

Morality and Psychopathy

By Benjamin Wagener on November 15th, 2013.

I would like here to be more precise about terms and to rise up a real question. It seems that the notion of Psychopathy is not truly understood in Psychiatry whereas the notion of Morality which is very simple but very deep is quite absent and not considered with the importance it should have. The question is: Are we all psychopathoid?

For paranoia has an intermediate natural state that we could call the paranoid syndrom, almost all psychiatrists would agree that we are all at different scales paranoid. The paranoid term comes from the fact that we cannot truly understand the other one perfectly and more precisely we cannot truly understand each other for the good he/she is for him/herself or for the others. And the recognition that indeed any human being is essentially a good being. Many loose their time in unhealthy situation that may do health, either mental or physical, a question that remains unanswered.

Should we speak about a psychopathoid syndrom?

I think that yes we have to.

In my point of view, looking at our societies, I think that a real psychopatoid syndrom is present. I would like this to be associated with the lack of moral sense or understanding. It may seem difficult to find any link between those two terms even if I think that a lot of psychiatrists would recognize that either morality is, by iteself, not considered as it should and moreover looking at human behavior there is clearly in any of us something psychopathic. Just looking at such behavior that regularly and at a large scale put many of us and from time to time all the world in danger.

We could speak about us as homo sapiens sapiens but the fact is that we are relly not wise. I think moreover that their is clearly a gap in psychiatry about it. Psychopathy is one of the worst diagnosis that can be done, people with such can be considered also as sociopathes and can be very dangerous. The fact is that many of them from my point of view are simply in jail even for the errors that can be seen in justice. But even for prisonners that have commited crimes or other very bad crimes their is no so clear understanding of their disease and they are not either considered as mentally ill. But nevertheless I think they should be and of course they should be helped.

I mainly see this psychopatoid syndrom as the way we can act with respect to others by forgetting any moral sense and humanity. A basic example for me but one of the most expressive is the second world war and the work of Hannah Arendt. An example about such misunderstanding is the way some speak about Adolph Hitler, when I ask peoples about Adolph Hitler: Do you think that Adolphe Hitler was someone very intelligent? Almost all answer to this question by »yes«. And then I answer independantly of any ideology that »Do you really think that someone that did a World War on his own was someone intelligent ?«.

Indeed whatever could be the ideology there is anyway much more clever to do. This is something of personal importance for me because even if I am not a Jewish I was named like this because of the second world war.

But even someone so clever and deep as Hanna Arendt may have not seen some mental disorder at the Nuremberg trial. It seems indeed quite obvious that a person that is able to order thousands and millions of atrocious murders without any sense of the morality that should prevent him/her to do so is someone very ill. I mean that even if their own life was in danger they should not normally have done so.

I do not know to which extent such considerations are missing in Psychiatry but it seems to be largely lacunary. Maybe because it is indeed something so widely spread in our world that it appears as something quite normal, however this is a serious question that should be studied.

Moreover this question of psychopathoid syndrom is indeed very important for our own sake. It goes in fact also with the fact that many of us do what they should do, considered as »normal«, according to some rule not according to their own mind and morality. We are not robots, we are fully sensible persons.

I think indeed that the boundary is very not clear amongst us and seeing our behavior it is difficult to know where is the limit of what we can do and what could be done with respect to the fully moral persons we are. We could take many examples of peoples either criminal or considered as very mentally ill, people in which some morality still remain and is still in fact fully present. The fact of psychopathoid behaviors is indeed something we can see all around in our societies.

Moreover our societies seem to enhance and grant such behaviors. How force and power seem attractive when we look at TV by example. But the real force is not to kill, the real force is to make mankind live better for each of us and for us all.

Actually we are all very sensitive mind and it seems that there are some correlations, some false beliefs, that makes a lot of us living under some deep mistakes that no one can really understand. Actually we all have a sense of morality and we are deeply inheritants of reason that by itself cannot do anything for this mistakes to be understood but only can cause conflict and destroy many of us.

Personally it took me a lot of time to understand since my childhood all the harm we can do to each others and especially to young persons. It seems that such misunderstood mistakes can have deep consequences for all our societies and that already hurted persons put back the harm we did to them on others. There is actually no way to understand any such mistake and it simply cause psychological conflicts to many of us and at various scales because we are not done for that.

But there is indeed something that we can especially see during wars... It is that such harm is so deeply traumatic that many persons turn their mind obsessed by what has traumatized them at various scales: from a simple shock to a complete trauma from post traumatic stress.

The question I rise up here is quite clear, many of us have a psychopatoid behavior that is somehow due to misunderstanding of the nonsense of harm. For their is indeed no reason to do such harm to oneself or to the others but it can appear at various scales.

For what we see of the early adulthood, many pass the stage with a lot of difficulties and many are simply destroyed during this very important moment of life. Such kind of harm indeed can cause various kinds of confusion. This is nonsense, purely nonsense with respect to the sensitive beeing we are that cannot be understood but just mistakes made from time to time that cause troubles to many of us.

It seems that anyway something remains of humanity even in the worse criminals. However it is really surprising to see all the troubles that our World encounter because of the lack of morality. Morality is often considered as secondary and primitive somehow, even if it is really the way we are. This confusion cause many problems in our current society and this can be traced back very far in human History. Things were very hard in our past, understanding ourselves was perhaps quite difficult but there is maybe only one race that is so strong even if we are clearly missing a good reason for our acts. I think it is even a huge problem for human race because we are far from being wise. Only us have been so powerfull in our developments that it has become a real problem actually because we are clearly missing nowadays the way and reason in order to manage the damages that we cause and are able to cause. It may even be such a problem indeed that it is perhaps deeply rooted in our genes while we have known such a revolution in a few centuries that it may be very difficult in our close future to deal with such a power we now have at diverse scales.

Morality should indeed be considered for the importance it has truly. This is not something that we can only expect from children, this is also something of main importance for adults. Reason only does not really suffice and there could even be some confusion between »morality« and »reason« but those two are essentially distinct. Reason may be a way to think analytically and we can do such thinking in various ways and for many different purpose. However morality could be considered as a manner to sustain our thoughts for the men and women we are and for the best interest of all of us.