

Psychological Escalation

Woe to those who draw sin along with cords of deceit, and wickedness as with cart ropes, to those who say, "Let God hurry, let him hasten his work so we may see it. Let it approach, let the plan of the Holy One of Israel come, so we may know it."

Isaiah 5:18-19

This is the content of email sent 27 July 2005 to the relevant church (it has been slightly edited to remove names), There are times in history where God raises up souls to make a stand on a matter of justice, but the players concerned become captive to the deceiver's machinations and continue their program blindly. Such souls become "drunk" with power and violence and so enmeshed in the snares of deception that they no longer their immediate peril to their souls well-being.

This email serves two purposes. Firstly, it helps build a language to further describe how such vicious forms develop. Secondly, it can serve as a signpost warning the wise to desist and extract themselves from ungodly associations. Thirdly, it is generic and thus people can recognize the behaviour at both the micro (individual) and macro (institute or state) levels. Fourthly, it again reminds us that there are elements of the human condition that need to be managed, irregardless of the particular point in history; or our personal wealth, intellect, technology, or legal structures.

* * *

Shortcut to: <http://edition.cnn.com/2005/WORLD/meast/07/26/egypt.explosions.ap/index.html>

The CNN article linked above contains some insight into the psychology of these terrorists. Specifically:

"One of the two groups that claimed responsibility for the attacks warned in a new Web statement posted Monday of a "total war" unless "Jews and Christians leave our country within 60 days."

If not, "you will see what you've never dreamed of," said the statement by the Holy Warriors of Egypt, signed by its "general leader, Hamoudi al-Masri," an apparent pseudonym. The message had numerous grammatical mistakes in Arabic."

My personal take is based on being raised by a father that could be called a misogynistic "anti-social oppositional-defiant conduct disorder", and a husband that could be classified as an "inverted narcissist". I've been trying to understand these terrorists since World Trade Centre and consider that what we are dealing with at the leadership level is such individuals who are colluding to "satisfy" their psychological drives.

Thus we are looking at serial rapists and/or killers who are "inverted" and thus fit the sexual predator profile. Even more scarily, they are co-operating to create environments where they have easy access to prey.

If we don't already have criminal psychologists looking at these guys profiles, then it is probably time to call them in.

To give you a broad brush stroke, which the experts can tweak out the rough patches, let's consider the evolution of a serial rapist/killer in a "normal" suburban house.

Such person might start out as a child that is a bit more rough than others, perhaps shows a tendency to cruelty to animals and bullying in the school ground. The inverted types continue to have their internal aggression, but learn to internalise their hate to avoid punishment and recrimination by the family/school/legal system. However, their internal drive is not satisfied.

These individuals may continue to subtly feed their aggressive tendencies e.g. horror movies/computer games; passive aggression, sabotage or white-anting.

They often hold grudges for many years, and when they think they have the opportunity to gain retribution on a perceived enemy will act out that retribution. The inverted types might do it very subtly so that blame can not be attributed to themselves e.g. arranging "hit men", a series of small "accidents", corruption e.g. entrapment or enticement or blackmail (referring "bad circle" leaders to entice them into gambling/drug addictions etc.). The methods and subtlety employed by an individual are a reflection on their combination of intelligence, experience, degree of sociopathy (lack of empathy or compassion), wealth, interpersonal skills (some people are so disturbed they can not socially function, others are very socially functional and charming; and thus these are even more dangerous), standing in the community (someone who comes from a 'nice' family or a powerful organised crime family) and thus either "wouldn't do such things" or "is authorised by rank within criminal element".

Let's go back to our incipient criminal. They've managed to keep their aggression passive, only using the "decent" outlets as prescribed by "normal society". That is they might be a bit misogynistic, enjoy playing "rough", engaging in hateful or violent entertainment media. Now on a narcissist continuum, for some people this is enough and they are not driven to go further (though may be easily drawn into further exploration should society or their peers give them approval or opportunity).

However, for some individuals their cravings are not satisfied. So then they start to fantasise for example, how they would like to abuse a young woman. Again for some this might stay at this level, but for some it is not enough. So then they start to "act out" their fantasy. Again this might be at a low level and thus escape police attention.

However, again there are some individuals who are not satisfied and continue to escalate. These people have now consciously entered a path that the police dread, namely that they will continue to source and act out their fantasies. However, their addiction is not satisfied, and in fact every time they get a "hit" it is less satisfactory than the previous time (they try to catch the "joy" of the first hit, but curiously find themselves less and less satisfied). Thus such individuals will often escalate further (going from date rape; to rape and abduction; to rape and murder; to rape, torture and murder...)

They try to gain as much enjoyment as possible (When I was growing up there was a case of a male/female couple abducting young women and tying them to a bed. One woman escaped and said that she'd been threatened and raped over many weeks, with the female acting as an accomplice and verbally rewarding the male for his actions. My own father raped my mother in front of my sister and I when we were 10/12; during that night he told our mother that he would rape us if she didn't consent. My sister and I went to run away and he told us he would rape us if we left the room. My sister could not stop crying and on the third rape of my mother he verbally kept himself aroused by stating that he was going to rape my 10-year-old sister if she didn't stop crying). This is an extreme version of a woman who getting "date raped" because the man paid for dinner so was entitled to sex. Another young woman being raped because she was out after dark or wore promiscuous clothing. Or the woman in an African village who is raped in front of her family because she is a Christian.

So what? Well, the terrorists are trying to say that people are being bombed because "they deserve it". It is peoples' faults for being Christian/Jew/not like them.

Now, I can tell you from my own childhood, that this is just a ruse. You can not satisfy these people. My father would rape me and tell me it was because the house wasn't clean. So I would clean the house. He would then rape me another day because the garden wasn't tidy. So I would spend weekends helping in the garden. He would then rape me because my mother had not given him sex the night before. At the end of the day, there was always an excuse, and the demands were unrealistic and unfulfillable.

Now in my late teens and early twenties, I had a really hard time. The Christians would tell me it was my fault because I didn't believe in Jesus or hadn't prayed sincerely enough. The Buddhists Hindus would tell me that it was my fault because it was karma from previous lifetimes. The misogynists would tell me that I deserved it because I was female and thus due punishment and no assistance because it was a woman's fault that men were no longer in the garden of Eden. Then there were the attempts to tell me that it was my fault because I didn't behave appropriately, and that if I had been more (whatever) that I wouldn't have provoked such attacks. My present personal circumstances are either my fault because I did not love my husband enough and warn him in an appropriate way of the errors and dangers of his decisions and actions, or my fault because I did not love and trust unconditionally enough and give more endlessly and submissively, or my fault because I worked to mitigate against rather than collude with his pathologies.

Again, all these personal failures and experience once more come into play when understanding these criminal terrorists.

Namely, that such individuals will project responsibility and culpability onto the other person, initially to deny the horror of their own psyche and later to enhance satisfaction of their aggressive lusts - adding emotional, spiritual and psychological torture to the physical intimidation and violence.

Further, we can see how their demands are unfulfillable. For example in the above article. It would be fair to say that globally more people today are scared of terrorism and see it as a real personal threat than even in the first three days after the World Trade Centre. If that is the case, then one can see the bankruptcy of these peoples' psyches, in that they need to escalate violence even further, despite the fact that even more people are scared today than ever before. This merely confirms that they have unfulfillable needs.

We can also consider what embracing their ideology means. Let's go and look at Afghanistan before the World Trade Centre. The originators who crystallised this current form of evil and the chance to create the "perfect state" without interference from the outside (in fact we'd helped them "liberate" themselves from a previous oppressor). Here we see a society that had banned the arts, had illegalised education and working for women, who would deliberately kill men who opposed them so that their widow and six children would slowly starve to death because the mother was not allowed to work, who would remove the fingertips from women who wore nail polish, would use a stadium to casually murder women on some pretext (often with an unsuspecting friend as witness) to enhance the gladiatorial satisfaction of seeing victims suffer, who systematically dismantled infrastructure. This is the brave new world that they would wish to roll out for all humanity.

Now once again, you might be thinking, "why should we listen to this particular woman?". Let's look at some recent chronology that might have escaped the less alert players.

Bob Carr announces that he will not be supporting the anti-vilification legislation. Next day several players come into the website's community forum. They start trouble making and a couple of us are quicker to pick up on it than others. We learn lessons about humility (look at how easily some of us got sucked in, would we have resisted the serpent in the garden of Eden?), about divide and conquer - trying to create problems between various Christian denominations, about trying to

entice us into saying bad things about non-Christians, about then responding "emotionally" because they'd failed to trip us up, to realising that "emotionally outbursts" is part of the anti-vilification roll-out program, to realising that some people acted this way because it was the cultural norm but that there is a hidden core who has deliberate insidious intent, to trying to evangelise to non-Christians, coming to agree that free speech is essential. (And one more time for those who don't get the last point. One of the roll out strategies is for this hidden core is to not act out their vicious lusts where it would cause a backlash. So you never, ever do anything nasty until you have the legal and social framework to neutralise your enemies. Once you think you've got the legal and social framework in place, you can start to use open violence and aggression, because you know have the tools to gag those who would warn others of the forthcoming violence (under vilification). Once this has been rolled out internationally, you can then just move forward with impunity).

At the end of this round of lessons, some of the new comers commented that they hadn't come across discussions like this before, that we weren't reacting the way other people did on other websites. Then there was silence (had they been gagged by the benevolent dictator or mysteriously moved on?). We moved back to other business e.g. praying for the forthcoming G8 conference.

Then the London bombings.

However, the British didn't respond as expected. Their response? "We've been expecting this, and we're not going to back down. In fact, we're even more determined to resolve this problem." Further the G8 leaders and visiting world leaders formed a united front against these people. Further, British leaders from the Protestants, Catholics, Jews, Muslims, made a public statement the next day that this was not a religious movement; but a criminal movement seeking to use a religious cover to justify their criminal lusts.

The world has responded. We are now looking at the problems of managing/identifying these people and how to overcome the damage they have done to countless young men (and possibly some women).

These people are very, very unhappy and are escalating. Based on the quote posted above, we need to be prepared for worst case scenario (e.g. concurrent multiple city attacks, biological weapons). These people are completely insane (and thus evil personified), they do not have the normal boundaries that keep them within God's grace. We should not be surprised at the degree they will travel to try and turn back the tide.

However, we should be encouraged that Daniel, Zechariah, Isaiah and Revelations have all told us this would happen, and that God will prevail. Unfortunately, we do this work not to keep ourselves and our current children safe (many of us are going to be hurt and/or killed) in this short term. We are doing this so that in 60-80 years time our great-grandchildren will be able to have children without fear of living under such totalitarian repressive regimes.

Over the next few weeks, I'll try and put together some theological/philosophical/psychological papers to help you develop models and paradigms to recognise and mitigate such developments in future. These will not be the ultimate texts, but are to be used in augmentation to the other works of other leading thinkers. If we can embrace the possibility of a future with hope, we will see a post-Revelations spiritual and intellectual renaissance beginning with this current generation.

My prayers are with all those who will become part of God's community to fight against such evil, with Jesus as the figurehead providing the key precepts upon which all godly works must be based. May we display faith, compassion, empathy, mercy, love, persistence and strive for justice and truth. Remember our God is an inclusive God, and a God that delights in diversity.

God Bless