

Consider two stories...

- A man living in _____ has a vision in which God speaks to him. He begins preaching to his friends and neighbors, and soon he has the whole town in a state of religious fervor (excitement). People say he is a prophet and that he has a “calling.” His reputation as a prophet and healer spreads, and in time he is drawing large audiences everywhere he goes. However, when he ventures into _____ and attempts to hold a prayer meeting, which ends up blocking pedestrians, he is arrested. He tells the authorities about his conversations with God, and they hurry him off to the nearest _____.
- A man living in _____ has a vision in which God speaks to him. Later on the man began his public teaching and display of recorded miracles. Over a three year period, despite his efforts to keep a low profile, the man’s reputation spread nation wide. The authorities took it upon themselves to intervene and had him arrested and rushed off to _____. Not long after he was convicted by the authorities and _____.

Consider two stories...

- A man living in the Ozark Mountains has a vision in which God speaks to him. He begins preaching to his friends and neighbors, and soon he has the whole town in a state of religious fervor (excitement). People say he is a prophet and that he has a “calling.” His reputation as a prophet and healer spreads, and in time he is drawing large audiences everywhere he goes. However, when he ventures into St. Louis and attempts to hold a prayer meeting, which ends up blocking pedestrians, he is arrested. He tells the authorities about his conversations with God, and they hurry him off to the nearest mental hospital.
- A man living in Israel has a vision in which God speaks to him. Later on the man began his public teaching and display of recorded miracles. Over a three year period, despite his efforts to keep a low profile, the man’s reputation spread nation wide. The authorities took it upon themselves to intervene and had him arrested and rushed off to prison. Not long after he was convicted by the authorities and crucified.

This man is considered insane

This man, Jesus, was considered a religious prophet

Why is that?



Ch.16- Disorders

Who is right?

What is the definition of insanity?

Better yet, what is the definition of NORMAL?

Insanity

- Insanity is NOT a diagnosis in the **Diagnostic and Statistical Manual** of Mental Disorders (**DSM**)
- Why is that?
 - Legal term
 - Concept discussed in court to help distinguish guilt from innocence.
- Insanity is a legal term pertaining to a defendant's ability to determine right from wrong when a crime is committed. Here's the first sentence of law.com's lengthy definition:

“Insanity. n. mental illness of such a severe nature that a person cannot distinguish fantasy from reality, cannot conduct her/his affairs due to psychosis, or is subject to uncontrollable impulsive behavior.”



NORMAL

- Normal- comes from the Latin word *Norma* which means a carpenter's square, referring to a rule, pattern or standard by which to measure the things a carpenter creates.
- The definition of normal is neither simple nor easy.
- It depends upon such variables as behavioral setting, cultural perspective, public expectations and etc.



Distinguishing between Normal and Abnormal

1. Deviation from Normality

- A deviation from the average or from the majority.
- Not the most useful standard. What is normal?

2. Adjustment

- Normal people can get along in the world physically, emotionally and socially.
- Abnormal would fail to adjust.

3. Psychological Health: mental health or mental illness. There is an ideal way for people to function psychologically just as to function physically.



Psychological disorders are common.

- Its only when a psychological problem becomes severe enough to disrupt everyday life that it is thought of as an abnormality or illness.
- Normal Behavior: ability to cope with stress and conflict.
- Abnormal Behavior: the failure to adjust to the stresses of life.



The Problem of Classification

- Psychological problems are not clear cut or obvious.
- Neurosis/Psychosis
- DSM-IV: the fifth version of the American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders.
- More detailed categories including...
 - Anxiety disorders, dissociative disorders, mood disorders and schizophrenia.



New Ways to Categorize

- The following descriptions are included:
 - Essential features: characteristics that define the disorder.
 - Associated features: additional features that are usually present.
 - Differential Diagnosis: ways to distinguish disorder from others
 - Diagnostic Criteria: list of symptoms that must be present



Five Axes of DSM-IV

- Axis I: used to classify current symptoms into explicitly defined categories
- Axis II: used to describe developmental disorders and long-standing personality disorders...language disorders, autism, mental retardation.
- Axis III: physical disorders or general medical conditions that are potentially relevant to understanding or caring for person. (brain damage)



Five Axes of DSM-IV

- Axis IV: measurement of current stress level at which the person is functioning.
- Axis V: describes the highest level of adaptive functioning present in the past year.
- Benefits: helps discover connections among psychological disorders and other factors such as stress or physical illness.
- Drawback: labels a person.

BULL

If the label fits...

A medical student read about **B**ella's Syndrome—a skin condition that occurs as chiggerlike, scratchable spots-- and his chest started to itch.

Then he read about **U**rsula's Complex—a loss of motor control that leads the upper extremities to tremble—and his hands started shaking. He read on.

Next, he learned about **L**ung infarction—a collapsing of the lungs that can occur because of impeded blood circulation—and he noticed that his increasingly red chest seemed more concave than usual.

This created an intense feeling of **L**atent melancholia—brought on by worrying about the other three conditions. This individual was suffering from Medical Student Syndrome.

The conditions? NOT REAL

His afflictions? The same as those he had read.

As you read about mental illnesses don't self-diagnose. Are you ill? If you think so, form the acronym from the first four conditions above—**BULL!**

It's unlikely you are sick. But if you are worried, talk with a professional—not with yourself.