

THE PSYCHOPATHIC SOCIETY - PART II

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Because of America's absolutely necessary involvement in the ending of barbarism in the former Yugoslavia, there has been a lot of fulminatory nonsense emanating from the halls of Congress and in the editorial pages of America's newspapers regarding "sending our children into harm's way".

CHILDREN??? WHAT CHILDREN?

Every single hour of every day, America's police personnel, especially in our larger cities, are in far more physical danger than the soldiers we're sending to Bosnia will ever be. Yet no Senators or Members of the House of Representatives, or media "Talking Heads" ever shed crocodile tears about "sending kids into harm's way". Alleged "experts" who babble knowingly about a "Balkan Quagmire" never, ever, for one moment think about the quagmire of America's "inner cities" or declare the constant fatalities therein "unacceptable". Why not? People who serve as police personnel are all fully aware that danger will be their constant every day companion. But no one seems to care beyond their "near and dear".

The same is far less true as regards military personnel, for they know full well that they will be endangered only in extremely exceptional circumstances, and they are fully cognizant of this when they enlist. In an all volunteer military, no one serves unwillingly. To enlist is an informed act of consent made by adults. To enlist is to consent to being endangered when geopolitical circumstances dictate. Soldiers serving in a war zone for any reason sometimes get killed, that, after all, is what soldiers "do" and are, why is this so astonishing to America's professional whiners?

Americans gleefully watched on their television sets (while eating dinner) while their "children" played with their grown-up equivalent of Atari Games and those "games" "smart missiles" found their ways into ventilation ducts or chimneys and totally destroyed large buildings sealing all those inside them into rubble filled tombs. Americans seemed both pleased enough and proud enough when their armed forces literally "rolled over" and buried in the sand some two or three hundred thousand Iraqis, many of them buried alive, but even one American in a body bag in return is seen as unacceptable. Don't they see that there's something wrong with that attitude. If it's perfectly "o.k." for Americans to kill other people, but not "O.K." for other people to fight back, then Americans have to start looking at alternatives to military action, and in this case there's only one. Why do they not recognize the only alternative?

That alternative is:

IF YOU DON'T WANT TO ENDANGER YOUR TROOPS FOR ANY REASON, IF YOU DON'T WANT ALL YOUR SHINY MILITARY TOYS DAMAGED, THEN DON'T HAVE A MILITARY.

Spend all those trillions on something you actually need and are willing to use, education and health care for all, for instance. Why maintain a violently expensive military force when all you seem willing to do with it is brag about it, provide maximum livelihood for flag officers and defense contractors, and once in a while, protect the profits of oil companies and other multinational corporations?

The circumstances which exist in the Balkans today are very dangerous not simply for the area and people involved, but for all the very complicated and delicate systems of balances of power that maintain the world in such totally insecure peace as it has today. The conflicts in the Balkans have fourteenth century historical basis which are irrelevant and irrational in the 21st Century. These conflicts also have geopolitical basis which are perhaps more relevant but are nonetheless irrational when the possible consequences are considered. Lastly these conflicts, and this is their most basic and irreconcilable cause, are religious in nature; i.e. Roman Catholic (Croat), Eastern Orthodox (Serb), and lastly Muslim (Bosnian). Given these three causative factors and in particular the last one the chances of an unbridled conflict spreading to Albania, Turkey and Greece are extremely great. From there, where would it likely spread next? Bulgaria, Romania, and Slovenia, Slovakia and possibly Hungary come to mind. How far is it from there to a conflict that would engulf all of Europe? Anyone who thinks Russia either would or could stay out of it has never read a history book or heard the Russian "man on the street" wailing about his "poor Serbian brothers.

If it was deemed clearly in America's best interest to save Kuwaiti and Saudi petroleum for our use, how much more beneficial is it to prevent, if not World War III (a distinct possibility), at least a very much widened European War which will clearly involve very large American military forces and require infinitely far greater casualties. Senators and others who claim that America's vital interests are not at stake in Bosnia" are fools, dupes, or liars. America's very existence could be at stake in a World War. The other effect of even a wider conflict that is not a world war is that it will also have distinctly terrible repercussions on America's financial and physical and emotional well-being. I put "financial" first in that listing because it is almost invariably the first interest of the American government. The United States of America always says "morality" when it means money!

We are sending what are clearly and inarguably the best led, best equipped, best trained military personnel on the planet (in comparison the Russian and Serbian Armed forces are an untrained rabble) to enforce a cease-fire, try to establish some kind of lasting

peace, and end the ruthless slaughter of defenseless civilians. BUT PRIMARILY THE GOAL AND PURPOSE IS TO PREVENT A WIDENING OF THE CONFLICT.

Calling these proficient and dedicated men and women (who are for the most part well into their second decade), "children", or "kids", is deeply insulting to them and the organizations in which they serve, it totally denigrates them and their mission, and is simply another indication of the psychopathic society in which Americans exist. If Americans truly want to be concerned about kids in battle, let them turn their attention to Africa and South East Asia where really "little" kids eight and nine years old are given AK 47s and Kalashnikovs and sent out to kill people almost at random. Let them turn their attention to the kind of monsters who would countenance and encourage such things. That's truly "child abuse". The adult beasts who perpetrate such things should be executed. If they're truly concerned about kids let them turn their attention to the child labor situation in Brazil where there are a lot of rich adults the world could easily do without.

In examining the many ways in which its reality differs starkly and dramatically from its fantasies about itself, and from its perception of itself, I have found that in The United States of America, there is no one aspect of life which is more psychotic in its nature than is America's totally irrational extension of childhood to almost three decades. America has built itself a "castle in the air", they've moved in, closed the drawbridge and filled the moat and declared themselves besieged. They're besieged alright, but it's only by reality!

At the absolute opposite end of the spectrum from the way children are abused in African and Southeast Asian wars, and in Brazil's fields and factories, is America where children are abused by being seen as anything but what they really are. In Mozambique, children are given guns and sent out into combat, in America children buy or steal guns and take them to school! Nowhere at all in the world does there exist a more unrealistic, irrational, and foolish model of childhood and youth than in the United States. Nowhere at all in the entire world does there exist an attitude towards childhood and youth that is more utterly disrespectful of both the individual child or young adult as an independent person, or of that person's rights as an individual, than in the United States of America. Nowhere in the world are the young of the species held in more pseudo-sophisticated and cynical contempt than in the United States of America. Nowhere in the world are young people so universally in need of psychiatric assistance than in the United States of America. Nowhere in the world are the young of the species exploited for the financial gain and power lusts of such a broad spectrum of individuals and groups ranging from parents and teachers to toy manufacturers and the whole fraternity of oh so questionable social workers and therapists. In the United States children and youths are a growth industry. Nowhere in the world is it so likely to be overlooked or ignored that children and youngsters are PEOPLE, not "potential people" but distinct individuals with all the rights and freedoms that any other person has. They are not property! They are definitely not "pets"!

In Mozambique and Brazil, children are seen as small, inexperienced, uneducated people who are easily manipulated and exploited. In America children are seen as "pure little angels to be protected". Though both of them are harmful to children, which attitude is closer to reality?

Let me try to examine the basic motivations behind this tragic circumstance. "Tragic" is hardly an exaggeration as nothing but harm comes out of America's preoccupation with "childhood and innocence". With the exception of the actions and laws that are derived from America's pretentious and utterly ridiculous perception of "family values". America's actions towards children and young people which are totally derived from all the "family values" nonsense are the most harmful and malevolent of the many truly malevolent circumstances in the Psychotic society. Americans may not make their kids cut sugar cane twelve hours a day but on the other hand they do deny children any personal dignity and largely prevent them from developing self-esteem, which, believe it or not a kid cutting sugar cane and helping to support his or her family can.

America's totally false perception of the reality that is a young person is the primary reason why America's educational systems are such a total failure. Instead of a benign and nurturing training ground for life, and a place where knowledge and the love of learning is inculcated, instead of a place where learning how to think rather than what to think is taught, which is clearly what they need to be, they are instead, a custodial warehousing of youth, a bastion of "political correctitude" (itself an instance of psychosis), and lastly, an alibi by and for the adults to put off the acceptance of responsibility and the assumption of adulthood by their children as long as possible. It has to be an alibi for the parents as it was definitely not the kids who created the situation!

One of the primary motivations behind this unreasonable view of childhood and youth is probably sub-conscious. It is a result of one of the Human Race's most volatile problems, and that is the fear of death and dying that results from the mainstream of human religious teachings. Aging, and dying, are to be avoided at all costs and one of those costs is the insensate extension of childhood. If a person twenty eight years old is regarded as a "kid" then those in their forties and fifties don't feel nearly as close to life's inevitable end than they would if childhood ended as it should, at puberty. Now this fear of death syndrome is true over most of the planet, but America is preoccupied with it to the point of madness.

Nowhere else on the world is ageing regarded in such a totally negative light than in America. Elsewhere in the world an aging face is seen as possessing a special kind of beauty, only in America is an aged face seen as intrinsically ugly. Elsewhere in the world elders are seen as possessing unique experience and wisdom. Only in America are elders seen as irrelevant! Some of this results from the intrinsic fear of ageing and death but a great deal of it is the result of America's absolute passion for profit. The Cosmetic

industry earns billions of dollars a year inculcating an absolute horror of the appearance of age and selling patent nostrums to "stave it off" or rather to camouflage it. Bulimia, anorexia, and suicide are the ugly by products of America's frenzy for permanent youth and unnatural slenderness. There's a totally insane American aphorism that "No one is ever too rich or too thin". But you know what? Many Americans are far too thin for their own physical well-being and far too many Americans are far too rich for anyone's well-being.

Another major motivating factor in the foolish extension of childhood is the retention of absolute power over their lives. This is not a fault than can be laid at America's door exclusively, though as always, in the United States it is exaggerated by the illogical extension of infancy to an unreasonable degree. In the United States of America everything is exaggerated. Our planetary culture, by and large, deems children to be the property of their parents. IT COMPLETELY AVOIDS THE IDEA THAT CHILDREN ARE SIMPLY THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THEIR PARENTS.

Our culture pretends to believe that children "owe" their parents for life and support when exactly the opposite is true. Parents owe responsibility to their children for causing them to be. No child, ever, in all of history, as ever asked to be born as some kind of "boon" or "favor". Far from it, children are usually conceived to meet a need of their parents. That is, when the conception is purposeful and not merely an accident resulting from a moment's amusement as is probably too frequently the case.

CHILDREN DO NOT "OWE" THEIR PARENTS ANY PARTICULAR LEVEL OF LOVE AND RESPECT BEYOND THAT WHICH THE PARENTS EARN BY WAY OF THEIR ACTIONS AND ATTITUDES TOWARDS THE CHILD. THERE IS NO KIND OF DEBT INCURRED BY THE SIMPLE ACT OF BEING BORN!

Many parents in fact deserve well of their children, many others deserve nothing at all, and some, incur and richly deserve, contempt and detestation. The American so-called "Nuclear Family" is now, and always has been an anything but positive concept. It's also not a particularly old concept. Families were once tribes and that shrank down to extended families. The so-called Nuclear family of Father, Mother, and child or children is a modern concept that is mostly limited to Industrial Societies. In America however, it came about in the pre-industrial colonial times during which time there was so very much room and available land that young people left the nest and started their own "place" which became an American tradition. The smaller "Nuclear Family" as it developed in America has nothing to do with morality or ethics and particularly nothing to do with religious beliefs. The American nuclear family, at its inception was simply a matter of expediency and ambition. But then most things in America boil down to expediency and ambition don't they Viewed from a statistical point-of-view it has always been more harmful than helpful. Father (and Mother) seldom really "knows best". I have always wondered why people whom one would surely hesitate to ask the time of day, are

deemed capable of the sensitive task of caring for a young human being. I have always wondered why so many people to whom I wouldn't trust a dog, are entrusted with children.

But the absolutely primary motivating factor behind America's peculiar relationship vis a vis young people is America's worst psychopathology, her SEXIPHOBIA!

The rest of the world is sometimes amused by, but far more frequently both horrified and very frightened by America's totally mindless pre-occupation with sex and sexuality. Americans by and large, totally caught up in their fantasy views of themselves, their lives, and the world about them, and totally misled by both their religions and their politicians, are at once both repelled by and fascinated by, and at the same time, totally misperceive the nature of human sexuality. Instead of viewing sexuality as what it is, A COMPLETELY NATURAL AND UTTERLY NEUTRAL PART OF THE SPECTRUM OF HUMAN NEEDS, they see it as something harmful, perverse, and evil.

Therefore, because of that total misperception, and even though they are the last people to be capable of defining either term, they try to prolong "innocence" and "virginity" as long as they possibly can. Far too many Americans have joyously seized upon the Human Immunodeficiency Virus as an excuse to preach their favorite cause.....abstinence. Far too many Americans have joyously and piously seized upon the "AIDS plague" as an object example of the so-called "wages of sin".

This kind of behavior, and the power behind it, is a function of an even worse plague raging in America today, and that is the Christian extremism so prevalent in the United States of America. Christian extremism (Fundamentalism) and, to a lesser extent mainstream Christianity is what is truly harmful, perverse, and evil in the world today. That it is so widespread and potent in America today is simply another clear indication of why America is the Psychopathic Society.

All human beings possess sexuality as an innate part of their natures. Denying or repressing this sexual nature, which is an intrinsic flaw in almost all human religions, is one of the greatest of all sources of human misery and woe. Masturbation won't make one "crazy", but abstinence and celibacy certainly will. Religious fanaticism is clearly a very malevolent and murderous sort of insanity. The Balkans, Ireland, Palestine, and Iran and Algeria prove this conclusively!

Now, there is a large and important difference between where childhood ends and where the responsibility of parents TO and FOR their children ends. Childhood ends at puberty, at which point the child becomes a young adult.

In most of our planetary societies today, and in all of them historically, that's when an individual begins to function socially as an adult, at the same time when they begin to

function physically as a adult. It is only in the so-called "First World" and particularly in the English speaking portion of it, and most particularly of all in America where this natural approach has been deserted and a totally unnatural attitude has been substituted. In America it takes a Master's Degree to be considered ready for adult responsibilities and those without it are quite regularly patronized and ignored precisely as children are. Another indication of the pathological nature of American Society is that it treats and regards its underclass precisely as it treats its children.

This is a subject that really requires investigation. Why do the people of Americas' "overclass" treat those of the underclass, and particularly blacks, as children to be patronized and made totally dependent? But in reality, the blacks are not nearly the worst case in this ugly story, that position is reserved for America's indigenous inhabitants who are not only treated as children, but those in reservations are the wards of the government precisely as if they were, in fact, children. The great American Bigot likes to pretend that Amerindians, blacks and Hispanics are feckless children to whom they must act "in loco parentis" so as to protect them from their own fecklessness. This is a gigantic lie. One does not help or nurture or protect people by oppressing them, or by repressing them, or by treating them like dirt! The worst thing however, is that the great American bigot won't make even the slightest attempt to relate to these minorities as human beings. It is impossible to achieve a meaningful dialogue with those you refuse to accept as equals. There is almost no difference at all in how America, by and large, treats its minorities and how it treats its children who are also a minority.

As I see it, it's entirely a function of America as an almost entirely psychopathic society and in this case the pathology is entirely based on guilt, resentment, and fear. The guilt America's majority richly deserves, the resentment is understandable as one usually resents those who make one feel guilty. But the fear, well some of it is probably valid, but most of it arises from the absolute knowledge of most American bigots of how they would respond to those who would treat them as they treat their minorities. They are projecting their own violence upon those whom they know they do not deserve well of!

Pathology or not, America is anything but "not guilty by reason of insanity". This behavior to the most vulnerable among us is absolutely unforgivable. It's not simply the conservatives among us who are guilty of treating the underclass as children, some of those most guilty of this kind of treatment are the so-called "most progressive liberals" among us and many of these are social workers and others in that kind of work, who completely regard the underclass as child-like and treat them as such to the great exaltation of their own egos.

There is absolutely no thing so indicative of the psychopathic state of American society than its totally schizophrenic avoidance of reality as regards the actual (but totally denied) class and race warfare and hatred that is an integral ingredient in American Society. How

can "The Land of The Brave and The Free" be the worst example of racial and class hatreds on the planet? It can because it only fantasizes itself to be "The Land of The Brave and The Free"!

But let me return to my primary topic. A parent's responsibility FOR their child essentially ends then, at puberty. A parent's responsibility TO the person whose life they began ends at the parent's death.

What is the difference between parental responsibility FOR and parental responsibility TO their off-spring? Being totally without a clue as to the nature of this difference has made of America, in particular, though England is hardly any better, an absolute morass of dependency and co-dependency and resentment and hostility.

A child comes into life totally helpless, totally at the mercy of those in whose care that child finds itself. Its parents, or society if the parents are lost or otherwise incapable, are responsible for that child's sustenance, welfare and nurturing. The child cannot care for itself so those who can, must! A child is totally at the mercy of its parents or guardians until it reaches the stage of development where it can begin to participate in its own life development and maintenance. The more chance a young person gets for input into its own life development the better and saner that life will be. That is what a parent's responsibility FOR their child is all about. The parents caused the child to be, while that child has no other options they are responsible for providing all of that child's needs

Now these parents are always responsible TO their children for how they met their responsibilities FOR those children when the young persons required it. The thing parents are most responsible TO their children for is how they prepared them for adulthood and independence. That preparation is largely a function of the amount of input a child is given into that child's own life development. A developmental process in which the child and its parents, their differences in experience and knowledge being acknowledged, never the less have practically equal input, is a developmental process which produces sane, well-adjusted, and most important of all, happy adults.

Adults who like themselves and who like their parents, and as a result have the potential for good social inter-relationships with people outside of the family as well. Does this mean I advocate "spoiled children"? No it does not. But I do advocate treating all human beings, no matter what their age, with respect. One of the biggest problems in America is that adults have absolutely no respect at all for youngsters. Americans, sadly, have very little respect for anyone.

When I discuss the necessity for treating others with respect, I am referring to intrinsic respect, that level of respect for a person's individuality which is their intrinsic right as a person and an individual. I am not speaking of the other kind of respect, which is "earned respect" which is the kind you get when you win the Nobel Prize or something of that like.

"Earned Respect" however is not simply the result of public acclamation. There is another kind of "earned respect", and this is the kind you work for in your relationships with others. This is the kind of respect you "earn" for being a decent, caring, useful, helpful person. This is the kind of "earned respect" that parents and teachers and any other kind of authority figure should regard as the basic goal of their lives. "Earned respect" is one of life's greatest blessings, respect reluctantly given as a result of coercion isn't really respect at all it's simply fear. Respect that is demanded is of no value whatsoever, respect that is earned therefore freely given is of inestimable value.

I have been counseling troubled people from a spiritual perspective for thirty years now, and the basic cause of all these troubles is the "Nuclear Family" and the American People's totally perverse attitude toward and about children. The "Children should be seen and not heard" syndrome is terribly harmful. I have met people so terribly "put down" as youngsters that they have no confidence in themselves or their abilities at all. I have worked with people whose families so oppressed them on the subject of sexuality that their own sexuality is as fearful as to be non-existent. I have worked with people whose childhood was so extremely oppressive in all ways that they didn't have the vaguest idea what love is or should be. I have worked with people whose childhood had convinced them that violence was the answer to every question. The psychopathic society is hardest on its young.

If America, and the Americans who make it up, do not shortly develop a new way of looking at the young of their species, there will be no future at all for America as it is presently constituted. But far more than that, America and its peoples must come out of their haze of fantastic self-delusions about themselves and their nation and commence to deal with reality, if not, there will be no future. What's real about America sadly, is the fact that it is a violent and hate-filled society. Those realities can never be dealt with until they are admitted. America can never be the wonderful thing it thinks it is until it stops pretending to be wonderful and actually becomes so.