

PLEASURE and PAIN

J. Sarson, RN, BScN, MEd & L. MacDonald, RN, BN, MEd, © 2003

Preamble: To holistically understand the impact non-political torture, including ritual abuse-torture, has on a victimized person's concepts, beliefs, and perceptions demands that one be genuinely open to seeing reality from their perspective—to respect their knowing and to learn from their knowing. Learning from the victimized person requires, firstly, that the victimized person extend the privilege of sharing their lived experiences with the learner. Secondly, the learner needs the willingness and the ability to be present whole-heartedly¹ with the victimized person as they struggle to share their wisdoms with the learner. Wisdoms which are embedded—in their sufferings, their vulnerabilities, their isolation, their fears and anxieties, in their terror and in their horrors—in the totality of their experiential ordeals².

The above paragraph briefly defines the trusting relationship—the healing learning, the healing listening, and the healing talking—that we demanded of our-Selves when we were confronted with trying to find ways to be effective carers for Sara;³ and that Sara would demand of her-Self as she struggled to “wholistically”⁴ exit and integrate the horrendous realities of her ordeals of ritual abuse-torture. Healing learning, healing listening, and healing talking also defined the pillars of presence that guided us in our relationships with persons who stepped forward to be involved in our “kitchen table” research project. Within all of these relationships grew a connectiveness that supported learning and healing and the creation of “**collective wisdom**”.

Collective wisdom informs the following discussion on pleasure and pain. It is the Voices of collective wisdom that tell those of us who have not experienced non-political torture—ritual abuse-torture or spousal torture, for example—that these torturers do what they do for pleasure; that these torturers seek to satisfy their needs and desires for cruel pleasure by inflicting pain

¹ Pettigrew, J. (1990). Intensive nursing care The ministry of presence. *Critical Care Nursing of North America*, 2(3), 503-508.

² Logan, R. D. (1993). Alone (p. 9). Mechanicsburg, PA: Stackpole Books. Logan referred to an ordeal as a situation where an individual is utterly alone and forced to confront experiences of:

1. Prolonged physical suffering, pain, and debilitation,
2. A prolonged threat to life,
3. Prolonged stress of fear and arousal,
4. Being forced to live with severe restrictions to one's freedom,
5. Being forced to cope with prolonged and extreme uncertainty, and
6. Being faced with demands that constantly threatens to overwhelm one's physical and [mind-spirit] resources.

Persons forced to withstand ordeals of non-political torture, although not utterly alone in the physical sense in that their perpetrator(s) and possibly other victims are present, it is our opinion that Logan's definition gives shape to the realities experienced by persons victimized by ordeals of RAT or spousal torture, for example.

³ Meeting, then learning to know and care about Sara was how we began our journey into our struggle to understand the co-culture of ritual abuse-torture.

⁴ The spelling of this word is intentional—meaning “whole” person. Sara's goal was that she exit and heal from her RAT ordeals without a fracturing-of-Self (without developing multiplicity) or to state it as Sara stated it to us, “Believe me, I will kill my-Self if I become multiple!”

unto their victims; that there are perpetrators who walk among us who have insatiable appetites for the infliction of inhumane brutality; and, their evil creativities are defined and only limited by their concerns to design ways of never getting caught!

The collective wisdom: Insights into pleasure and pain

So, to briefly answer the question we are repeatedly asked: How can RAT perpetrators or spousal torturers do what they do? Collective wisdom indicates the answer lies in accepting and integrating—not resisting—the concept that human evil-doers do what they do for pleasure; that inflicting pain is one of their pleasures; and, they derive pleasure from:

1. Satisfying their needs and desires to dominate and to express totalitarian power and control over their victim(s);
2. Satisfying their needs and desires for cruel and inhumane pleasure and entertainment which includes the pleasure of inflicting pain via acts of physical, sexualized, and mind-spirit abuse, torture, terrorization, and horrification; and/or,
3. Satisfying their greed and their needs and desires for money—satisfying these needs and desires generally directs the RAT perpetrator to engage in the business of sexualized exploitation of their victim(s). A “family business” that exploits and traffics their victim(s), depending on their age and physical stature, into either the pedophilic or the adult off-street “sex” trade or into both the off-street and the on-street “sex” trade of prostitution and/or pornography.

Below are brief vignettes of the experiential ordeals persons, who came forth to be part of our kitchen table research project, shared with us. Their testimonials give evidence to the pleasure perpetrators of RAT and spousal torture derive from satisfying their needs and desires in deliberate and organized ways via the wanton infliction of all forms of physical, sexualized, or mine-spirit⁵ torture and other cruel, inhuman, and degrading acts that caused severe pain and suffering.⁶

Meet the people: Listen and learn from their experiential vignettes

1. The perpetrator’s pleasures: Domination, totalitarian power and control, the infliction of physical, sexualized, and mind-spirit pain and suffering with emphasis on a consumption ritual

She’s angry because I’m talking...I’m not supposed to talk ... not supposed to tell ... because we are one ... if she gets hurt I get hurt ... we are one because her blood is in me ... she cuts her finger ... I have to cut mine ... forced to lick her blood ... she licks mine ... she tells me her blood

⁵ Within the ordeal of mind-spirit pain and suffering we include emotional pain and suffering, terrorification and horrification.

⁶ International Council of Nurses. (1989, May). *Position Statement on Nurses and Torture*. Adopted in Seoul; United Nations (1985). *Outlawing an Ancient Evil: Torture. Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment*. New York: United Nations Department of Public Information, the World Medical Association, Inc. (1975, October). *World Medical Association Declaration Guidelines for Medical Doctors Concerning Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment in Relation to Detection and Imprisonment*. Adopted by the 29th World Medical Assembly, Tokyo, Japan.

is transferred to me ... that she owns me ... she owns all of me ... I just do ... I do whatever she says ... she was the most scariest woman I know ... you have to see her in action ... she loves what she does ... she loves it so much ... she gets pleasure out of everything ... she took pleasure in doing the whippings ... did you know that when she got me wet the whippings hurt more? ... pleasure in doing the cuttings ... in my vagina ... on my breasts ... between my toes ... the blood ... she likes the blood ... she goes yum, yum, yum ... she likes it all so much ... the torture ... the pain ... she gets pleasure out of everything ... she smiles ... she looks so smug ... she laughs with her head tilted back ... she laughs in my face ... she's having big time fun ... she's one of the most vilest, vilest ones ...

... Sara describing the pleasure of her perpetrator, Mama Franklin⁷

2. The perpetrator's pleasures: Domination, totalitarian power and control, and the infliction of physical, sexualized, and mind-spirit pain and suffering with the added thrill of necrophilism and group raping

The sexualized perversions that took place during family and friend picnics occurred when the RAT group members took us "special" kids for a "walk" into the woods to the big rocks ... there they group raped me ... the pain ... I was choked until near death ... one man loved to do the choking ... I was so terrified ... I think I blacked out ... the other kids and I couldn't tell the other adults what happening to us ... today as I look back I think it gave the perpetrators an extra thrill and pleasure to rape me ... rape us kids ... out there so openly on the rocks ...

... Carrie speaking about her RAT group victimization⁸

3. The perpetrator's pleasures: Domination, totalitarian power and control, and the infliction of physical and mind-spirit pain and suffering with added emphasis on the pleasures of de-humanization

Knowing and having a bizarre sense of belonging to "the family" was enforced by having a personal dog collar which I kept at the head of my bunk bed ... it was a sign of being owned by the family and my mother thought I looked cute with my green dog collar around my neck ... tied to a chair or a hook ... like a dog on a lease ... I was treated like an animal ... and it was a way my mother used to maintain control over me ...

... Hope describing her everyday childhood ordeals⁹

4. The perpetrator's pleasures: My mother's pleasures of inflicting physical, sexualized, and mind-spirit pain and suffering with emphasis on using the mirror technique to objectify me

My mother's behaviour was terrorizing in its bizarreness as she sat me before the mirror of her bedroom dresser ... watching as she transformed my face into a freakish image of red painted lips, pinkish cheeks, and eyes that didn't even look like they belonged to me ... she'd call me down ... call me a slut ... I can still hear her chilling laughter ... her glee as she sought her

⁷ From our work in progress, Sara is a survivor of Christian-satanic-based RAT.

⁸ Carrie sharing her ordeals of satanic-based RAT victimization and was a participant in our kitchen table research project.

⁹ From our kitchen table research project, Hope identified her-Self as a survivor of Christian-luciferin-based RAT.

pleasure and entertainment using my body ... kissed, sucked, boiling hot enemas, objects poked into me...

... Hope

5. The perpetrator's pleasures: Inflicting group pedophilic physical, sexualized, and mind-spirit RAT pain and suffering that over-whelmed their victim's capacity to process her life-threatening ordeal

My sister and the woman are held down ... the dogs are over them ... there are ropes and handcuffs ... men then rape my sister ... I see her eyes ... she doesn't see although her eyes are open ... then I was held down ... hands and objects did things to hurt me ... my grandfather gave the orders ... my brother watched ... I left my body in that room ...

... Kate telling about her RAT ordeal that occurred at age six or seven¹⁰

6. The perpetrator's pleasures: Inflicting over-whelming pedophilic physical and sexualized torture pain and suffering

Daddy don't take me to the bathtub ... no, daddy, no I say to my-Self ... I don't want to go in the water ... I have to swim to the monster [penis] ... I'm so scared ... I have to open my eyes and find the monster ... terrified ... I have to hold the monster ... open my mouth ... suck on the monster ... whole big bunch ... no ... no ... no ... it can't go into the little door [vagina] ... terror ... so much pain ... the monster is too big ... oooh ... the water is turning red ... terror ... horror ... red colour ... just like the crayons in my colouring book ... water is turning like my colouring book.

... Sara's description of her ordeal at the age of two or three

7. The perpetrator's pleasures

Being able-bodied was not a pre-requisite for membership within this RAT group because I remember one woman who was not hampered in her pleasure for abusing me even though she was disabled by polio. Remembering her evilness and torture leaves me chilled.

... Carrie

8. The perpetrator's pleasures: Inflicting physical, sexualized, and mind-spirit pain and suffering with emphasis on the pleasure of seeing terror in the eyes of his tortured victim

I enjoy seeing the terror in your eyes, bitch! That's why Ken seldom covered my eyes ... he wanted the pleasure of seeing the terror his torturing created.

... Dawn describing the pleasure of her spousal torturer, Ken¹¹

¹⁰ Kate identified her-Self as a RAT survivor and participated in our kitchen table research project.

¹¹ Dawn's story is part of our work in progress.

9. The perpetrator's pleasures: The thrill of belonging and participating in a RAT group infliction of physical, sexualized, and mind-spirit pain and suffering

My father took me to be raped ... my father and other men and women would stand around the bed, watch and laugh ... I felt so humiliated ... so ashamed ... so powerless ... there are no words to describe their sound, the tone of their laughter, and the feelings I felt ... their laughter still haunts me today ... I can still hear it ringing inside my head ... inside my ears."

... Carrie

10. The perpetrator's pleasures: The pedophilic pornographers and the prostitutes

When I started to understand that my abusers and torturers, especially the pornographers and the prostitutes, got pleasure when I cried ... got off on seeing me suffer ... I resolved never to cry again ... I'd take away their pleasure ... so I made a deal with my-Self never to cry again ...

... Hope

11. The perpetrator's pleasure: Parent's satisfying their greed and needs and desires for money by exploiting and trafficking their child into the pedophilic "sex" trade

I can still hear my father saying to the man who rented me ... bring her back when you're done ... I was probably only eighteen months old ... I grew up hearing my parents telling me to be good ... to do good for the family ... I wanted to make my father happy ... he smiled when he was happy ... as they sat me on the counter of their store and rented me out again and again and again to the men and women ...

I can still remember my father taking me on the airplane to Toronto and the woman waiting at the airport ... my father gave me to her ... he'd say ... be good ... I was so terrified ... the woman took me to the warehouse where the men and woman came to use me ... pain ... terror ... horror ... when they were done the lady took me back to my father ... I remember the airline hostess ... she gave me a colouring book and crayons ... she was a nice lady ...

... Sara

12. The perpetrator's pleasure: The pedophilic pornography session

When I was just little, pictures were taken of me that looked like ordinary photos to an "outsider", but there is a grave difference between pictures that celebrate children versus pictures taken of my little body's nakedness ... nakedness that gave pornographic pleasure ... pornographic photo sessions organized by RAT family members ... I was only a thing to my torturers so "I" didn't matter to them ...

... Hope

"I" did not matter to them ...