



The Unconscious Reason Why ISIL Kids Killed For Their God

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Somebody suggested to me the other day as a psychologist I should tell people why radical Muslim or Islamic young men and a few women are doing such barbaric deeds in the 21st-century? Here's my answer. Let's take it a step at a time.

There is such a thing as the unconscious

The unconscious is a warehouse where Perceived Traumatic Events (PTEs) full of repressed urges, blocked needs, desires, experiences and wishes are stored. On the door of the unconscious is a sign firmly nailed "Do not enter, discuss or acknowledge its existence."

Sex and aggression issues dominate the content of our unconscious

Sex and aggression are perhaps the most difficult emotions to except and successfully integrate into our development. The conflicting feelings about how we should express our anger, and how our culture dictates how we should feel and express our sexuality.

The more we deny a basic need, the more it dominates our daily life

The degree to which we repress any emotion is in direct proportion to the degree to which that emotion will seek expression in conscious, and unconscious behavior. The more you force down a need or desire the greater the pressure to find expression and ultimately balance within our system.

Parents teach us what it means to be “good and faithful” children

If the cultural norm is to tell a child to deny or express basic human emotions in a repressive way, the more resistance on both the conscious and unconscious levels the child will experience.

Repression and denial are a common struggle for all youth as they grow

It is natural, and a right of passage for young people to come together and discuss their frustrations and fantasies regarding the pressures they experience to conform and deny. They are natural impulses.

Social media unites the alienated and disenfranchised with alternatives

The unique technological opportunities available to most everyone, particularly exploited by young people, provides a platform for discussion and the expression of frustrated needs. The full range of internet possibilities with all of its ubiquitous nuances, gives a fresh voice to the subjugated youth worldwide.

Given the above assumptions and premises a formula emerges that provide a perspective for much of the uproar we are experiencing in our world today.

In 1999 Jordanian radical Abu Musab al-Zarqawi formed a terrorist group under the name Organisation of Monotheism and Jihad. Since than there was no shortages

for descriptive names. Today they are known by the name Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) or Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).

Regardless of the name, its derivation, pronunciation or the uniqueness of the definition it decries the perfect storm. One that seriously threatens our way of life like no others have for centuries.

On November 23, 2015 British Prime Minister, David Cameron in Paris referred to them as, “An evil death cult.”

Why now? Injustice, discrimination and racism have existed as long as mankind has walked this planet. Why the wicked wildfire? Has the world gone mad? The answer is no! We are all familiar with the notion of a copycat. We usually see it in relation to extreme or provocative criminal action. That is one who mimics usually unlawful behavior of another individual or group who has committed a terrible crime.

Mass media has the effect of sensationalizing violence. Be it murder or suicide the copycat effect is mimicking behavior, and ultimately becomes an extension of more violence and insanity. So how does this relate to the unconscious reasons behind the behavior of the young men and women of ISIL?

Imagine what would happen if you told a group of impressionable young people that they could be reverent, respected and prove their devotion to the basic tenets of their religious belief as they see it? Moreover, that they could be seen as being more devoted and have a deeper understanding than their parents had during their basic upbringing.

“Wait a minute! What are you telling me?” The young man might say, ”Are you telling me I no longer have to hold my pent-up anger inside? Are you suggesting that I can have sex on a random basis with the girls and women of all ages and not be blasphemous in doing so?”

Welcome to ISILs panacea for the liberation of adolescent anger, and repressed sexual desires. Let it out! Let it all out! Fill your fantasies! Vent your fury all in the name of Allah. How can you be wrong? After all you are a God-fearing young man. Adults are telling you that you have a right to not only vent your spleen, but to do it with complete impunity. Kill the infidel! Satisfy your sexual desires with the young girls and women who tried to run from your liberating efforts.

No more rationalization, no more suppression of desire. It’s not rape, it’s reward. They are not young girls or women, they are the spoils of war after a long day of death and destruction.

For some the choice is clear. Live a life of piety and denial, and hear the adventures of friends who prove their love of Allah by willingly sacrifice and risking their lives for a holy cause. Or simply put there is no downside to joining up. There is absolutely no risk only reward, adventure and not adversity. If you die then you surely will meet Allah and get your rewards. If you come back alive you live as a hero. Hero or martyr how can you lose?

If you or anyone else has doubt about your divine deeds send them to the internet for insight. This is a 21st-century crusade, and you have been chosen to be one of the soldiers in this holy war.

And that is the unconscious reasoning that makes these young fanatics such a fierce adversary. There's nothing more dangerous than a true believer, convinced he has Allah on his side, and a righteous gun in his hand looking forward to exploiting the female "catch of the day" after fighting infidels.

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