

# MADNESS AS METAPHOR

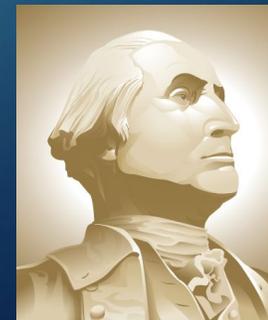
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OCTOBER 25, 2018

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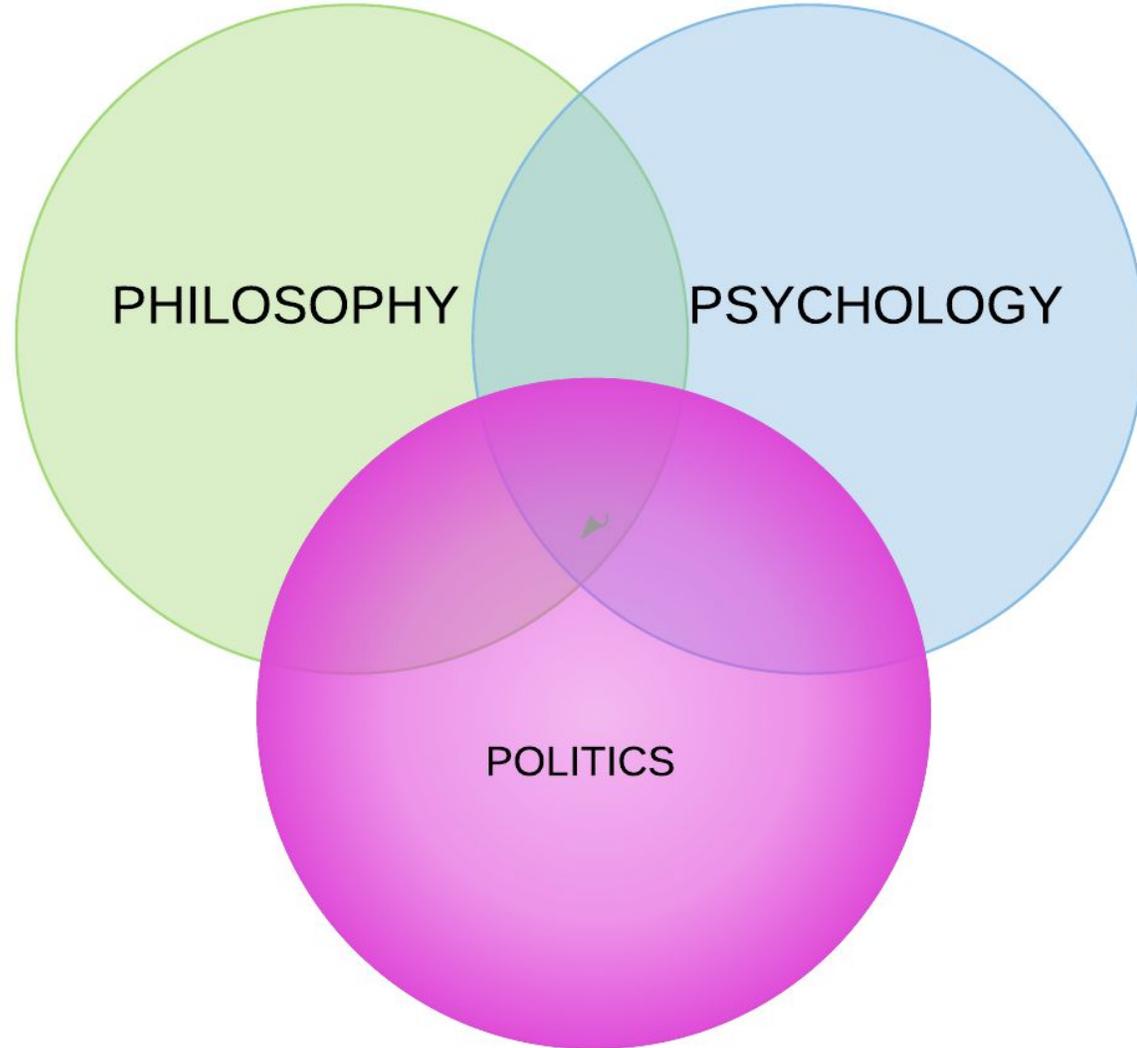


**THE GEORGE  
WASHINGTON  
UNIVERSITY**

WASHINGTON, DC

# Educational Objectives

1. To better understand the technical and common language understanding of the term “madness”
2. To explore philosophical understanding of “evidence” and ethical implications of moral ambiguity, moral inversion.
3. To understand how deception, lying, and gaslighting operate in therapeutic, social and political settings.

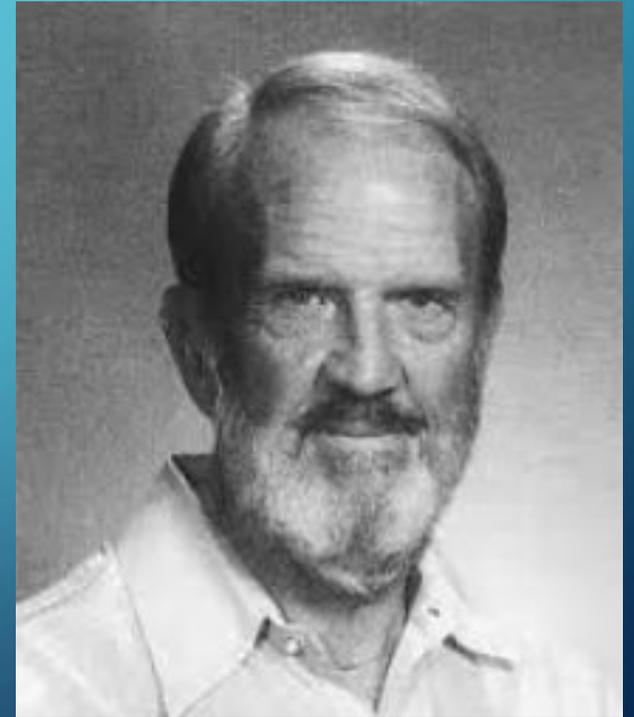


# Madness as Metaphor: Therapeutic Implications of Post-critical thought

## ABSTRACT

*Potyat often spoke of our modern predicament as “madness.” His use of this term was not strictly technical, but he meant it most emphatically. Modern thought created an alienation of self from lived-through experience, which had to be recovered through careful examination of the assumptions of the regnant culture. Polanyi and the post-critical enterprise offered a perspective and certain tools for this recovery of self, which may properly be understood to be “therapeutic” both in the metaphorical sense and with the understandings that might be offered by the psychoanalysis and psychotherapy.*

<https://allendyer.files.wordpress.com/2014/12/dyer-2016-madness-as-metaphor-tad42-4-pg23-33.pdf>



# "Mad": definition

## INFORMAL

1. very angry

## BRITISH

2. mentally ill; insane
3. *Synonyms:*
4. insane, mentally ill, certifiable, deranged, demented, of unsound mind, out of one's mind, not in one's right mind, sick in the head, crazed, lunatic, non compos mentis, unhinged, disturbed, raving, psychotic, psychopathic, mad as a hatter, mad as a March hare;
5. *informal* crazy, mental, nuts, nutty, off one's rocker, not right in the head, round/around the bend, (stark) raving mad, bats, batty, bonkers, dotty, cuckoo, cracked, loony, bananas, loco, screwy, schizoid, psycho, touched, gaga, not all there, not right upstairs, meshuga, wacko, gonzo;
6. have a screw loose, have bats in the belfry;
7. lose one's reason, lose one's mind, take leave of one's senses, lose one's marbles, crack up

*verb*

## ARCHAIC

1. make mad or insane.

# mad-ness (tandem definition)

1 the state of being mentally ill, especially severely.

*synonyms:*

*insanity*, mental illness, *dementia*, derangement; *lunacy*, *instability*; *mania*, *psychosis*;

*informal* craziness

"today madness is called mental illness"

2 a state of frenzied or chaotic activity

*synonyms:*

*bedlam*, *mayhem*, *chaos*, *pandemonium*, *craziness*, *uproar*, *turmoil*, *disorder*

"it's absolute madness in here"

# met·a·phor

a figure of speech in which a word or phrase is applied to an object or action to which it is not literally applicable.

"“I had fallen through a trapdoor of depression,” said Mark, who was fond of theatrical metaphors”

# Michael Polanyi( 1891-1976)



- Budapest-upper class family
- Profound contributors in Philosophy and Science
- Doctorate degree both Medicine & Physical Science
- Physical chemist in University in Berlin
- Professor in University in Manchester
- Helping deepening the “tacit knowing” and study the structure of consciousness of man.

# MICHAEL POLANYI

Major Works:

*Science, Faith, and Society*

*The Tacit Dimension*

*The Logic of Liberty*

*Personal Knowledge:*

*Towards a Post-Critical Philosophy*



I believe that . . . this is the moon.



“How bright and goodly shines the moon.”

# THE MORAL INVERSION

## Michael Polanyi

**moral inversion** = abuse of a moral appeal for immoral purposes  
= fusion of skepticism and utopianism

**dynamo-objective coupling** - supposedly scientific assertions are accepted only because they satisfy certain moral passions.

Any criticism of the belief is rebutted by the moral passion, while moral objections are brushed aside by an alternate reality

# Do psychiatrists have a duty to warn?

<http://www.wypr.org/post/president-trump-mentally-fit-serve>



## THE DANGEROUS CASE OF DONALD TRUMP

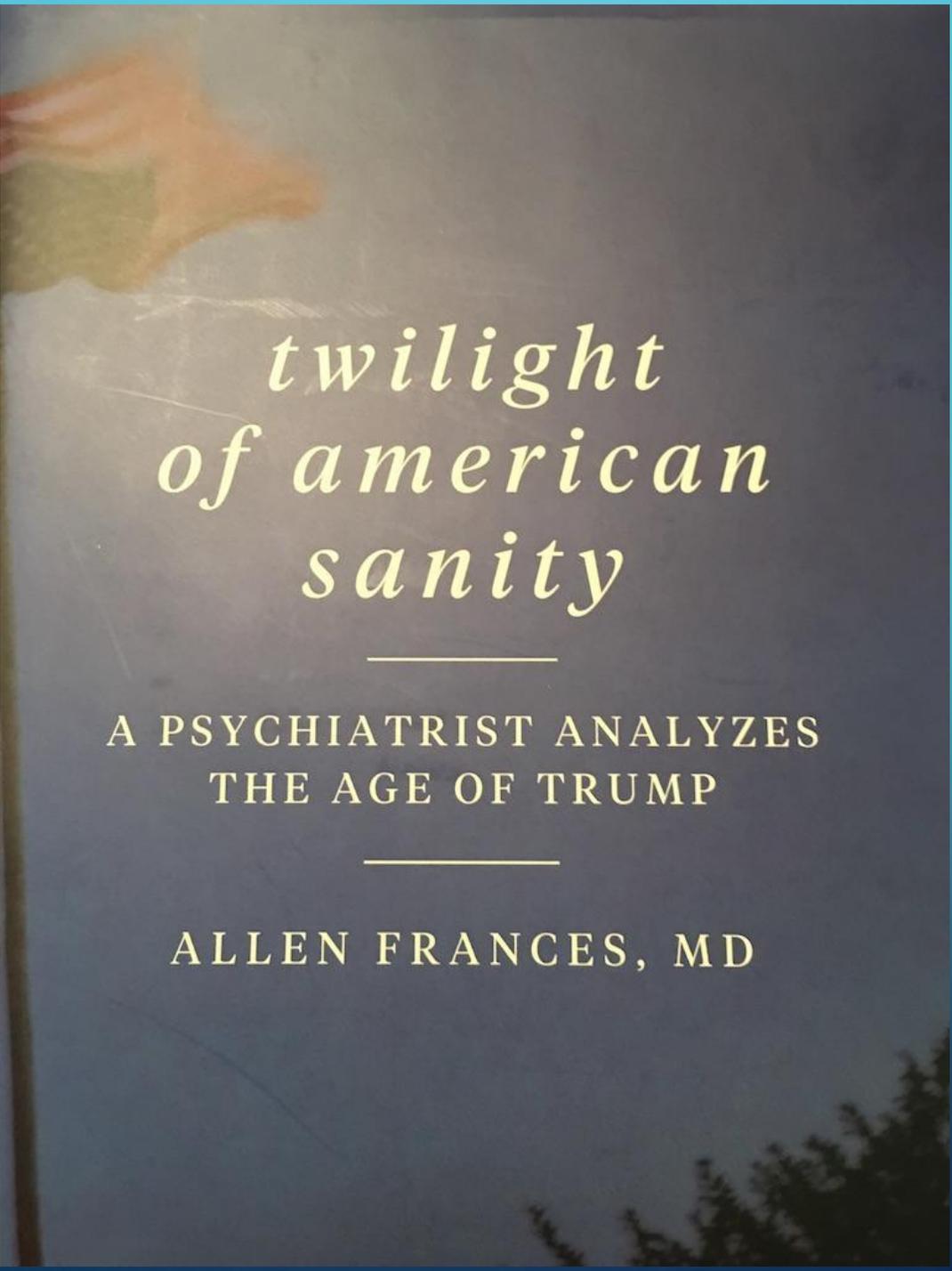
**27** Psychiatrists  
and Mental Health  
Experts Assess  
a President

Bandy Lee, M.D., M.Div.  
Organizer of the Yale "Duty to Warn" Conference

John Gartner, PhD

# THE SO-CALLED GOLDWATER RULE (IT'S A PRINCIPLE)

- The APA's "code of ethics" is the *Annotations Applicable to Psychiatry* of the AMA "Principles of Medical Ethics", which explicitly state that the Principles are "not laws, but standards of conduct which define the essentials of honorable behavior for the physician"
- Section 7 A physician shall recognize a responsibility to participate in activities contributing to the improvement of the community and the betterment of public health.
  - 3. On occasion psychiatrists are asked for an opinion about an individual who is in the light of public attention or who has disclosed information about himself/herself through public media. In such circumstances, a psychiatrist may share with the public his or her expertise about psychiatric issues in general. However, it is unethical for a psychiatrist to offer a professional opinion unless he or she has conducted an examination and has been granted proper authorization for such a statement.



*twilight  
of american  
sanity*

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A PSYCHIATRIST ANALYZES  
THE AGE OF TRUMP

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ALLEN FRANCES, MD

# GASLIGHTING

Gaslighting is an emotionally abusive tactic that makes the victim question their own sanity and perception of reality.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ToLfc>
- Sociopaths and narcissists cult leaders, politicians, and bad boyfriends use gaslighting tactics.
- Sociopaths consistently transgress social mores, break laws and exploit others, and typically also are convincing liars, sometimes charming ones, who consistently deny wrongdoing



# GASLIGHTING

- Withholding information from victim;
- Countering information to fit the abuser's perspective;
- Discounting information;
- Verbal abuse, usually in the form of jokes;
- Blocking and diverting the victim's attention from outside sources;
- Trivializing the victim's worth; and,
- Undermining victim by gradually weakening them and their thought process

1. Create an addict (a dependency) When we excite someone we alter the chemical makeup of their brain by triggering the release of endorphins and dopamine. Using the same chemicals that provide heroin users with their high, a gaslighter hooks their victim before the manipulation phase. This is one reason why gaslighting is commonly used in romantic relationships.

2. Remember every mistake

We all misunderstand things, but that doesn't mean we misunderstand *everything*.

3. Act like you don't understand

When a victim makes an argument, the gaslighter will either dismiss it as illogical, unreasonable, blown out of proportion, or flat-out unreal.

4. Selective forgetting

Try telling someone that they didn't do something that they actually did. "I don't remember you doing that."

. After repeated exposure, they'll begin to question the reliability of their own memory.

5. Trivialize their concerns

Gaslighting drains its victims, leaving them depressed and insecure.

They will begin to voice their concerns, at which time the gaslighter dismisses them as overly emotional and, of course, illogical.

# GASLIGHTING IN POLITICS

- [Maureen Dowd](#) was one of the first to use the term in the political context. She describes the [Bill Clinton](#) administration's use of the technique in subjecting [Newt Gingrich](#) to small indignities intended to provoke him to make public complaints that "came across as hysterical".
- To say gaslighting was started by the [Bushes](#), [Lee Atwater](#), [Karl Rove](#), [Fox News](#), or any other extant group is not simply wrong, it also misses an important point. Gaslighting comes directly from blending modern communications, marketing, and advertising techniques with long-standing methods of propaganda. They were simply waiting to be discovered by those with sufficient ambition and psychological makeup to use them. Bryant Welch: *State of Confusion: Political Manipulation and the Assault on the American Mind*
- While Russian operatives were active in [Crimea](#), Russian officials continually denied their presence and manipulated the distrust of political groups in their favor. Frida Ghitis
- The term *gaslighting* had become topical again as the result of Trump's behavior, saying that Trump's "habitual tendency to say "X", and then, at some later date, indignantly declare, 'I did not say "X". In fact, I would never dream of saying "X"'" had brought new notability to the term [Ben Yagoda](#) [Chronicle of Higher Education](#) in January 2017
- In 2018, [Amanda Carpenter](#) published *Gaslighting America: Why We Love It When Trump Lies to Us* tracing how the tactic started with Nixon, gained traction with Bill Clinton, and exploded under Trump.



**INAUGURATION JAN 20<sup>TH</sup> 2009**



**INAUGURATION JAN 20<sup>TH</sup> 2017**

IMAGE TAKEN AT 11:49 A.M. ET FROM LIVE POOL CAMERA

# A phenomenology of lying (psychology of deceit)

lies to avoid punishment

lies to preserve a sense of autonomy

lies as an act of aggression

lies to obtain a sense of power

lies for the delight of putting one over

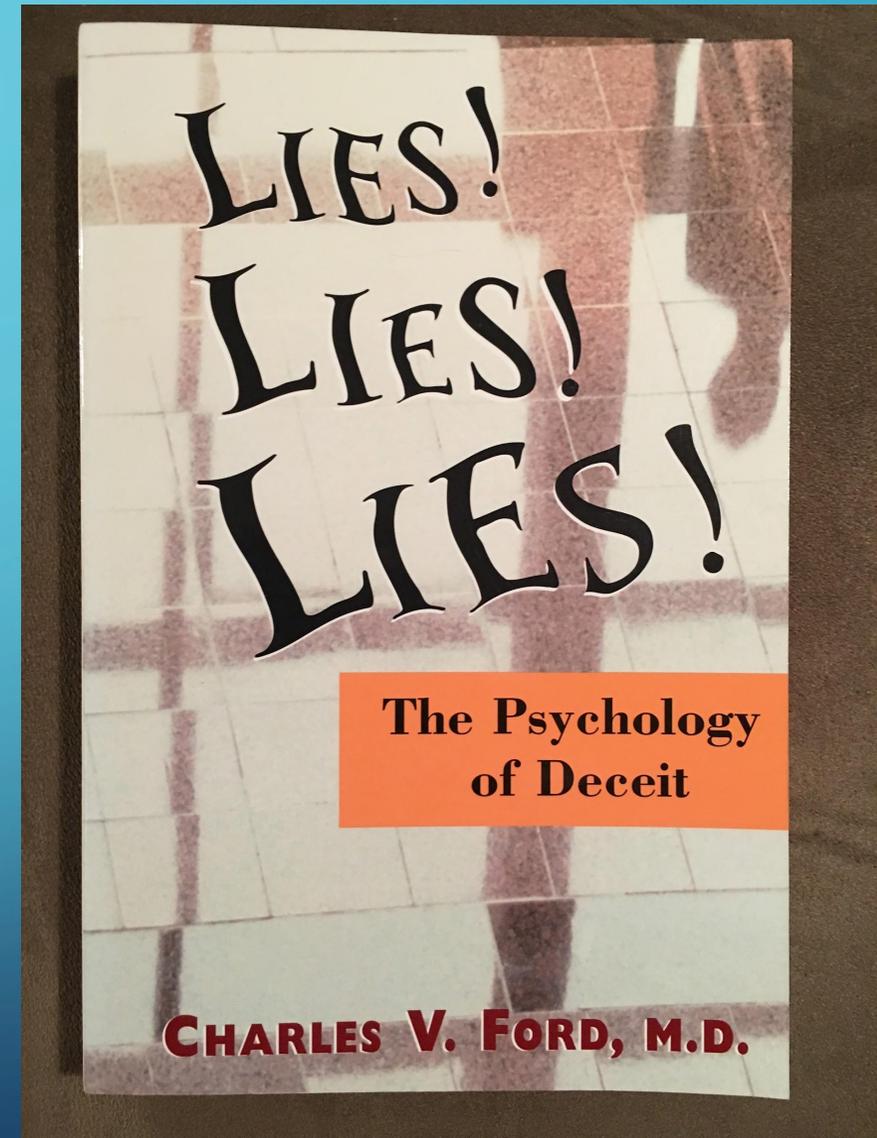
lies as wish fulfillment

lies to assist self deception

lies to manipulate the behavior of others

lies to maintain self-esteem

lies to create a sense of identity



# HAMLET, ACT III, SCENE 1

Madness in great ones must not unwatched go.



# HENRY VIII



- It's now acknowledged what a great job we've done,
- we get an A+”



# How to deal with gaslighting - Ariel Leve

1. Remain Defiant
2. Recognize there will never be accountability
3. Let go of the wish for things to be different
4. Develop healthy detachment



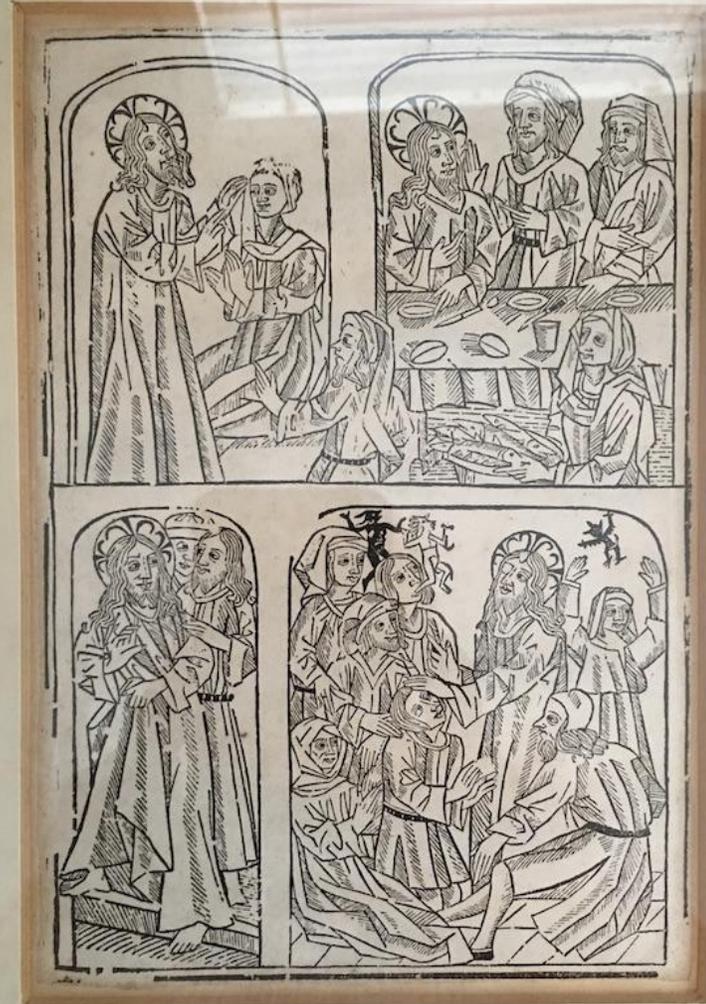
# GASLIGHTING IN PSYCHIATRY

- the gaslighters first choose a target that is vulnerable, mentally weak, easily defeated and manipulated. The victim's ability to defend themselves is usually minimal. In relationships, the manipulation and exploitation of the victim's honesty and love is the main concept in the process of gaslighting.
- Gaslighting depends on "first convincing the victim that his thinking is distorted and secondly persuading him that the victimizer's ideas are the correct and true ones."
- The main intention of the victimizer is to target the victim's mental equilibrium, self-confidence and self-esteem. It is a dangerous form of abuse because it undermines the mental stability of the victim, who becomes depressed and withdrawn and totally dependent on the abuser for their sense of reality.
- "Falsifying Reality, Spawning Evil", David Shasha

# TANGIER ISLAND, VIRGINIA



# CASTING OUT DEMONS



16<sup>e</sup> eeuw hout med



# MACBETH

IAN MERRILL PEAKES

# OTHELLO

Owiso Odera  
Ian Merrill Peakes





“

If everybody always lies to you, the consequence is not that you believe the lies, but rather that nobody believes anything any longer.

**Hannah Arendt, 1906 - 1975**

**DW NEWS**

Source: Interview, 1974

## WHY IS THE WORLD TURNING TO HANNAH ARENDT TO EXPLAIN TRUMP

*"One could make people believe the most fantastic statements one day, and trust that if the next day they were given irrefutable proof of their falsehood, they would take refuge in cynicism; instead of deserting the leaders who had lied to them, they would protest that they had known all along that the statement was a lie and would admire the leaders for their superior tactical cleverness."* -

*Hannah Arendt, "The Origins of Totalitarianism"*

# The Concept of Character

*British Journal of Medical Psychology* (1986), 59, 35–41 Printed in Great Britain

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© 1986 The British Psychological Society

## **The concept of character: Moral and therapeutic considerations**

**Allen R. Dyer**

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This paper discusses the relationship between the psychoanalytic concept of character and the moral considerations of 'character'. Both psychoanalysis (and dynamic psychotherapy) as well as moral philosophy are concerned with judgements of right and wrong. Though psychotherapists take a non-judgemental attitude toward those in treatment, there are implicit judgements based on the expectation of a developmental progression toward 'maturity' and the ability to value actions which go beyond the self. The history of the term character in the psychoanalytic literature is reviewed to show how character is dealt with in psychodynamic psychotherapy as well as the similarity of the concerns of the psychotherapist and the moral philosopher.

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The concept of character occupies a central position in psychoanalysis and psychodynamic psychotherapy. The same word 'character' occupies a central position in the lexicon of moral philosophy. It is usually held that the technical use of the term character has little

I believe that . . . this is the moon.



“How bright and goodly shines the moon.”

# THE TAMING OF THE SHREW

let's continue on. And whatever it is—  
moon or sun or anything you like—  
if you want to call it a tea candle,  
that's what it is as far as I'm  
concerned



# The Taming of the Shrew (Petruccio mads Kate)

**PETRUCHIO:** I'll attend her here,  
And woo her with some spirit when she comes. Say that she rail; why, then I'll tell her plain  
She sings as sweetly as a nightingale.  
Say that she frown; I'll say she looks as clear  
As morning roses newly wash'd with dew.  
Say she be mute, and will not speak a word;  
Then I'll commend her volubility,  
And say she uttereth piercing eloquence.  
If she do bid me pack, I'll give her thanks,  
As though she bid me stay by her a week;  
If she deny to wed, I'll crave the day  
When I shall ask the bans, and when be married.



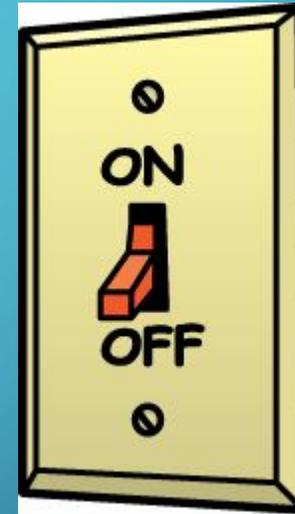
Believe me



# A Developmental theory of Reality processing

**Reality testing** - the ability to distinguish external objective manifest events and mental representations stimulated by internal events, memories and fantasies.

**Reality processing** - ability to distinguish between a perception and an idea and to recognize complex realities, nuance in relationships



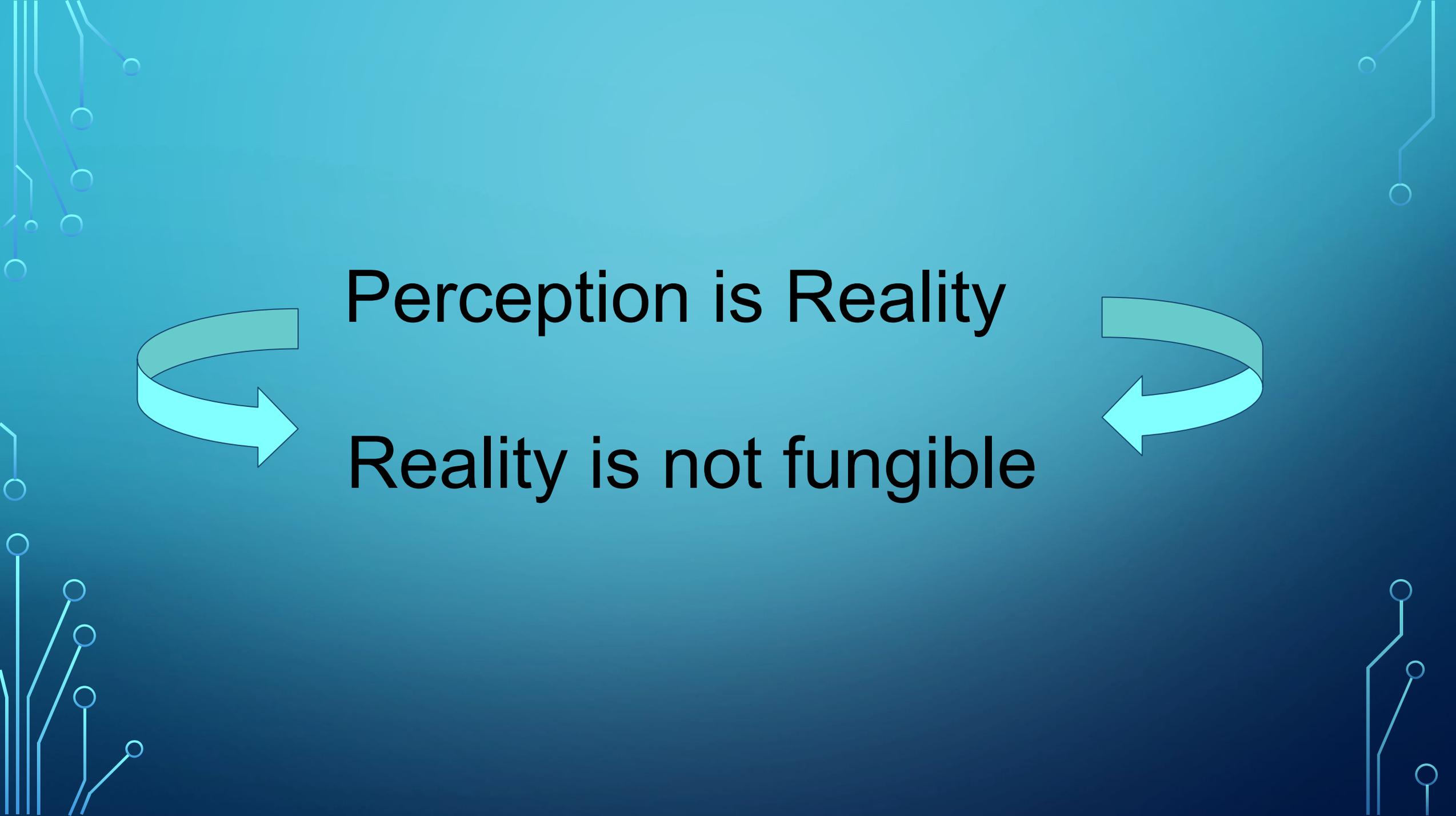
## **A Developmental Hypothesis of Reality Processing**

Fred P. Robbins, Leo Sadow

J Am Psychoanalytic Association April 1, 1974

# psy-cho-sis

1. a severe mental disorder in which thought and emotions are so impaired that contact is lost with external reality.
2. psychosis was defined broadly as “gross impairment in *reality testing*” or “loss of ego boundaries” that interferes with the ability to distinguish internal from external reality and the capacity to meet the ordinary demands of life.
3. the term *psychosis* refers to the presence of delusions, hallucinations without insight, or both.



Perception is Reality

Reality is not fungible



**BY ANY MEANS  
NECESSARY**

prop·a·gan·da

*noun*

information, especially of a biased or misleading nature, used to promote or publicize a particular political cause or point of view.



**TELLING THE UNWORLD**



# Институт физиологии им. И.П. Павлова

## Подробнее



“A riveting read. Once you understand the power and peril of dopamine, you’ll better understand the human condition itself.”

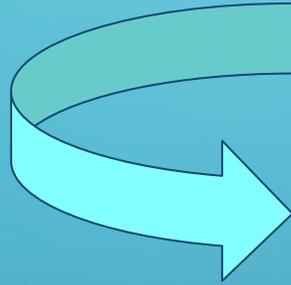
—DANIEL H. PINK, AUTHOR OF *DRIVE* AND *WHEN*



# THE MOLECULE OF MORE

How a Single Chemical in Your Brain Drives  
Love, Sex, and Creativity—and Will Determine  
the Fate of the Human Race

DANIEL Z. LIEBERMAN, MD  
AND MICHAEL E. LONG



Biology is destiny

Political differences  
aren't entirely ideological



WE SUPPORT  
PENN STATE  
FOOTBALL

PARK  
YES

WE SUPPORT  
PENN STATE  
ACADEMICS

PARK  
NO

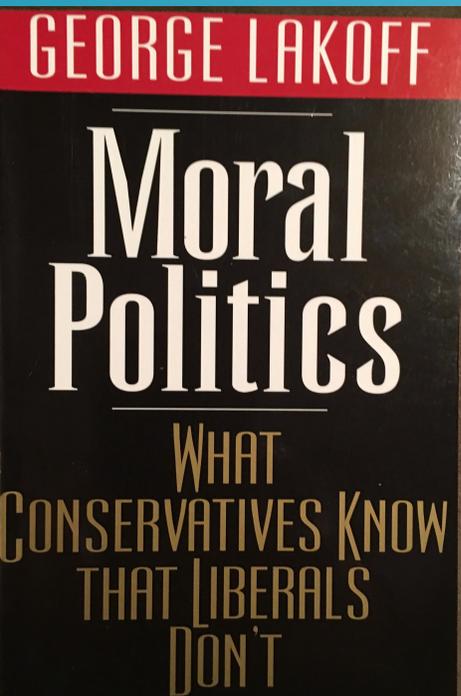
# George Lakoff: Moral Politics

## What Conservatives Know that Liberals Don't

**Strict Father** - punishment and reward

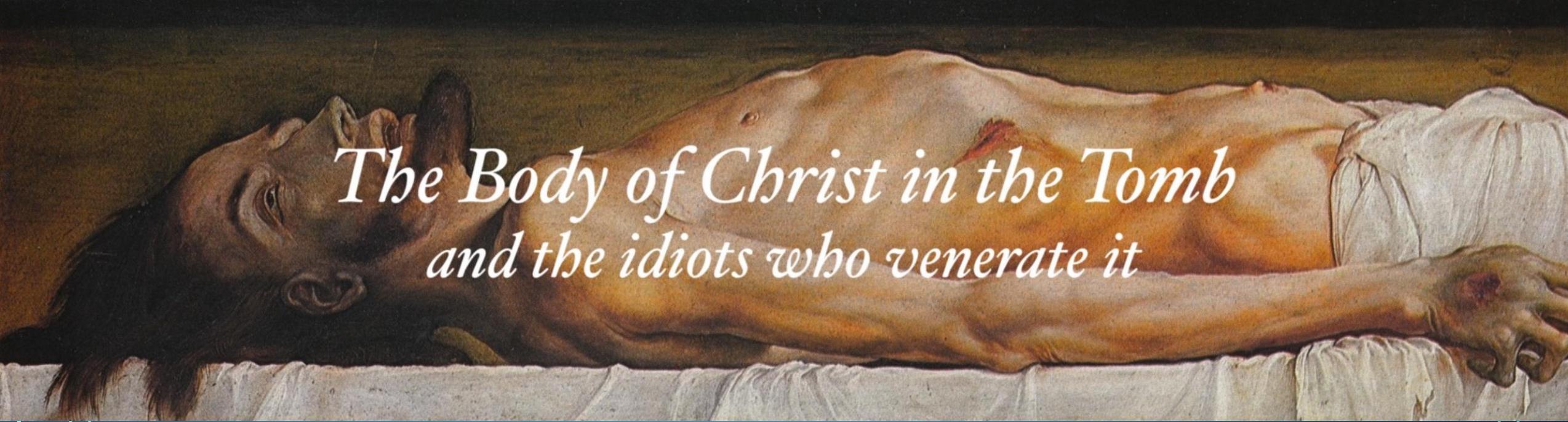
traditional nuclear family - children respect and obey parents -  
to build character and self-discipline

**Nurturant Parent** - to promote free, autonomous,  
rational actors - obedience comes from love and respect,  
not fear of punishment



# Identification with the aggressor

Ferenczi argued that a child who is raised by a threatening, bullying, or abusive parent may attempt to survive in that relationship by “identifying” with the aggressive, dominating parent. The molested daughter, for example may seek to become that parent’s “partner.” The abused son may seek approval and safety by trying to curry favor by becoming a tough guy. The common denominator in both instances is that identification, ironically, becomes a source of safety.



*The Body of Christ in the Tomb  
and the idiots who venerate it*



*SANITY and  
SURVIVAL in the  
NUCLEAR AGE*

Psychological Aspects of  
War and Peace

*JEROME D. FRANK*  
Ph.D., M.D.

Reissue of a classic work, originally published as  
*SANITY and SURVIVAL*, with a new introduction