

DGB Neo-Psychoanalysis: Different -- and Interconnected -- Definitions and Descriptions of the Master Oedipal (Lifestyle-Deathstyle) Complex Along Adlerian and Gestalt Interpretations

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Good day Ladies and Gentlemen,

I think it is time that you realized -- if you have not already -- how much my version of The Freudian Oedipal Complex has swung in both an Adlerian and Gestalt direction even though it remains in a Pre-Classical-Classical-Object Relations Conflict Model Paradigm as opposed to Adler's 'Unity in The Personality' assumptive stance. Once again, in this bipolar spectrum of unity vs. conflict in the personality, there is an opportunity -- that we will take full advantage of here -- for dialectical synthesis. For me, every essay I write is like an expansion and integration of the personality into a more cohesive unit by means of what in effect -- or by metaphor -- is a 'Gestalt Hot Seat and Empty Chair Technique.

Here, in the heart of The Oedipal Complex, Freud and Adler square off against each other -- and just to make things a little more complicated, let's add Fritz Perls to this debate as well -- in my mind, all three of them debating vigorously and democratically with each other -- and through their combined 'Central Synthesizing Egos' come up with something in the neighbourhood of what I am now going to present below, as I have been presenting in numerous evolving essays since 2010.

It is amazing what can be accomplished when we move from a Patriarchal, Authoritarian Dictatorship to a more Egalitarian, Democratic, Patriarchal-Matriarchal Forum.

I have just started reading Phyllis Grosskurth's 'The Secret Society: Freud's Inner Circle and The Politics of Psychoanalysis (1991). What caught my eye quickly -- other than the Politics of Freud's Patriarchal Dictatorship which defined rather stringently what was 'outside the boundaries' of Classical Psychoanalysis -- was Adler's interpretation of Freud's Oedipal Complex which my version greatly extrapolates on while keeping it with Freudian-Neo-Freudian conflict in the Oedipal Complex parameters.

Quoting Grosskurth, she wrote:

By 1910, Adler was in serious disagreement with Freud. Adler had begun to view the Oedipal struggle as purely symbolic, in which the boy, weak and defenseless, overcompensates in order to achieve superiority over his father and dominance over his mother (p. 9).

Stated a little differently but within the larger Adlerian Paradigm -- and then 'introjected' back into Psychoanalysis -- I have moved from Adler's 'Lifestyle Complex' and Stekel's 'Lifelie Complex' (neither theorist used the word 'complex' -- my addition) -- to my Lifestyle-Deathstyle Complex with the partial addition of Freud's 1920 'death instinct' theory as an 'epigenetic' as opposed to a 'genetic' phenomenon that starts with traumatic memories and relationships remembered from the Oedipal Period of psychical development. The transition back to Freudian terminology from Adlerian terminology can be stated this way: Much of The Master Oedipal Lifestyle-Deathstyle (MOLD) Complex starts in Oedipal Period Narcissistic Injury and Ego-Trauma moving to the compensatory defense and fantasy of 'Narcissistic

Overcompensation' of a partly healthy (Lifestyle), partly neurotic and pathological (Deathstyle) nature. Thus, in DGB Neo-Psychoanalysis, the so-called 'death instinct' is a primarily epigenetic phenomenon originating in the experiences, encounters, relationships, and memories of The Oedipal Period (2 to 7 years old) which are integrated in the evolving id-ego and synthesized in the Master Oedipal Complex.

Out of the Master Oedipal Complex -- a synthesis of individual Oedipal Period Memory and Relationship Complexes -- arises a 'Nietzschean Will to Power (and Revenge) as well as a more creative and healthy 'Will To Creativity and Self-Social-Empowerment' which was partly reflected first in Adler's 'Masculine Protest' -- which I translate into 'The Masculine Oedipal Conflict/Protest/Complex' -- and alternatively (for both men and women) 'The Feminine Oedipal Conflict/Protest/Complex' which can be identified with, abreacted, projected, transferred, sublimated....and all the other compensatory defensive (and offensive) processes...of both a healthy and unhealthy, conscious and unconscious nature.

Primarily, the memories remembered from The Oedipal Period are consciously remembered memories with unconscious psycho-dynamic processes at work within the particular memory -- and projected and abreacted outwards. In this respect, the MOLD Complex was not only born as an epigenetic phenomenon, but also follows both the Freudian pattern of Narcissistic Injury to Narcissistic Compensation and sometimes Egotistic Megalomania, or in Adlerian terminology, from inferiority feeling to superiority striving (and feeling) -- both sides of which are encompassed with the confines of the id, the ego, the Oedipal Complex, and the Ego States of Compensatory Defense and Fantasy....Remember, Freud was present at the meeting in the Vienna Circle where Adler first presented his ideas on organic inferiority and overcompensation -- an idea that impressed Freud greatly until Adler's emphasis on power and self-esteem collided with Freud's emphasis on sexuality and the two went there separate ways. But Freud wrote his classic paper 'On Narcissism' in 1914 which was very much a Freudian rendition of Adler's organic inferiority and compensation, Masculine Protest, and the evolution of these Adlerian ideas into the ideas of 'lifestyle' and 'inferiority feelings' and 'superiority striving'.

Where I differ from Adler -- as well as extrapolate on his core ideas -- is in stating that we all carry BOTH Inferiority Complexes and Superiority Complexes in our Unique and Customized Oedipal Complex that is born significantly on the heels of childhood narcissistic injury, ego-trauma, sometimes tragedy -- and id-ego defense and confluence of defending and compensating against unbearable ideas associated with painful Oedipal Memories and Relationships.

On the Gestalt front, I will define The Oedipal Complex as this:

The Oedipal Complex is a system of conflicted and synthesized memories and relationships that result in 'unfinished situations' that become abreacted as repetition and mastery compulsions, projections, identifications, sublimations, serial behavior patterns and mnemonic symbols that reflect the underlying psychodynamic origin of these symptoms and personality-character patterns.

That is good enough for today,

Thank you, have a great evening!

David Gordon Bain.

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