



Preface

The idea for this book emerged from a near tragedy. I came in one afternoon to Shlomo Shoham's office at the Tel-Aviv University law faculty, where he was professor of criminology, and I had been working for the past twelve years as his English-language editor. Shosh Katz, the professor's secretary, told me that he had been taken to hospital with a coronary. Shosh and I and three of the professor's graduate assistants packed into my car and we set out for Beilinson Hospital.

We found Professor Shoham pacing the cardiology department corridors in hospital pyjamas and bathrobe, looking more aggravated than ill. A doctor insisted he return to bed. In Professor Shoham's room, the talk quickly turned to the matter that had obviously been consuming him.

Professor Shoham had for some years been conducting a rehabilitation programme for opiate addicts at the Israel Prison Service. The treatment scheme was based on deductions about the structure of human personality the professor had reached over more than four decades of research, and before that, as a prosecuting attorney. The treatment scheme is intended to be an auxiliary to medical detoxification and the twelve-step training programme of Narcotics Anonymous. Professor Shoham had deduced, and empirically corroborated, that as necessary as both physical detoxification and NA training are, they fail to touch upon a critical element in a person's mind, leaving it, as it were, as a lacuna of therapy. This lacuna, termed a 'black hole', is dealt with extensively in the present book, along with its psycho-therapeutic implications.

Back now to the scene at Professor Shoham's hospital bed. He told us that whereas most rehabilitation programmes have a success rate of 2-5 per cent, at the conclusion of a two-year period which includes post-treatment follow-up, the success rate of his scheme proved, over several two-year treatment-cum-follow-up cycles, to be 40 per cent. He wanted the Israel Prison Service to announce these findings and promote them overseas. It would contribute both to human welfare and to Israel's prestige. Sadly, an important Prison Services official, who out of charity will remain nameless here, blocked the idea. Underneath the verbiage of explanations, it boiled down to an old-fashioned case of bureaucratic backbiting.

I suggested going to an intellectual property attorney with a view to obtaining patents on the idea and the related therapy. We were given to understand, though, that neither the idea nor the therapy is patentable. Professor Shoham went on to consult his colleague Moshe Addad, professor of criminology at Bar-Ilan University and himself a leading authority on drug rehabilitation. This book is the outcome.



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Our target audience is the community of behavioural scientists engaged in the rehabilitation of opiate addicts. The treatment scheme is straightforward enough, and can be handled by social workers, clinical psychologists, and psychiatrists with experience in drug rehabilitation. The ideas in this book are also accessible to the educated layman.

The first two chapters, which deal with the theoretical underpinnings of the topic, provide the reader with footnote references to the relevant literature. Since the therapeutic scheme is based mainly on Professor Shoham's clinical experience, the need for annotation of subsequent chapters proved minimal.

Likewise, the authors considered bibliographic references beyond the footnotes to be redundant.

The authors wish to thank the Cegla Center for Interdisciplinary Research, at Tel-Aviv University, for its generous support in publication of this volume. So too do they wish to thank Dara Barnat for her outstanding editing work. Above all, they wish to thank Mrs Shosh Katz, who accompanied Professor Shoham on the addict rehabilitation project for three years. She has been our main support in the making of this book.

Martin Kett Bat-Yam, Israel
6 December 2004



Prologue

Monsters

By Danny Brener

(Article in Maariv, a daily Israeli newspaper, 1 December 2002)

“We have before us a horrifying case of sexual, physical and mental abuse of minor girls by their parents, who treated them cruelly and committed the worst crimes to their bodies, frequently and for years”. This is how the Nazareth district court judges explained the heavy imprisonment sentences they gave to parents from the north of the country, who were recently convicted in molesting their minor daughters. The father was sentenced to 14 years in prison, the mother to 12 years.

The judges write: “The picture that arises from the charge is one of a contaminated and filthy home, where five girls were doomed – girls whose only crime was having been born to parents who deteriorated to use of drugs, neglected them and used them as means to obtain drugs. Not only that, they also made them watch them and others use drugs, raped them and pimped in them to satisfy their needs for drugs, money and sex. There is no doubt that the acts to which the defendants admitted are horrible”.

The charges, submitted to the court by attorney Adi Weinstein of the northern district attorney office, describe a horrifying tale of years, during which the parents made their minor daughters into sex slaves. A routine day in the girls’ lives included beatings, watching the parents use heavy drugs, having sexual intercourse with the parents’ friends and with the parents’ themselves. According to the probation statement submitted to the court, the deeds of the father (58) and the mother (40) left the girls with unrecoverable scars.

One of the girls tried to commit suicide

One of the girls, who was sixteen when the crimes were committed, is said to have been sent to a girls boarding school at the age of four, after she was found wandering the streets of her neighborhood at night, neglected and



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unattended to. Ever since her parents committed the horrible crimes to her body, the girl had difficulty in adjusting to the social framework, and several times she even tried to take her own life. When she came home from the institution for vacations, the girl was exposed to use of drugs and became the victim of intensive sexual activity of her parents and their addict friends.

As a result, the girl herself fell to use of heavy drugs and to prostitution. In order to obtain drugs the girl became her parents' sex slave, who used her as a means to satisfy their sexual desires and to obtain drugs. When she could take it no more, the girl revealed these horrors to the counseling team at the educational institution in which she studied and filed a complaint against her parents.

However, when the investigation at the police was over and she had given her testimony, her mental state became worse. She reacted in uncontrollable bursts of anger and suffered from anxiety, disturbed thoughts and violence, depression, and eating and sleeping disorders. On may 2001, while staying in a hostel for rehabilitation, she wrote a diary and described the suffering she had gone through. In the diary she also wrote about her sisters' suffering and blamed her parents for it.

The charge against the parents is one of the gravest ever submitted to a court in the northern area. It describes how the mother used to have sex with strange men in front of her daughters. When the mother did not have money to pay for the drugs, she allowed the drug dealers to have sex with her daughters, as a substitute for money. One of the girls resisted on several occasions, and was then raped. Her screams were heard in the apartment; but the mother, who was then under influence of drugs, did not come to her aid and even laughed. The charge also says that the mother turned her daughters into sexual objects to satisfy her sexual needs, and frequently molested them sexually.

The girls also suffered from abuse by their father. He used to take his clothes off in front of them, molest them sexually and beat them mercilessly. When one of the girls refused to go to the drug dealer at night to bring drugs for her parents, the father slammed her head to the wall until she bled, and threatened her with a knife and a hammer.

The welfare office in the town was helpless against the horrors that occurred in the family. All the attempts made by welfare officials and social workers to aid the family failed because of the parents' addiction to heavy drugs.





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A panel of three judges, headed by Aharon Aminof, the vice president of the Nazareth district court, joined by the judges Nechama Munitz and Ziad Chawari, discussed the grim case. Following a plea bargain between the two parties, a revised charge was submitted to the court, in which the defendants were charged with the felonies of causing minors to use drugs, drug trafficking, pimping and soliciting to prostitution, assault of a helpless minor, parental abuse, sexual molestation of a minor, and breaching of parental obligations.

The judges were shocked by the horrors described in the charge: “The damages caused to the girl severely undermined her emotional world and her personality and are irreversible. The girl will need the support of therapeutic and institutional agencies throughout her whole life in order to deal with reality,” they wrote in their sentence. “The defendants caused the murder of their minor daughters’ souls; their behavior was not a one-time slip but a continuous abuse for years.”

The parents’ advocates, William Chamed and Chasan Abu Ahmed, of the northern public defense office, tried to convince the court not to sentence the parents to the maximum sentence stated by the plea bargain. The counselors claimed that the defendants were the victims of drug use, that they admitted the charges against them, and that they expressed regret and their will for rehabilitation. However, the judges did not find it justified to give a lighter sentence, and said: “We are convinced that there are no substantial reasons for lenience, to which one can cling when considering the defendants’ sentence. Their terrible failure to fulfill their role as parents and to provide for their children’s basic physical and mental needs, added by the continuous abuse and violence towards them, and the terrible result of all these, justify a maximum sentence for both defendants.”

