- Cullen, David. 2009. *Columbine* . New York: Twelve.

Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room , DVD. Directed by Alex Gibney. 2005, New York, NY: Magnolia, 2006.

Goldman, Howard H. 2000. Review of General Psychiatry . Columbus, OH: McGraw-Hill.

Hare, PhD, Robert D. 1999. Without Conscience: The Disturbing World of Psychopaths Among Us . New York: Guilford Press.

Hare, PhD, Robert D., and Paul Babiak, PhD. 2007. Snakes in Suits: When Psychopaths go to Work . New York: Harper Paperbacks.

Harrington, Alan. 1973. Psychopaths. New York, Simon and Shuster.

Medical News Today: Psychology/Psychiatry. The origins of antisocial behaviour, twin study. Medical News Today.

<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/25078.php> (accessed July 9, 2009).

Michaud, Stephen G., and Hugh Aynesworth. 2000. Ted Bundy: Conversations with a Killer. Irving, TX: Authorlink.

Murphy, PhD, Jane M. 1976. Psychiatric labeling in cross-cultural perspective. Science 191, March 12.

Seabrook, John. 2008. Suffering souls: the search for the roots of psychopathy. New Yorker, November 10,

[http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2008/11/10/081110fa\\_act\\_seabrook](http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2008/11/10/081110fa_act_seabrook) (accessed July 13, 2009).

Shiller, Robert J., and George A. Akerlof. 2009. Animal Spirits: How Human Psychology Drives the Economy, and Why It Matters for Global Capitalism . Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Smith, Robert Joseph. 1978. The Psychopath in Society . New York: Academic Press.

Wall Street, DVD. Directed by Oliver Stone. 1987, Century City, CA: 20th Century Fox, 2007.

*Image by Muffet, courtesy of Creative Commons license.*

Like

573 people like this. Be the first of your friends.

13

Tweet

27

10-28-11 • [Jonathan Zap's blog](#) • [Login](#) or [register](#) to post comments • [Printer-friendly version](#)

**Tags:** • [psychopathy](#) • [Psychology](#) • [financial crisis](#) • [Economics](#)

## Comments

### Snake blood is best when its still warm

Submitted by [Damaru](#) on Fri, 10/28/2011 - 09:55.

<http://www.occupyyoutube.com>

[Login](#) or [register](#) to post comments

### Damaru's Occupy Reality Sandwich movement

Submitted by [pueokeokeo](#) on Sun, 10/30/2011 - 23:07.

Get the ball rolling Damaru and do it better than an average culture jammer/warrior. Only then will pueokeokeo leave you to it. So far what comes from you is a lame old-paradigm culture-jamming technique which is representative of the one

percent. I can't say if you are a witting or unwitting henchman but you behave like a henchman nonetheless -- like you are getting little pats on your head from someone else who you look up to (even if it is your own proud self).

[Login](#) or [register](#) to post comments

#### **Damaru he studnet, very**

Submitted by [Fu Sci](#) on Sun, 10/30/2011 - 23:19.

Damaru he studnet, very skill in art and practice, in many conflict he is guardian. Innovate the internet for understand the tsunami begins in the air. If turn the law wheel is fortunate and auspicious one who has roots in the great knowledge. Unfortunate Damaru left internal conflicts unsurmountable great anguish. He left a statement for understand his dying love. Amidst the sorrowful and repentant, Damaru's demons shake his core and his enemies came for his love. His last letter I discovered upon his bed of death. Great warrior and conqueror...<p>

Squeezing blood from a white rose under moon during the first snowfall; your breathe is the wind in my ears, your heart is the sunset behind the earth. The dark season comes and your touch is brisk and frigid, to caress your cold embrace and know your deepest love. At a great distance I felt your eyes track across my mind. The hills too have eyes and keep their secrets far after the snow melts. The longing and fear blend together and become one , when we last kissed I felt your regret at my leaving, times had changed once again and this time I didn't know if I was coming back. When I got word of your illness I came as fast as would carry. Always I have longed for you, always I must relent upon our brief cordiality. Stabbed by night with many wounds through dark corridors, I lost my way, I beckoned to your love. For I had arrived to late, the poison had entered your veins, and there was just the corpse that remained. I cut my hand to the rose thorns and put my blood upon your breast, so cold my dying bride. 3 days ride, and trapped under ice, I found the strength in you. Persistence in vain to find her asleep forever in a bed of ice and pedals. From here I can go no further, the barbs pierce deep my soul, and it withers upon your corpse my love! Lay me down to die beside your pale reflection I shall give this body here to protect your passage, and pay the ferry man in his blood. Forever in death, and for always. The 2 Owls above the awning, The horse now runs free. I take this blade upon your hand, and plunge it into my heart, soon now my love, we will sleep forever.

[youtube.com/watch?v=fKCgV\\_\\_C-Lw](http://youtube.com/watch?v=fKCgV__C-Lw)

[Login](#) or [register](#) to post comments

#### **Hi there! Is it OK if I go a**

Submitted by [ali.shass](#) on Thu, 05/24/2012 - 04:15.

Hi there! Is it OK if I go a bit off topic? I am trying to read your website on my Macbook but it doesn't display properly, do you have any suggestions? Cheers! Kandy [get facebook fans](#)

[Login](#) or [register](#) to post comments

#### **This post seems to recieve a**

Submitted by [ali.shass](#) on Thu, 05/24/2012 - 04:19.

This post seems to recieve a large amount of visitors. How do

you advertise it? It gives a nice individual twist on things. I guess having something useful or substantial to talk about is the most important factor. **house music promotion**

[Login](#) or [register](#) to post comments

#### Thanks for another enjoyable

Submitted by **ali.shass** on Thu, 05/24/2012 - 04:22.

Thanks for another enjoyable story. Im really glad I was able to find this article, since so many of the blogs Ive been reading have incorrect data. **Storage Middletown**

[Login](#) or [register](#) to post comments

#### Psychopaths & Emotion

Submitted by **Gizelle** on Fri, 10/28/2011 - 12:26.

Thanks for this very interesting essay (I have been using your oracle for a while & find it amazingly apt every time, so it is great to see you here on Reality Sandwich!).

I just wanted to add something to your comments about psychopaths and their ability to mimic emotion... a teacher / mentor of mine used to speak of how sentimentality is often a substitute for authentic feeling - from the simple, every-day manifestation of people buying cards with trite messages to express a feeling that they are unable to express themselves, to cases like Adolf Hitler who wept when his canary died. Maybe psychopaths can appear to have tender emotions but what they are actually expressing is sentimentality... except that because of their great verbal skills, they are able to do so without sounding trite?

I think, as well, that an important thought about psychopathy has been left out of your essay: we each, as individuals, have an inner psychopath (in anthroposophy this is sometimes called "the double", you have written about it before as the "yetzer hara" or "inner adversary").

When thinking about the problems of the world, it is too easy to demonise those outside ourselves as a way to avoid dealing with the part in each of us that wishes to blame our perceived flaws on others rather than taking responsibility for them, that has an excuse or justification for every misdeed we are accused of, etc.

Gizelle

[Login](#) or [register](#) to post comments

#### why change your mind when you can just change the channel?

Submitted by **rajajuju** on Fri, 10/28/2011 - 21:13.

*"All these theories about universal peace, about peace conferences, and so on, are again simply laziness and hypocrisy. Men do not want to think about themselves, do not want to work on themselves, but think of how to make other people do what they want."*

Would such damning diatribes still have any impact if people in general actually had a semblance of conscience beyond the moral impressions they have been stamped with by the culture in which they were raised? Empathy and compassion entails suffering, as it is painful to feel the pain of others. Yet it would appear that people arent too keen on painful experiences, and would rather avoid them. Then again, all animals are like that. Humans are indeed animals, lest we forget. It seems that the pernicious nervous system has cursed us all with an aversion to feeling all the pain of all beings in all times and all places. Damn!

Thus the matter of saving the world falls to non-animals, the only ones capable of getting the job done. The world, you see, is evil. It is a cesspool of sin and debauchery. To escape from the pit of despair which has been thrust upon us by spiteful nature and its cohorts, we must turn nature against itself. In that way, non-animals will rise above to the pure land where clouds are made of snow cones. Fantastic, beyond the natural order, untouched by the dirt and grime of soiled hands.

Action!

[Login](#) or [register](#) to post comments

### Why so serious?

Submitted by **mozzribo** on Sun, 01/08/2012 - 09:21.

By default the World and Universe are indifferent. The rality only reacts to the way You approach it. It seems that You are forgetting that we can also feel all the Love and joy of all beings at all times and places.

Psychopaths have some desirable traits in my opinion, but at the same time do not act towards the sustainability of any species.

On the other hand, there are techniques to achive constant calmness and efficiency while striving for a colletive development at the same time.

<http://mindful.org/the-science/neuroscience/a-monk-in-an-mri>

[Login](#) or [register](#) to post comments

### Double

Submitted by **Sappho17** on Thu, 05/24/2012 - 19:49.

I was wondering if you could explain the anthroposophical idea of the double to me- My son was in a Waldorf School untill recently, and part of my interest in the topic of psychopathy stemmed from my experience with someone from his school.

[Login](#) or [register](#) to post comments

### Some good research cited

Submitted by **Brian P. Akers** on Fri, 10/28/2011 - 13:24.

Some good research cited (Hare, etc). But seems, whenever this subject arises, I mostly realize concern -- even alarm -- in "what to do / how" suggestions. Little-understood, seldom-cited 'reality factors' issue urgent warning.

Despite every intention of suggestions offered -- to be helpful or of use, do some good maybe -- their real potential (and effect when attempted) is mostly catastrophic, for the very purposes they're conceived to serve. Evil loves the futility of such -- like a tasty treat, thrives accordingly. Anything that fails to set limits, feeds in and thus reinforces, succoring it.

May I please, please suggeest: any notion that pathological aggression can be well understood as "talent" -- of some potential value or use we might avail -- is dangerously misconstrued. Thinking we could 'harness it' be its master or hold its leash, maybe reason with it -- wonderful in theory. Makes a nice positive sound but it can't work, in fact, can backfire badly. On that basis I'm concerned and I'd respectfully but sharply differ

with such suggestion.

Psychopathy rests on inherently violent interests or abusive purposes. Period. No matter how sneaky, we have a vital interest, for the security of our interests -- as well as that of the entire society -- to recognize that stuff for exactly what it is. And deal with it accordingly, by the gentle but firm, on Best Practices and sound advisement. Otherwise, we become its host or prey, no ifs ands or buts.

Its that hazardous.

At almost any scale of human interaction and affairs, from our own interpersonal to history, international affairs and relations, events -- dealing with evil or psychopathy or malicious aggressors as if that stuff relates rather than alienates, try to negotiate with it? Huge mistake. Its not the same thing as normal 'failure to communicate' leading to conflicts of self-interest, whatever misunderstandings or routine vices we all have.

There's applications for 'recruitment'. To catch a thief, we might consult one. Theft is crime, but that doesn't define evil. Burglary doesn't originate in violent aggressive impulse. Thief could even be a good guy (Jean Valjean, Robin Hood, etc. Some criminal expertise may be of use, if its about money --- we can buy it with riches, use its advice to help guard our house. But any notion that evil or manipulative psycho-malignancy can be hitched up to our wagons -- plays right into its hands.

Evil loves such good but misguided idea, and will eagerly ingratiate and reward it, play along. For its own purposes, against ours. To afford it an opening of any least kind, is only to woo, court and flirt with disaster.

Psychopathy's sheer taste for "Fun and Games" at whoever else's expense. Its thirst is for blood (literal or figurative) that's the reward it pursues. That affords us no currency to deal in. We'd have to choose who we offer it as a target or victim, to make the deal with that devil. Whose blood it can drink, by our agreement, to appease it.

What malice and 'violence for fun' trades in is nothing we have any good or healthy interest with, no currency or basis for dealings. The sadistic fun of victimizing or injuring, harming someone else, physically, mentally, spiritually, is psychopath's goal: "Man's Inhumanity to Man" the name of its game. Who shall be its next contestant be, who will it select next? Who shall we kick off the island, humiliate this week?? For our viewing pleasure ...?

Sanity has a sadder but wiser duty to understand its not superman, has human limits. Not everything is within reason's command. Real life and fiction reflect it alike. KALIFORNIA, Duchovny's big mistake to try and relate to, or "understand" homicidal impulse, what makes Brad Pitt tick, what he's "feeling" that would explain it. Such curiosity was fatal to the human cat.

Nothing against ideas and so on, but crucial understanding here lies in method: how to set limits. Interpersonal technique, to define appropriate boundaries. Its a matter of practice, as well as sane sensible policy (Vichy France needed to understand sooner ... too late).

Sanity, peace and security lie with how to effectively quarantine evil and stop it dead in its tracks. Intercepted thus, that's as far as it goes, no further. In real time, most important first step upon 'attack signal detected' -- end its messaging maneuver, interrupt its broadcast (i.e., halt its deployment). To bring it an important message ...

We're supposed (aggressors' supposition) to be all afraid it will think we're being rude, get angrier, more aggressive. So by reflex, we be'er not -- be'er sit there in its beam, like deer in headlights, trying to figure out what's going on, why is this guy calling me "hey there fellow with your hair colored yellow" ... give it the audience it demands, and in fact needs in order to reach its next game level.

Anti-social cue can't get far or do much, I find, when its attack signal is squelched, stepped on. If we're caught in 'try to understand it' sympathetically, etc. -- we fail, as it needs us to do. It knows our predilection, on account of us being the good, all concern not to be impolite or whatever -- it will use threat, express and/or implied, or provocation for to 'button push' that reaction of paralysis and concern.

Any healthy reader here might be surprised, relish and rejoice to see, in a situation confronting them (that might usually inspire worry) --- look of panicky confusion in a bully's, or aggressors' face -- upon decisively interrupting their little verbal overture, gently applying abhaya mudra along with words spoken in smooth-even limit-setting voice and wording. Psych nurses don't know Sanskrit, but if they did they'd be surprised too, based on some stuff they do. Betcha.

Aggressors are used to conflicting their target, splitting its awareness. They aren't REMOTELY used to having their "be afraid, be very afraid" rap stepped on, cut off mid-sentence; especially in lightfoot fashion, with skill and method. Soft and with laser intent, focused and unbothered, very gentle unaffected voice -- intruding slam into the middle of their 'attack script.' They don't know what that is, they've never experienced it -- they get pretty stopped dead in tracks at being cut it off in mid-sentence, especially with ultra calm manners and courtesy: "excuse me, I hate to interrupt, but I think I need to tell you how I feel about this (repeated in robotic mantra fashion until they realize their routine ain't working, for some mysterious reason). No matter how strongly aggressors try to push or over-shout, they find they're the only banging their heads getting nowhere (as they see, in terror).

Bruce Lee's phrase "art of fighting without fighting" describes his fearless psychological defeat of an attacker, thwarting the "escalation" tactic (where the bully uses anything you attempt to only get more furious, especially if you try to be reasonable). I find it closely parallels deep understanding about this in the psych nurse industry, where it's a matter of critical necessity for the job. They operate from realizing "reality factors" I find key. They have a nuanced, vital awareness with much to teach us.

Among its crucial features is its hippocratic approach, marked urgent, is badly needed. Anything attempted, without sufficiently informed and trained knowledge -- fails at step one, to above all else don't make it worse. Most attempts at engagement with this stuff, failing to recognize its face, run great risk, and bring about tragedy. As 20th century history -- and a thousand other cases -- richly reflect in international relations and politics.

As at that scale, so at the everyday interpersonal. Setting effective limits (sound method) to define appropriate boundaries whenever aggression rears up -- is the only thing that can work to minimize damage. Our society has a lot of trouble with this, and amid a lot of hand wringing and carrying on -- I don't foresee improvement or progress. Its part of the culture pattern, deeply impressed seemingly.

I always notice -- trolls and bullies, malicious fun-loving aggressors of all kinds HATE it, can get pretty riled -- at least mention or sound of "setting limits" etc. Evil may be bad but its not stupid. Bumping into boundaries they can't violate sends them into a tale spin, if they try. Instead of getting someone else to bang his head against the stone wall they put up, suddenly they're banging their own head -- and can't figure out what's happening. Nervous breakdown time for them now, drama: "retreat into a crisis" (to borrow phrase from one psych nurse sharpie I know)

[Login](#) or [register](#) to post comments

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?>

Submitted by [Damaru](#) on Fri, 10/28/2011 - 15:59.

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ryg-\\_CDxY7Y](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ryg-_CDxY7Y)

[Login](#) or [register](#) to post comments

### **Ponerology**

Submitted by [Psychegram](#) on Fri, 10/28/2011 - 19:57.

Kudos for bringing up the psychosocial topic of topics on RS. I'm surprised you didn't give a mention to political ponerology: <http://ponerology.com/> The issues surrounding psychopaths and other characteropaths (narcissists especially) in positions of political, cultural or economic power have been taken up in detail by Polish psychologist Andrew Lobaczewski. Really invaluable material there.

[Login](#) or [register](#) to post comments

### **Thanks for the Comments**

Submitted by [Jonathan Zap](#) on Fri, 10/28/2011 - 22:10.

Jonathan Zap of [zaporacle.com](http://zaporacle.com)

Still pondering some of them and may have more to say later. For now I'll just say that an alternate title for this article could be:

Psychopaths are 1% of the population. Are you one of the 99%? As to some of Mr. Ackers comments. I'm not sure I followed all of it, but I do understand the dangers of trying to harness evil. Although, there's obviously a relationship I wouldn't make a 100% equivalence between psychopathy and evil. We tend to think of the most extreme examples of psychopaths when we think of them. Indeed, when a psychopath happens to also be a sexual sadist you have a diabolical combination, but fortunately this is relatively rare. Psychopathy is on a spectrum and some can be found working out their agenda in ways that are much less dangerous than others. Somebody who had a borderline score on the psychopathy check list might and was very well supervised might do socially useful work in a whistle-blowing agency as I suggested. I'm not confident in myself as a social engineer (and I'm wary of others who take on that role) but I think some version of using psychopaths to catch other psychopaths might work.

Oh and I also looked at the ponerology link, but I have to say that the site at least immediately turned me off because the depictions of evil were all the usual politically correct subjects for shadow projection. Whoever put that site together needs to recognize,



and depict, that evil is not just to be found embodied by the USA, Israel and globalizing corporations--it is alive and well in indigenous cultures and everywhere we find people.

[Login](#) or [register](#) to post comments

#### **you say you want a (100%) revolution...**

Submitted by [rajajuju](#) on Fri, 10/28/2011 - 22:31.

None of you would help me when I baked my bread  
Now all of you would help me eat it  
I can see that you are very well fed  
This indicates that you don't need it

Enough said

Stop and let me tell you what tomorrow holds for you  
Stop and let me tell you about a plan I have for you

Take all the leaders from around the world  
Put them together in a great big ring  
Televise it as the lowest show on earth  
And let them fight like hell to see who's king

Gather up the pieces when the fight is done  
Then you'll find out living really can be fun

The next thing I say to you will be true  
The last thing I said was false

Remember to do nothing when you don't know what to do

You wanted a world you could figure out  
But something happened while you were asleep  
You wanted a good life you could brag about  
Too bad they took the parts you wanted to keep

Enough said

- DEVO *roughly 1981*

[Login](#) or [register](#) to post comments

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?>

Submitted by [Damaru](#) on Sat, 10/29/2011 - 04:00.

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jwBOshDbxmM&fb\\_source=message](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jwBOshDbxmM&fb_source=message) 13:12...

[Login](#) or [register](#) to post comments

#### **labeling is suspect**

Submitted by [Jonathan Zap](#) on Sat, 10/29/2011 - 09:12.

Jonathan Zap of zaporacle.com I agree with you Zezt that labeling is suspect. As I wrote in the article: My former writing mentor, E.L. Doctorow, once called such psychiatric terms "the industrialized form of storytelling." We do live in an era in which such labels are horribly abused. I also agree with you about a Beautiful Mind, the worst Academy award choice of all time, an insipid white wash that omitted his promiscuous homosexuality and sentimentalized a dark and complex story. Having said that, I think that labeling/not labeling is what I call a dynamic paradox.

<http://www.zaporacle.com/dynamic-paradoxicalism-the-anti-ism-ism/> Depending on the specifics of case/context it can be demeaning or empowering. The other side of the industrialized story-telling/truncating the human spirit aspect of labeling is that in magical traditions the ability to name something gives you power over it. Even the Eskimos had a name for psychopathy. Being able to

label is sometimes terrible, sometimes redeeming.

[Login](#) or [register](#) to post comments

### Jon your magic sucks...

Submitted by [Damaru](#) on Sat, 10/29/2011 - 23:55.

Im beginning to think you don't know any magic, Its almost like you just write shit on the internet and gather references from google. Its both great and tragic that I am the only wizard around. Bitches. Babylonians forget how to speak the language, their bodies atrophy and their minds are filled with all kinds of garbage. STUPID STUPID ALL WRONG! Now Jon go and attend to your practice behind the wall of sleep. I have to commune with demonic entities and the christian devil. He's always looking to convert me or something, its good to keep your demons close, because then you can put them in their place, and take whats theirs when you trick them. Sure they want to punish you for that, but at the same time, they know the emptiness from which you come is their mothers tomb. Conquering demons is a favorite hobby of mine in altered states. In terms of where they are aspects of my own psyche, they are easily recognized as temporal states of disturbance, NEVER do I respect them or allow them power through names. Thats why Kephas is a fucking moron and thinks Im the devil. Its because he's a little bitch who fucked himself. Instead of going on with the death and being reborn, he just festered on the ledge he fell of trying to hang onto something, I just plunged into the cold water and kept fucking swimming. Theres a place for spirit, and a time for will. To synthesize is better than to divide. You have difficulty with this don't you? Its better people practice a theravada like path in dealing with these things. How much half baked pollution do you need floating around about pyramids and aliester crowley before you realize you are giving power to your own illusions this way? When you are assailed by great evil from without, if your mind is in the correct place in harmony with the cosmic rythms, then there is no place for these things to take root. Because the ground is made of eternally swirling void stuff. Which is of course frightening to people because they are stupid and ignorant. That is the reason. So being stupid is something you must endeavour to surpass in yourself, but then the world doesn't need many mystics, shamans, sages, wizards, and qi gong practitioners. It needs idiots so that we have a job to do. Now attend to your practice your swine dog fucker, and when you see my emanations in your dreams, do not respect this image or name it, do not give in to your fear impulse, find the deep center and recognize this as your true self beyond the cycling duality (that you love so much) of life and death. And now you are liberate here in this moment. Wow feels good! your senses are heightened and you have become aware of impulses and mental control which previously was unknown to you. All you had to do was confront these demons and realize they are actually your own reflection. As you want to name them, they take on more form and definition, becoming dwell points and trapping aggregates of your own psychic projection. Being as you live in a mostly ignorant state, like a stupid dog, you will want to give into this impulse and label and blame your demons, this only gives them power. Its better to make them believe this about you, and at the moment they think they are gaining control of your corporeal self, you turn it on them, and display your apprehension of the teachings and practices, thus dispelling all illusion and stealing the vitality of your entities. At the same time showering them with compassion and great love, and in this way, over many confrontations, you take their power, and give them liberation. Exclaiming allowed to them that they work for the earth now. If they do not acquiesce and are stubborn assholes, stare into their eyes until you make contact with a dense point, or point of contraction,

control this. This point of tension is the control point where your volition is matched to theirs. Do not respect them, let them know you see their essence and understand their center, then show them your gravity. They cannot resist the power of the dharmic realization of pure emptiness eternal potentiality of formless great wisdom root source of all understanding

Sometimes demons are pricks and they don't go away, sometimes many of them will come. Sometimes its good to walk Dimitri to the graveyard and pick some toadstools there. Always the spirits will arise around you, never show them fear, as they will feed on this more than anything, they want to be vindicated these persistant spirits, they want to be known in our realm, because they are stupid fucks who got themselves stuck as ghosts for their own fucking ignorance. They must realize this themselves, but its good if you can make them work for the earth. Not for yourself, that will only be a backdoor for them, they will feed on your desires and ambitions for power, indeed they will be those ideas and emotions, they are the virus's you let in. So, always you are subjugating demons, always you are disrespectful to them, and disallowing them a place in your mind. Though keeping them close you can share wisdom as well as cause them to know their place and serve the earth as they should do. Otherwise vanquish them and eat their soul essence, digest it in the great spiral void. Nothing is greater.

So in doing these practices, of subjugating demons and so on, there will be given upon one great spiritual vocation, and as such this becomes you life. Its not a lucrative path in any way. Of course no one will believe you and these things should not be discussed outside of your circle of gothy-tarot using douche bag friends. Of course they know nothing of these things and when confronted with demons, would only scream and slip somewhere to wake up terrified with strange cuts or bites. These people are stupid and should not attempt deviating from their card games and dark clothing. Because many people are unaware of the void nature of all phenomenon they are like exhausted donkey's collapsing under the weight of....Stupid asses!

So now Jon, you are done with your stupid shit, and in so doing now you must subjugate the demons, to do this you must attend to your practice. If you fail to do so, you will be like the spirits walking the graveyard at night, looking to cling to someone, or some idea, or some notion. Like a fool wondering if he shouldn't have had that last drink before he drove home that night, and now of course he is confused having died in a flash accident; he has no home, no body, no life, but doesn't fully realize this, trapped in a persistant illusion, the christ corpse tries to play half the game with him. The Satanic overlord (jesus's demon) plays the other half, all the while fools wonder in their living dead purgatories searching for their lives though they have been dead since june 14th 1971.

Its sad, however their are no spiritual economics with witch to provide safety nets for these homeless spirits wondering through eternal hell waiting for their savior to come. Tragic for those idiots. But because at the root is great emanating compassion, one must seek to bring understanding to the dead nation of fools abounding in their kasket gardenswith opulent floral arrangements and such. Damned fucking idiots. Its good to piss them off, stirs them up, you see their power and abilities, and from their make assessments about their potentials, then you make them know through different means that they work for the fucking earth now....and that fuck around with your shit would be a mistake, as you are one with the flow

and its potent; this void space aeternum.

So remember Jon, don't forget to throw away your fucking manual before you get to the otherside, or thats where your mind will sssstickkkkk, and thats wher eyou will stay until I come to liberate you with the other drone corpses pissed off that they didn't get to see their wives one last time, or make it home from the party alive. Or that they choked on a fucking meat pizza the day before the big promotion. Oh well congeal around your limited notions is strength for the ignorant, getting crushed to shit on the other side. And here you thought you knew something about it. I have been to the spirit realms and interacted with demons and ghosts many times. THE ABSOLUTE FUCKING MOST DERANGED AND STRANGEST EXPERIENCES. But always I am keeping to the practice and adhering to the true knowledge of the dharmic nature of all existence and its manifestations. And as such all experiences are growing this strength and understanding, It is indeed of the utmost importance at this time in our human history to open up the knowledge of these things in a suitable way, which will take maybe another half century to achieve. So while you are gathering references to reinforce your limitations, I am doing other things that you can only attempt to try to want to half understand. And as such you are less than a mentally disabled dog. As such you are entitled to pity and the stimulation of clicking my youtube link. There is a manual, but its only available verbally, and its spoken in tongues. Too bad for you foolish dog shit!!!

~ Demon conqueror snakeblood drinker ~

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vi52\\_qprBT0&feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vi52_qprBT0&feature=related)

[Login](#) or [register](#) to post comments

### **In the absence of RS moderators, the demon conquerer triumphs**

Submitted by **Brian George** on Sun, 10/30/2011 - 10:56.

Hi Demon conquerer snakeblood drinker,

You wrote, "Thats why Kephas is a fucking moron and thinks Im the devil. Its because he's a little bitch who fucked himself." And "Being as you live in a mostly ignorant state, like a stupid dog." And "So now Jon, you are done with your stupid shit." And "Damned fucking idiots. Its good to piss them off." And "because they are stupid fucks who got themselves stuck as ghosts for their own fucking ignorance." And "Its almost like you just write shit on the internet and gather references from google. Its both great and tragic that I am the only wizard around. Bitches." "Now attend to your practice your (sp.) swine dog fucker."

--Nice language. Well organized, persuasive arguments. Very much to the point. You also wrote, "Conquering demons is a favorite hobby of mine in altered states." Are you sure that it is you who are conquering the demons and not the other way around? "Tragic" is the word, although "farce" also comes to mind.

Prescription: Sleep it off. Call Dr. Phil in the morning.

[Login](#) or [register](#) to post comments

### **Verbal violence is not evidence of strength**

Submitted by **Brian George** on Sun, 10/30/2011 - 19:16.

Hi Damaru,

Years ago, I was picking up some shirts at a Korean laundry

in my neighborhood. A customer, upset about some real or imagined mistake, stormed in and began screaming obscenities at the woman behind the counter. The woman was very taken aback by his outburst. There was a hurt look in her eyes, and she said, "Hey! You don't know how to nice talk?" This was not the response that her attacker was expecting. He just stopped, and walked out.

[Login or register](#) to post comments

#### Damaru loves cranberry

Submitted by **Fu Sci** on Sun, 10/30/2011 - 23:39.

Damaru loves cranberry juice...cranapple. Its too bad he's dead.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SsjgoPM977E>

[Login or register](#) to post comments

#### 优越的做法是未知的做法

Submitted by **Fu Sci** on Sun, 10/30/2011 - 00:32.

Damaru是一个初学者，他的理解是狗屎。喜欢一个人谁携带的水桶满水孔，他认为他是一个安全远洋船只，但事实上，他是愚蠢的他妈的狗屎！正因为如此，很多的教诲是隐瞒他，但就是价格一定要在傲慢不和谐的教诲。以为他是最贴切的学生，他是好战和暴力和需要，以维护自己的妖抑制能力饥渴。这反过来又导致他是一门深奥的医生不相称的情况。然而，他的努力是忠勇和植根于正确的位置。有很多可以得到的学习，超过许多人的生命。

[Login or register](#) to post comments

#### The international league for

Submitted by **Damaru** on Sun, 10/30/2011 - 00:34.

The international league for the association of confederated forum trolls is now in session. Now feed them fucking trolls!

[Login or register](#) to post comments

#### Special thanks to the guerilla bloggers.

Submitted by **Damaru** on Sun, 10/30/2011 - 01:10.

To attempt is better than to think up excuses and rationalizations for why not to try. Godammit. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YKQcx1jzn4k&feature=related>

[Login or register](#) to post comments

#### <http://www.youtube.com/watch?>

Submitted by **Damaru** on Sun, 10/30/2011 - 07:05.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=44kBN340vd4> Username:  
Damaru Password: password

[Login or register](#) to post comments

#### Oh really

Submitted by **Brian P. Akers** on Sun, 10/30/2011 - 10:16.

"I do understand the dangers of trying to harness evil..." Think so?

Such a suggestion makes a hard circle to square with "some of Mr. Ackers [sic] comments. I'm not sure I followed all of it" -- That I'd agree, with due respect, I can only conclude you don't.

Not to 'go there' only to wonder: what dangers you mean, or profess to understand? Likewise, to whom you consider they're posed, and how? And, by whose effort or gesture to harness evil, as if on amicable terms, do these alluded-to dangers arise (for whomever)?

As I routine notice: Madness and evil fly as far below the radar of good's detection as necessary, for manipulation purposes.

Aggression can do so much, if only it can go masked, evade recognition as such, act a part. Get the good playing along with it (using flattery and cajolery as carrot, intimidation and threat express and/or implied, as its stick).

A few glimmers or clue -- for anyone interested, in the event of such:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=qyUnSuYYs18](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qyUnSuYYs18) (nice abhaya mudra demo, defining personal boundary ! But do you think the animators know Sanskrit? there are some depths here ...)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=txLghRHDjSo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=txLghRHDjSo)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=4CtnX-hUwLw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4CtnX-hUwLw)

If only the consequences of naive complicity with aggression (up to and including serious death) fell exclusively on whoever makes the mistake! Alas, we know better. And I find its cause for sharp concern, fine tuned awareness.

The reality of the human situation is not so simple, much more dire and complex than that. Cajolery of violence or evil by 'gentle peaceful words' expresses a sharp, profound failure of understanding. That's a form of feeding in, not setting limits.

Boundaries become critically necessary when we're confronted by aggressors.

Trying to play players, turn evil into good (like we have some magic wand, or superpowers) bodes disaster, and inevitably backfires. All it does, its only real-world (not fancied) potential, is create huge security issues left right and center -- jeopardizing a common interest, not one privately owned by somebody. Wing man screws up, whole formation pays the price.

Opinions aside, the reality can't be wished or theorized away. It proves unequivocal. All adequately informed considerations tie in, without exception; and point to the same perspective. Pleasant or not, it's what the record shows, consistently and clearly.

No big philosophical sport or entertainment here; much less prescriptions or admonition, suggestions. I suggest its about what we need to do ourselves. One's own responsibility, our own choice. Not just relative to ourselves, but in common -- all around, even including aggressors.

Bad intent -- to whatever extent, and by whatever vocab or name; its no issue of 'labeling' use whatever term one prefers (such is merely rhetorical, distraction) -- has difficulty managing its

anti-social, abusive impulses. The worse it is, the greater its difficulty of self control. The correlation is that direct, and that simple.

Aggressors, psickopaths, bullies or evil or whatever -- face a major challenge to contain the inner evil genie, difficulty refraining from malicious enjoyments -- even if something inside, not inhuman, wanted to. Bad needs incentive, needs motivation. If what's inside isn't adequate, such can only come from outside, the healthy awareness -- in relation to the bad. But not by trying to somehow reason or rationalize with it.

The only thing that can help the bad is that which also provides safety for the good from attack, reinforcing what's right on both sides of the line. What works for the good of one, applies thus for all. The only effective approach lies in setting limits, that evil finds credible as such. One standard of evaluation for any ways or means suggested by anyone is, do they divide our interests, one against another. Or do they unite and integrate, by whatever ways and means? I

I find its no coincidence psych nurses use the term "splitter" to describe the most incorrigible manipulators -- the ones so expert at their games, so good at turning us all against each other -- all to their great entertainment. Hey, its fun undermining our relations, pit us against each other -- all under their baton. Such power and control! Psych nurses understand how extreme the threat posed by these types, and maintain proper vigil, relying on protocols that work.

Limits must be clearly recognizable to an aggressor in order to be effective. They work by placing aggression in relational position where containing itself is its only tenable alternative, from its own pov). No matter what scale of human relations we look at, whatever direction, the writing I here read is on the wall.

The problem isn't that evil exists. Good thing too, since it can't be eradicated, no more than any energy can be created or destroyed. The Azande understand well, and tell very matter of fact -- problem doesn't lie with mere existence of mangu (a psychic-like power of evil, some are born with, no fault of their own, but ...). If mangu isn't activated, stays dormant, no harm. Problem of evil arises only when it stirs forth from its dark lair, enacting and manifesting itself. Getting the genie in the bottle, corking it, and keeping it in there, is all we need do. Don't need to slay the dragon, just keep it in its place, out of ours (where it has no good purpose, nor right).

I don't speak from teachings, or some article of faith. Don't take it from me, check it out yourself. The jekyll/hyde duality of our nature, the human condition, what it tells us, urgently -- is blowing in the wind.

Its not easy to face; which drives our reflex, retreat from it, we can't deal with it ("I admit I hate tension, I've always been something of a wimp" -- TRUE HALLUCINATIONS, a beautiful sentence, what an ethos).

But whether the truth about aggression and reality of lessons we need to learn about it are hard or easy is no priority. Indeed, betimes its the hard things that can be most critical for our compelling interests, our survival, prosperity and development.

And indeed, for the most part I find humanity turned our head, pretending it just doesn't see. Genuinely unaware, or merely preferring to shut eyes to circumstances and considerations we'd rather not acknowledge, because of the burden for responsibility they'd place upon us, if we did.

Intellectualizing, theorizing, making 'helpful suggestions' how to get along with psychopathy, maybe even befriend it or put it on our agenda (take it off its own? yeah, right) -- how long until the sobering lesson is learned? Or will it ever be? Do we just go on making the same blunders? I'm just wondering, as I do.

If not, if there is hope -- then how many times must we repeat the mistake, before realizing? To become Dracula's friend or servant, thanking god he bit someone else and drained their blood not ours (this time) -- is invariably catastrophic and lacks principle no matter how it kids itself.

That's the process right there, for all to see -- how good becomes slave to evil. Let's make sacrifices to appease, and thus placate aggression, so it doesn't do worse! Why don't we allow the dragon to eat one of our own, say once a year, and just put up with it. True, its too bad about the one we sacrifice; but its their blood not ours. Better them than us!

One can plainly see by merely looking (if not worried what might be revealed to sight) -- of becoming party to aggression, complicit with evil? If the harmful consequences of trying to 'work with evil' were limited to the blunderer, there'd be no larger issue. Problem is, the fallout from feeding in (= not setting limits) lands on all -- not just the one who made the mistake. How does it happen (over and again)? Simple - by failure to realize the issues created by aggression, misguided 'good intention.'

Always a comfort, I'm sure, that someone means well. If only that alone could suffice. If only good intentions could take the place of sound method and clear intent, aware of the 'reality factors' for critical understanding. Like Churchill but not his nobly peaceful predecessor Chamberlain -- falling for Dracula's line left and right like an idiot ... ultimately portending tragically horrifying consequences.

[Login](#) or [register](#) to post comments

### Let's clean house

Submitted by [Zog](#) on Sun, 10/30/2011 - 10:13.

I think the science of eugenics could be applied to this problem.

[Login](#) or [register](#) to post comments

### Ackers as Van Helsing?

Submitted by [Jonathan Zap](#) on Sun, 10/30/2011 - 10:23.

Jonathan Zap of zaporacle.com So Brian, from what I can tell, because some of yours sentences are fairly opaque, you appear to be trying to set up a straw man, me as Neville Chamberlain, an apologist and naive appeaser of evil and you as Van Helsing, an experienced monster hunter. This is a kind of cartoon your mind has laid over my article, but it's not where I'm coming from. I've had plenty of first hand encounters with evil that seemed pretty irredeemable. I grew up in the Bronx during the Wild West years, went to school in the South Bronx. Later I taught and was building security coordinator of a public high school in the South Bronx



during the crack epidemic. I taught at the Bronx House of Detention a prison in the South Bronx. I was named after someone who died in the holocaust, etc., etc. I never said I had a method to remediate evil. I've often quote a Native American story about a woman who befriends and nurses back to health a rattlesnake. One day the snake bites her and she lays dying she asks in a plaintive voice, "Why?" The snake replies, "What did you expect bitch, I'm a snake."

[Login](#) or [register](#) to post comments

#### And?

Submitted by **Brian P. Akers** on Sun, 10/30/2011 - 11:10.

You're saying we have different point of view. Agreed. I don't have issue with that. You express yours. Good. I express mine.

For me, no occasion for debate or whatever. Only to present the perspective I do, as I do.

Perhaps one minor point interest for me -- Native American story you say? Can that be sourced as such? If so I'd be interested in the info.

To my knowledge, its a minor pop chart song from the 1960's -- "The Snake" by Al Wilson; though I don't recall he addresses anyone as "bitch." No doubt, clear narrative-mythological precedents (especially like Genesis!). But Native American??

I don't know of any and would be delighted to confirm the fact, if so. As usual, not theorizing, nothing intellectual or etc. Just corroboration, if the fact can be verified/clarified. Thank you if so.

[Login](#) or [register](#) to post comments

#### The stupor of the headhunter

Submitted by **Brian George** on Sun, 10/30/2011 - 23:06.

Hi Jonathan,

I am trying to think of a way to ask this question, and I can't quite figure how to put it. I don't want to sound naive! Let me phrase it in a traditional way, and ask: Do you think that a psychopath has a Soul? It would be all too easy to define a psychopath as no more than an anger-driven, thrill-seeking bunch of psycho-sexual impulses--a flat projection of the reptile brain, a kind of Golem-like imitation human. But can anyone be reduced to such a list? It seems likely that, in some dimension, each psychopath must indeed possess a "higher self," however clouded its light may have become.

It is general knowledge, as you say, that psychopaths are well-armored against criticism, glib when caught in crimes, contemptuous of moral exhortations, and pretty much indifferent to being other than what they are. And why should they change, really, when any and all problems are--by definition--somebody else's fault? If some do-gooder were to attempt to teach him empathy by example, this would simply be taken as the gesture of a fool, who, in the process, has only managed to pin a target on his back.

In short: Do you think that there is any possibility that contact with the "higher self" could be reactivated, or is the psychopath lost for the length of his present incarnation, and perhaps beyond? I am thinking about the Buddha's catalytic effect on the

cannibal headhunter Alavaka. Do you know of any psychopaths in recent history that have somehow learned how to feel?

[Login](#) or [register](#) to post comments

### **Damaru was a great warrior**

Submitted by **Fu Sci** on Sun, 10/30/2011 - 23:36.

Damaru was a great warrior and heroic actions. Though crass and harsh, without him you are defenseless against the gathering storm. Gather around the dharma guardian is dead, you are warriors now, prepare for death. There will be bloodshed. Clutch your loved ones close, the reaping hatred of death and chaos has come to seize our earth. And now we stand alone without protectors, if only you had listened to his instructions, now we go unprepared upon the wake of breaking waves. The water turned to steam when it came against his person. But letting his guard down with the white queen, he had traded great virtue for her heart, and unknown to the lovers, they had been set upon for death by the dark lord. Damaru's spirit remains, diffusive and pervasive across the landscape, the guardians soul traverses hell realms conqueror for the aeternum. I found him dead with his love in his arms, an expression on his face I had never seen. Though he was ice cold and they had been dead for many days, the slightest of smiles. No need to bother with coins upon his eyes, the ice froze them shut, and the ferry man will regret his position.

Squeezing blood from a white rose under moon during the first snowfall; your breathe is the wind in my ears, your heart is the sunset behind the earth. The dark season comes and your touch is brisk and frigid, to caress your cold embrace and know your deepest love. At a great distance I felt your eyes track across my mind. The hills too have eyes and keep their secrets far after the snow melts. The longing and fear blend together and become one , when we last kissed I felt your regret at my leaving, times had changed once again and this time I didn't know if I was coming back. When I got word of your illness I came as fast as would carry. Always I have longed for you, always I must relent upon our brief cordiality. Stabbed by night with many wounds through dark corridors, I lost my way, I beckoned to your love. For I had arrived to late, the poison had entered your veins, and there was just the corpse that remained. I cut my hand to the rose thorns and put my blood upon your breast, so cold my dying bride. 3 days ride, and trapped under ice, I found the strength in you. Persistence in vain to find her asleep forever in a bed of ice and pedals. From here I can go no further, the barbs pierce deep my soul, and it withers upon your corpse my love! Lay me down to die beside your pale reflection I shall give this body here to protect your passage, and pay the ferry man in his blood. Forever in death, and for always. The 2 Owls above the awning, The horse now runs free. I take this blade upon your hand, and plunge it into my heart, soon now my love, we will sleep forever.

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=fKCgV\\_C-Lw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fKCgV_C-Lw)

[Login](#) or [register](#) to post comments

### **Turn the law wheel**

Submitted by **Fu Sci** on Mon, 10/31/2011 - 00:20.

You see now? Damaru had traded his craven blood lust for demons in for the loving embrace of a human female. And he was tricked in this way, taken advantage of by the dark lord. He had told me of the visions and dreams of his undoing, but persisted in this for his love was great and strong, willful and insolent. These things subsided in the presence of the white queen for reasons of her great compassion and eternal love. The tragedy of a love manipulated from the outset by great wickedness. I warned him to keep to the practice, to turn the law wheel and allow his insights and intuitions to guide him. He had become somewhat detached from many rebirths, the killing blends together into a red myst over ones mind. Carrying these

hollow virtues, and enacting them in death drives many warriors to themselves become demons- And maybe this was the better fate for such a man as this.

If Damaru persisted in his ways the dark lord had plans to use his strength against him, to turn him into a demon. Already I had seen his horns growing larger, trying to shave them and conceal them beneath armour didn't bode well with the 7 sects and the order of the high council. He could no longer conceal his bloodlust, his iris had turned an opaque red. There was no reprieve for such a man. His love kept him human, and also became his undoing.

The dark lord is of great and unfathomable power. But residing in place of ignorance his ambitions and control is limited to extending the realm of his power, and of course the great luminescent void is his tomb, refusing to acknowledge his temporal self he has created a peripheral realm form which he has been attempting to control since the coming of the light. Damaru lived only to pierce the heart of the dark lord and feel the cold blood of 10,000 snakes spray through the autumnal myst. The lake of demons blood is his doing. They feared his power, indeed it is said that the dark lord had visions of his realm falling to a human. The haunting thing to Damaru was that he had shared this vision, and knew that the realm did not just fall to him, but he was to become its emperor.

I would theorize that the dark lord beset upon Damaru the love of the white queen in order to keep him from his throne, and also to rid of his greatest foe. For if Damaru had conquered the dark lord, the demons enslavement would turn to Damaru as their master, and instantly he would be corrupted by this power, for he was just a man, and so his heart beat inside his chest and his ire stirred the myst in the troll bogs. Damaru was the dark horse on the board of 64 squares.

[Login](#) or [register](#) to post comments

#### **Gather around your warriors now.**

Submitted by **Fu Sci** on Mon, 10/31/2011 - 00:41.

There is not one who is prepared... We must meditate now, and create a unified field with which to dispell the great wickedness. Arm yourselves with correct intentions, and defend yourselves with clear awareness; spiritual warfare.

<http://www.unifyearth.com/>

<http://www.peace2012.net/>

The time draws near. Build the castle. And on the walls scribe 10,000 incantations.

[Login](#) or [register](#) to post comments

#### **Treatment of personality disorders**

Submitted by **Blow\_In** on Mon, 10/31/2011 - 07:17.

Many years ago I saw a documentary on Public Television about a woman that had developed a treatment for psychopathy. It was a simple bio feedback technique.. Patches were placed on the patients head that measured blood flow to the prefrontal cortex. These were hooked up somehow to a Pacman game.

When the blood flow increased the Pacman would eat dots. When the blood flow decreased Pacman stopped. The patient was a boy about 16 from a very normal family. His behavior improved considerably after treatment. The boy himself said that this therapy had saved his life.

[Google prefronal cortex to understand it's function]

I have never seen any follow up on this and wonder if anyone else has heard of it.

-----

Also, I think that slipping into the psychopathic predatory mode of thinking can be very useful at times. I discovered this when group of thugs threatened 3 of us while we were psychedelized. We became fierce and the thugs backed down. It felt great actually. No fear, no equivocating, just pure, hyper alert, animal power.

I call that state my inner caveman and have used it a few times to protect myself from people that misjudged my cooperative nature as a sign of weakness. I can control it, and it has never ended up in an actual fight. I guess that my body language communicated the fact that I was willing to take this confrontation to the wall.

The power of my caveman feels good, but not as good as the pleasure I have derived from empathetic corporation activities.

Most of the time I deal with sociopathic, narcissistic types by becoming totally boring. If they can't get a reaction to their bullshit they just go away.

[Login](#) or [register](#) to post comments

### Catching Up

Submitted by [Jonathan Zap](#) on Mon, 10/31/2011 - 08:46.

Jonathan Zap of zaporacle.com Brian A. ---No source on the story. I wouldn't be surprised if it's like the letter of Indian Chief Seattle, a modern creation retro-dated to an indigenous culture to build coolness. That technique is actually ancient and was used to backdate books of the Bible, the prophecies of Daniel, for example. Brian G. Good question. I imagine that this would vary case-by-case. Psychopaths are known to mellow with age. It's own a spectrum, so borderline psychopaths probably are redeemable. As far as whether they have souls--I don't see why not, but obviously their souls may be truncated and in poor shape to cross the event horizon of death. As analogy, someone with final stage brain cancer still has a brain. And Blow\_In makes an intriguing observation about accessing your inner caveman or predator. I've had that experience too. Perhaps psychopathy is a survival adaptation that in a normal person clicks in under special circumstances---a saber tooth tiger is stalking you---good time to shut off emotion and be cold and calculating. For the psychopath that survival mechanism is stuck in the on position. A defect, but one that doesn't keep them from passing on their genetics---quite the opposite----so it has slowly become more prevalent.

[Login](#) or [register](#) to post comments

### Obliged

Submitted by [Brian P. Akers](#) on Thu, 11/03/2011 - 08:58.

Your straightforward reply on my question is appreciated.

[Login](#) or [register](#) to post comments

### Trust but verify

Submitted by [Brian George](#) on Mon, 10/31/2011 - 10:06.

Hi Jonathan,

I wanted to comment on your idea of using a sociopath to catch a sociopath. With careful monitoring, I think that it could work. Mr. Akers seems to be advocating a "You're either with us or with the terrorists" approach. Well, that isn't always foolproof, as we have seen. Evil does exist, but it can be a mistake to attribute to it vast mythological powers. Much evil is, indeed, banal, and only appears strong because of our ignorance and the mystique that we lend to it.

As a society, we make a great many "bargains with the Devil," and, whether rightly or wrongly, we believe that our very

survival depends upon some use of “controlled lethality.” On Wall Street, for example, we trust sociopathic hustlers to make vast amounts of money for themselves, in the hope that some portion of the wealth will “trickle down.” And it’s not as if we are unaware of what Wall Street firms are capable of; financial speculation and corruption have fueled countless boom and bust cycles, which have caused incomparably more suffering than all the serial killers who ever lived. Why is it such a problem to employ a sociopath to attempt to take back a little of what another sociopath stole?

The military is another illustration of a bargain with the Devil. In the current climate, Guantanamo and Abu Ghraib are not aberrations, and then there are all of the dead Iraqi civilians that nobody seems to notice or to talk about. 120,000 is one official estimate—but who knows? It is so unimportant that we have not really bothered to count. We could no doubt do things in far better ways. My point is that, in practice, most societies do tend to do exactly what you suggest—to strategically make use of the particular talents of the sociopath, or, at a minimum, to activate and harness their members’ sociopathic shadows. Sometimes this works. At other times—such as now—it tends to blow up in our faces.

The key thing is perhaps transparency. It would probably be best, too, to remove the fox from his role of supervisor of the chicken coop. Somehow “regulation” has become a dirty word.

How does that saying go?—Something like, “The greatest achievement of the Devil is to convince us that he doesn’t exist.” In the same way, sociopaths in high places have convinced us that “markets are self-regulating,” that the jet-setting heirs to family fortunes are heroic Ayn Randian “job creators”—veritable Atlases!—and that the best thing that the victim of the Stockholm Syndrome can do is to kiss the hand of his/ her captor. So too: that the 3497 of our 9/11 dead must be avenged by the murder of 120,000—and still climbing—innocent civilians in Iraq, that US citizens can be arrested and detained for a lifetime without being charged, and that midnight military tribunals are an substitute for Justice. A bit of intelligent oversight might be nice.

In the end: Sociopathic evil, as sly and charismatic as it is, is generally not quite as strong as goodness that is active—as opposed to merely polite—and that does not allow itself to be treated like a mark.

--New posts every 2-3 days on my blog Masks of Origin

<http://masksoforigin.blogspot.com/>

[Login](#) or [register](#) to post comments

**(ahem) "Mr Akers"? -- if you don't mind:**

Submitted by **Brian P. Akers** on Sat, 11/12/2011 - 15:30.

The core idea in this article, which you seem to endorse if I follow, is: hey, here's an idea -- Let's Put Fox in Charge of the Hen House. (Since fox knows how foxes think, and we've got this fox problem, and .... etc, as article details).

Actually my point ("seems to be" aside): the suggestion of having fox to guard against foxes is neither a good idea, nor is it anything new. Its old and moldy, been done before, many ways and times -- always to catastrophic effect. Like something makes sense about it in the first place !?!?

Worse trouble with it is, consequences of its inevitable and disastrous failure aren't limited to its architects and advocates. They fall upon all (one little planet here).

We've had to learn this sobering lesson over and over again.

The historic pattern, last act, hue and cry: Hey -- "Who Put The Fox In Charge of The Hen House?"

You know, discussion is one thing, I don't mind intelligent, principled disagreement. I value it. But on that basis, I'm not so sure about your using my name thus:

(your post): "Mr. Akers seems to be advocating a 'You're either with us or with the terrorists' approach."

I question whether the "Mr Akers" stunt has respectable basis. Did you mean it as a discourtesy? It would make sense if so. No reasonably fair reading of anything I said could lend, even remotely, to such misinterpretation. I don't know what you were thinking, using my name that way. It was uncalled for, I'd rather you not done that.

Seems to me, one must have some minimal understanding of a point of view as expressed (mine, or whoever's) -- in order to answer it with any good reason or validity. Obviously our points of view differ sharply, as I gather.

[Login](#) or [register](#) to post comments

#### **"Mr. Akers"--No disrespect intended**

Submitted by **Brian George** on Sun, 11/13/2011 - 14:35.

Hi Brian P. Akers,

Just to clarify: no disrespect of any type was intended in my reference to you as "Mr. Akers," and I can't imagine why you would think such a thing. Krisnamurti would often address audience members who asked questions as "Sir," and there are any number of situations where I might feel an impulse towards a certain degree of formality. Since we had never exchanged comments, "Brian" seemed too informal. Also, it seemed like a potential source of confusion, since we share the same first name. "Brian P. Akers" seemed somewhat long--although, in the three-page essay that grew out of my comment on this article, this is how I decided to refer to you.

In any case, I always look forward to your insightful and energetically argued comments. On this issue, I suspect that we do disagree in some significant ways, although it is curious that you would refer to my reference to the fox guarding the chicken coop as one source of disagreement. What I said was, "The key thing is perhaps transparency. It would probably be best, too, to remove the fox from his role as supervisor of the chicken coop. Somehow 'regulation' has become a dirty word." I believe that this is similar to your own position. I certainly don't have any easy answers when it comes to the sociopathic behavior of elites.

From the age of 16 or so, I have been somewhat obsessed with coming to terms with the immovable fact of evil, and have explored any number of perspectives in an attempt to get to its source. Yes, I am "for" Good, and "against" Evil, but I don't think that this really explains very much, and such an attitude can leave one unprepared for how these two apparent opposites interact--i.e, in attempting to overcome evil, our sense of righteousness can become a mask for the very evil that we attempt to overcome.

In my response to Jonathan Zap, I was entertaining the position that he puts forth in his article, and saying to myself,

"What if." I do not know that I necessarily agree with him. The point that I was making in my response was somewhat different: that, as a society, we have already made quite a few "bargains with the Devil," in which we have collectively agreed to turn a blind eye to certain forms of sociopathic behavior.

And finally, let me direct your attention to the closing paragraph of my response, which also strikes me as something with which you might agree. It reads, "In the end: Sociopathic evil, as sly and charismatic as it is, is generally not quite as strong as goodness that is active—as opposed to merely polite—and that does not allow itself to be treated like a mark."

Here is an excerpt from an essay that I am working on about the 19th Century black leader Alexander Crummell. It is called "A Slow Return to Brooklyn," and is about, among other things, our ability to turn a blind eye to such forms of institutionalized violence as slavery. Here are two short sections towards the end:

7

As I started work on the last section, I tuned my radio to the *Harvard Acoustic Blues Hour*. A 19th Century spiritual was playing. Speaking to the heart of the moment, it instructed me: "I went to the rock to hide my face. The rock cried out, 'No hiding place! There is no hiding place down there.'" In short, the transparency of space is not a meditative achievement; it is rather something that we ignore at our own risk.

We know, from our own experience, what it feels like to compromise with evil. It feels like nothing much. Self-hatred comes and goes like a tourist circling a sacrificial altar. The voice of the higher self is soft, but not seductive.

I do not choose to know what terrorized child made the inexpensive shirt from Sri Lanka that I'm wearing. Perhaps my shoes were made in a virtual slave labor camp. It is not important that my VCR was assembled by Chinese political prisoners inside a compound patrolled by guard dogs—dogs that do not growl as they move in for the kill, should any organ donor be so ignorant as to escape.

Al Queda is responsible for terrorism. Terror is not now and has never been a technique of postmodern management.

An insult to the honor of the global economy is a crime, which must be punished by extraordinary rendition of the citizen to Uzbekistan. It is not impossible that a Third World labor leader could be beaten, or even shot. By such methods, Marxist *agent provocateurs* will seek to discredit the Free Market. They hate freedom, do not believe that Big Macs are really food, and are skeptical about the genius of our system.

As they are analyzing reality, we will have already created a new framework for the world, and still another one after that. Drug supply lines that the CIA had once set up for the Contras can just as easily be used to smuggle girls.

Once, Africa was called the Dark Continent. We have lit it up. Tantalum, a rare earth element used in cell-phones and computers, is worth 132 dollars per pound, with a total market value in the range of eight billion per year. This estimate is low; it will soon rise. Wall Street visionaries have created thousands of new jobs in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Child-miners can make as much as 45 cents per hour, if they are not shredded on their way to work.

In the end, however, it is possible that this is all disinformation. An awareness of such issues does not contribute to our standard of living. There are questions that we are careful not to ask.

8

“Look,” we say as we hold up our hands palm outwards, “they are clean. The hands of that sweat shop manager from Timbuktu are dirty. He should wash them. Mandates imposed by IMF specify that there should always be enough soap. The hands of that armed guard at the Westinghouse plant in the Tacheng Prefecture are dirty; he has brought shame on the Xinjiang Autonomous Region! My hands are clean.”

New posts every 2-3 days on my blog [Masks of Origin](http://masksoforigin.blogspot.com/)

<http://masksoforigin.blogspot.com/>

[Login](#) or [register](#) to post comments

#### Mr. Akers

Submitted by **Ronin The Nautilus** on Sun, 11/13/2011 - 02:02.

Mr. Akers <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VKW1ICkeGmg> <p>

Mr. Akers [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G\\_1DSTS5-yI&feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G_1DSTS5-yI&feature=related) <p>

Mr. Akers Mr. Akers Mr. Akers... <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7SaabMuP8Mw> <p>

- Mr. Akers

[Login](#) or [register](#) to post comments

#### The animatronic organs of Democracy

Submitted by **Brian George** on Sun, 11/13/2011 - 12:39.

Hi Brian P. Akers,

It seems that we read Jonathan Zap's "Foxes and Reptiles" in very different ways. Being tuned in to the imminent dangers of sociopathy, you seem to have taken Jonathan's premise—of using a sociopath to catch a sociopath—at face value, and then gone on to imagine and comment on the possible real-world consequences. I read this idea as more of a "hook" on which to hang a meditation about psychopathy and sociopathy—i.e., how these supposedly fringe forms of behavior are actually at the center of our culture, and have—more or less invisibly—metastasized to affect all of our key systems. I did not read Jonathan's piece as a list of practical policy suggestions. In terms of practical policies and laws, I suspect that we would not disagree.

As to my understanding and interpretation of your comments—which I read a number of times over—it was statements such as these that prompted my "you're either with us or with the terrorists" categorization:

“But any notion that evil or manipulative psycho-malignancy can be hitched up to our wagons—plays right into its hands. Evil loves such good but misguided idea, and will eagerly ingratiate and reward it, play along. For its own purposes, against ours. To afford it an opening of any least kind, is only to woo, court and flirt with disaster.”

“Psychopathy rests on inherently violent interests or abusive purposes. Period. No matter how sneaky, we have a vital interest, for the security of our interests—as well as that of the entire society—to recognize that stuff for exactly what it is. And deal with it accordingly, by the gentle but firm, on Best Practices and sound advisement. Otherwise, we become its host or prey, no ifs ands or buts.”

To which I responded, “Evil does exist, but it can be a mistake to attribute to it vast mythological powers. Much evil



is, indeed, banal, and only appears strong because of our ignorance and the mystique that we lend to it.”

I do tend to see your statements in terms of the classic “light vs. darkness,” “good vs. evil” approach, which can be found, in an archetypal form, in such works as “Moby Dick,” as well as in such less substantial contemporary versions as “The War on Drugs,” “The Axis of Evil,” and “The War on Terror.” For me, the problem with this gung ho “let’s get the bad guys” approach has less to do with the complexity of evil than it does with our inadequate understanding of the good. In addition, it is always we who are the “good guys;” from the get go, this assumption skews our understanding of the issues. For goodness is, to a great extent, just a particular kind of a mask—behind which many forces move.

For example: in the Calvinist doctrine of predestination, the great percentage of the human race is damned and only a tiny percentage are among the Elect. While God’s will is inscrutable, and it is impossible to know who is or isn’t one of the Elect, it is nonetheless possible to observe the signs of Providence, the foremost of which is usually thought to be wealth. Perhaps Calvin was a subtle theologian—I can’t say—but ever since we have had a tendency to mechanically associate wealth with virtue. Thus the top one percent of plutocrats—who, over the past 30 years have brought our social, economic, and political systems to the verge of total collapse—no doubt see themselves as the embodiment of virtue.

Here is the odd thing about goodness: it can be used as the pretext for any form of action. As in the later days of the Roman Empire, things can look almost exactly as they did—with all symbols, traditions, and institutions on display—and yet, behind the scenes, almost everything has changed. Here is an excerpt from “Trust but Verify” that illustrates this idea. This section is somewhat hyperbolic, but, I think, not off the mark. It reads:

“The current global *laissez-faire* economy is like a body without an immune system.

“Death is imminent; doing nothing is not safe. No laws protect us, and a vast shadow eats the animatronic organs of Democracy—which should leave, in the near future, just a shell. It has been 66 years since happy US soldiers jitterbugged with nurses in the street, or grabbed random strangers to kiss. We had beaten the Axis powers. The Free World loved us. We were a beacon to the dispossessed. Now Corporate Fascism rules. Lawyers are the new *Luftwaffe*. Judges are the *SS*. Hedge funds are the new *Reich Bureau of Occult Affairs*. MSNBC, FOX, and CNN compete for the mantle of *Reich Ministry of Public Enlightenment and Propaganda*. They report all the news that’s fit to be projected, that is to say: Before its Time, and provide us will all viewpoints from A to B.

“In love, from childhood, with the American Dream, we are hesitant to acknowledge that the year is not 1948. A few dollars are left: they will be sent to an off-shore bank in the Caiman Islands. We are not what we were, but at least let it be said that we have kept up our appearances. No one knows when the Barbarians walked casually in through the gates. Now, they are more inside than we are. They are closer to the Mad Fetus in the control room than we ever were—except, perhaps, at ceremonies for dead heroes in their transfer tubes. There are rings inside of rings, with fail-safe mechanisms at key bioenergetic points. The gods that descend from the Black Sun must be fed. Select Stockholm Syndrome victims may be called upon to remove the remnants of the burnt offering from the table, at which point the law specifies that it be ritually re-sanitized. The Barbarians wasted no time in dismantling the gates, in order to put up their own

gates—which keep us from getting out. The life of the Republic is hanging by a thread. The Supreme Court will soon meet to decide a case about scissors. Perfectly dressed, a force that is not quite human has been scheduled to attack.

“There are those who say that our response is several decades behind the curve.”

--New posts every 2-3 days on my blog Masks of Origin

<http://masksoforigin.blogspot.com/>

[Login](#) or [register](#) to post comments

### A point of order

Submitted by **Brian George** on Tue, 11/15/2011 - 11:31.

Dear Brian P. Akers,

There are several issues that I would like to address in regards to your post “**ahem) "Mr Akers"?** -- if you don't **mind:**”. These are:

1) In the comment –“Trust but Verify”—that seems to have upset you, I only refer to you and your viewpoints in passing, in a single line, in a comment addressed to Jonathan Zap.

2) In response, you characterize my reference to you as “Mr. Akers” as a “stunt,” question whether this “stunt” has a “respectable basis,” and ask “Did you mean it as a discourtesy?” Your assumptions then lead you to conclude, “It would make sense if so.” After questioning my motivations in this fashion, you then go on to imply that I am intellectually incompetent, and clearly unable to read, understand, or analyze your ideas. Lacking even “some minimal understanding of a point of view,” you then wonder how I dare to offer an opinion. Let me speak to these issues separately.

3) As to my reference to you as “Mr. Akers” being a stunt: to me, this seems utterly bizarre. On what planet is referring to someone as “Mr. So and So” regarded as a sign of disrespect?

4) As to my casual summation of your ideas—“i.e., “You’re either with us or with the terrorists”: granted, a single sentence does not do justice to the complexity of your thought process, but neither was it intended as a comprehensive summation or critique. I stand by my assessment. I do tend to see your arguments as falling into the traditional “war of good against evil” mindset. In my previous post, I cite several of the statements that led me to this conclusion.

At times, you seem to speak of sociopathy as though it were a supernatural force—to which the only safe response is a kind of superstitious dread. For example, “(We must) recognize that stuff for exactly what it is, and deal with it accordingly...Otherwise, we become its host or prey, no ifs ands or buts.” I would argue that this is to grant too much power to a pathology. My own attitude is as follows: caution is good, but fear is counterproductive.

5) As to my intellectual competence, or lack thereof, and how this bears on my right to disagree with your viewpoints: whatever subtle ideas and arguments might exist within your mind—which you somehow expect me to be able to intuit—I can only respond to what you actually write.

6) Quite strangely, at the same time that you accuse me of a careless reading of your comments, you put words into my mouth, and argue that I am saying the exact opposite of what I said. You wrote “The core idea in this article, which you seem to endorse if I follow, is: hey, here's an idea—Let's Put Fox in Charge of the Hen House... The suggestion of having fox to guard against foxes is neither a good idea, nor is it anything new. It's old and moldy, been done before, many

ways and times—always to catastrophic effect.”

What I actually said was, “It would probably be best, too, to remove the fox from his role of supervisor of the chicken coop. Somehow “regulation” has become a dirty word.” How do you manage to disagree with a statement that is—to all appearances—a slight variation of your own opinion? Don’t ask me!—This would seem to be beyond my “minimal understanding.”

7) In the future, it might be best not to jump to any conclusions about the motives or intellectual competence of other participants in a forum. As Freud said, “Sometimes a cigar is just a cigar,” or, in the situation at hand: sometimes a difference in viewpoints is exactly that, and the use of the word “Mr.” is just a formal mode of address.

[Login](#) or [register](#) to post comments

### Good points BG

Submitted by [Jonathan Zap](#) on Mon, 10/31/2011 - 12:12.

Jonathan Zap of zaporacle.com Psychopaths love a free market in much the same way as predators love a large hunting ground with no park wardens. Or to put it another way: Ted Bundy was a job creator. With every murder ambulance services were contracted, coffin-makers prospered as well as funeral directors, news shows and makers of movies and documentaries. For that matter, Sauron and Saruman were huge job creators. Unemployment amongst orcs dropped by 60% during their campaign to take over Middle Earth. Economic activity, employment and many new infrastructure improvements in Mordor collapsed after the job-killing Fellowship of the Ring succeeded in what amounted to a socialist effort to regulate the free market activity of Mordor.

[Login](#) or [register](#) to post comments

### The Psychopathic Singularity

Submitted by [Sean the Sorcerer](#) on Mon, 10/31/2011 - 23:53.

I just wanted to say that this is one of the more insightful and important things I’ve read in a while. I myself probably belong to the 1%, and I think you’ve put your finger on one of the most difficult problems faced by modern civilization. The trusting technologists have built a world which allows us psychopaths to wreak havoc far out of proportion to our numbers. We may even be in the process of taking over the world. Without the old tribal mechanism of “pushing us off the ice,” you are empowering this element to stage an evolutionary coup of epic proportions.

If you want a really disturbing thought, consider the possibility that civilization may actually \*need\* psychopaths and sociopaths to move forward, because the sentimental values of small tribes and ancestral religions have become impediments to higher levels of order, organization and power. This could be a case of Howard Bloom’s “Lucifer Principle” in action – you might call it the Psychopathic Singularity, and to me it seems like a real possibility. I have embraced the Dark Side myself of late, because the Light Side just seems weak and ineffectual in a world that rewards only power.

Sean the Sorcerer  
seanthesorcerer.blogspot.com

[Login](#) or [register](#) to post comments

### We do not make ourselves

Submitted by [Blow\\_In](#) on Tue, 11/01/2011 - 07:12.

You poor dear person. You did not make yourself. You delusionary masters of the universe always fail to head the advice that Machavelli gave the Prince.

Your inability to access all of the brains abilities makes it impossible for you to understand what he said.

Hope you get better soon.

[Login](#) or [register](#) to post comments

#### **crossroad**

Submitted by [zypmht](#) on Wed, 11/02/2011 - 19:53.

Great article Jonathan. This has really caused me look at my fellow human beings in a new way. I am a gentle and trusting soul, and I can vividly remember encounters with what I now suppose were psychopaths.

The comment by Sean the Sorcerer is very interesting. It suggests that perhaps these people see us as just as confused and misguided as we see them. Who is to say who is "right"? Perhaps these transformative times are affecting them in very different ways, ways that are not tending toward peace, love, understanding, emotional support, harmony, beautitude, interconnection and all things we typically ascribe to an evolved consciousness. I know where I stand. Sean knows where he stands. All is as it should be.

*A step in any direction brings answers  
yet still deeper questions,  
glimpses of a legacy unraveling to a singular truth,  
awesome in its simplicity and complete indifference.*

-- [Zypmht](#)

[Login](#) or [register](#) to post comments

#### **Good vs. Evil vs. Reason vs. Good**

Submitted by [LionKimbrow](#) on Wed, 11/02/2011 - 04:15.

I played a video game that explained the powers of magic this way: In a battle between good and evil, the result is obvious: Good defeats evil. However, there is a third element: Reason. Between reason and evil, *evil wins*. But between good and reason, *reason wins*.

[Login](#) or [register](#) to post comments

#### **Special guest Master Shen for today's lesson. Featuring Jack B.**

Submitted by [Fu Sci](#) on Wed, 11/02/2011 - 12:52.

1:25-4:06 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jh--UV-6k-Q> 4:13

Jack tells it like it is... <http://www.youtube.com>

[/watch?v=bQoiBIUe0zQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bQoiBIUe0zQ) Egg Shen vs. Lo Pan "I WON THAT SHIT MOTHERFUCKER! I WON THAT FUCKING SHIT!"

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U6NHqc9RJk4>

[Login](#) or [register](#) to post comments

#### **found on zaporacle.com... far, far below the "donate" button**

Submitted by [rajajuju](#) on Wed, 11/02/2011 - 17:37.

Warriors have an ulterior purpose for their acts which has nothing to do with personal gain. The average man acts only if there is a chance for profit. Warriors act not for profit, but for the spirit.

— —*Don Juan as reported by hoaxer and visionary genius  
Carlos Casteneda*

[Login](#) or [register](#) to post comments

**Since this is a site for**

Submitted by **khicks88** on Sun, 11/06/2011 - 09:03.

Since this is a site for evolving consciousness, I feel the need to say that this article doesn't represent any higher of a consciousness than what is mainstream. There is not really such a thing as a 'psychopath'. There are people who may be in what could be considered a 'psychopathic state', but I don't think that it helps to label these people as being this way or that. These people are just as human and real as anyone else but perhaps have not been able to fully understand who they are and what they are doing. Everyone is guilty of this.

[Login](#) or [register](#) to post comments

1 2 [next](#) › [last](#) »



**You are what you eat.**

[Privacy](#)

[Advertise](#)

[Contact Us](#)



**CivicActions**  
Empowered

Creative Direction [www.nowherenyc.com](http://www.nowherenyc.com)