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DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PSYCHOPATHS AND PEOPLE WITH ASPERGER'S SYNDROME

The 'Psychopathy' term which Hans Asperger used when he published his findings in 1944 to describe Asperger's Syndrome must not be confused by the use of the term 'Psychopath' 60 years later in 2004 by the worldwide media. There are vast differences between the two conditions, many of which are listed on this page.

The most prominent symptom of a Psychopath is antisocial behavior, having no conscience, being a convincing liar and moral vacuity. Psychopaths are thrill seekers who view others as fodder for manipulation and exploitation. Among the first signs that someone is a Psychopath is cruelty to animals in childhood, but there are other warning signs too, such as violence to others and to property without little or any apparent reason or motive.

Indeed, I know that I have met a few Psychopaths in my life already, if not more, and no doubt, unfortunately, will meet more of them in the future. Every mainstream Secondary School in the UK has got at least one Psychopath amongst their pupils in each year, if not more, just as they have one person with AS amongst their pupils in each year.

Despite being very good at manipulating others for their own ends, a Psychopath will often run into trouble with the law or authority because of their impulsiveness and because they are unlikely to spend little if any time weighing up the pros and cons of the possible consequences of any action they may undertake. Being caught is rarely any detriment to a Psychopath. All it does is fuel the anger they felt towards the victim or institution and will, in fact, make the Psychopath believe that they were justified to commit the offence in the first place, as Psychopaths have a right, so they believe, to do what they want, when they want, where they want, to who they want. In their minds, they are above the law, which itself means little or nothing to them.

When one thinks of the word Psychopath, the image of a mad, wild-eyed axeman who is waiting in a dark alley to murder somebody conjures to mind. This isn't always the case. Psychopaths can appear to be normal, even friendly and charming. Some Psychopaths become murderers but not all Psychopaths are violent. Some Psychopaths may just stick to conning others and won't commit one single violent crime throughout their life. A Psychopath will typically con an old person out of their life savings and not feel any remorse for it. If anything, the Psychopath will blame the victim for being easily conned. Whilst not all Psychopaths are violent, each and every Psychopath is more prone to violence than any other groups of people with personality disorders.

The things that people with Asperger's Syndrome and Psychopaths have in common are

that both are often intelligent. There are some gifted and talented people with Asperger's Syndrome and there are some gifted and talented Psychopaths. However odd the first group of people may be and however loathsome the second group of people may be, you can't take this fact away from either of them.

No-one knows what causes either condition. The causes of both are still debated even today. Someone with either condition is totally in touch with reality. Neither are delusional. Neither hears voices urging them to do terrible things or sees strange things in the middle of the night. Neither a person with Asperger's Syndrome or a Psychopath believes that MI5 is watching them or that the Government is spying on them.

Both being a Psychopath and having Asperger's Syndrome is part of the personality of the individual. Those with both conditions have their own personalities, likes and dislikes. Both are in-between conditions. Someone with Asperger's Syndrome falls between the gaps in society with regards to services that exist for people with Mental Health Problems on one hand, and Traditional Learning Difficulties on the other, whereas there are many Psychopaths who are much too dangerous to be out in public but who are much too sane and rational to be in a Psychiatric Hospital. The only person a Psychopath feels compassion for is themselves, if it all. If found guilty of committing a crime, a Psychopath should be sent to Prison not a Mental Hospital, because they are bad, not mad. Sane and guilty.

When someone is Psychotic, it isn't their true personality. People with conditions identified as mental illness (Bi-Polar, Paranoid Schizophrenia, Hebrenic Schizophrenia, Simple Schizophrenia, Catatonic Schizophrenia, Paranoid Personality Disorder, Paranoid Psychosis, Chronic Depression, Acute Depression, SAD (Seasonal Affective Disorder), Schizo-Affective Disorder, Anxiety disorder, Agrophobia and Claustrophobia) will usually voluntarily seek help. A Psychopath will not seek help. They don't see themselves as having a problem so why should they?

Having outlined the similarities, I will now state the differences. There are vast differences between the two conditions. AS is a untreatable developmental disability. Psychopathy is a chronic, severe and untreatable personality disorder.

Psychopaths are adept, manipulative opportunists. They possess social intelligence and often make good actors, even though they are impulsive. People with AS are not manipulative. They are too rigid in their thinking to be opportunistic. They find it hard to be something they are not and they don't possess social intelligence. Any social behaviour a person with AS has is due to learning and copying NT's and watching how they interact and fare, which is very hard work in itself.

Regarding those who have Asperger's Syndrome, pupils in mainstream school will in almost all cases laugh AT them. When a pupil with Asperger's Syndrome tells a joke at Secondary School, not matter how brilliantly funny the joke is, it just is not funny. The NT peers will rarely, if ever, will laugh, due to loathing the person with Asperger's Syndrome.

Some Psychopaths are well-liked by their NT peers in school. In a mainstream Secondary School, the NT peers are more likely to laugh loudly when a person with AS is making a serious point rather than when they are telling a joke.

Many Psychopaths typically get kicks and enjoyment out of doing things such as pouring

petrol over animals and setting them alight or attaching bangers to tails of Dogs or Cats or torturing animals or younger children. They would then sit back, watch and coolly describe the event as they can get sexually or emotionally aroused by reliving the moment. This type of behaviour would horrify most people with Asperger's Syndrome, who are usually law abiding and if they ever do commit crimes, it would be almost comical, if it wasn't so serious, to watch their bungling, inept responses when they get caught, and how they would react in a Police station. This would contrast with the responses of a Psychopath. A Psychopath will try to rationalise an unpleasant situation they have caused by saying something like "We all have to do unpleasant things in life don't we? Haven't you?".

It is true that Psychopaths can't help being like they are, so some NT's may say to me "Why are you writing this about them? It's not their fault they are like they are". True, but individuals with Autism and Asperger's Syndrome can't help being like they are, but they are isolated, condemned, ostracised and excluded by society and many NT's. The behaviour displayed by someone with AS or Autism is often condemned by NT's as "Abnormal" behaviour. As far as I am concerned, "Abnormal" behaviour consists of violence, bullying, exploitation and conning others. How can it be it "Normal" to behave in such a way?.

There are no "Good" Psychopaths. There never can be a "Good" Psychopaths and there never will be a "Good" Psychopath. Anyone who believes there is such a thing as a "Good" Psychopath deserves to be stranded on Desert Island with 100 extreme Psychopaths. The only "Good" Psychopath is one that is exiled to Siberia, surrounded by miles or miles of bugger all apart from snow, or one that is DEAD, lying six foot under the ground in a wooden box, or whose ashes are in an urn in a Crematorium. Whilst many Psychopaths are very intelligent and gifted people, the best use for them is as lightning conductors on churches, car crash test dummies or target practice for machine guns. That also can be said for ALL bullies and thugs as well, regardless of age, social class or skin colour.

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