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Type of Presentation: Workshop

Psychosis and evil

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Learning Goal:

Getting tools on how to handle difficult situations evoked by psychosis. Fit for clinicians, familymembers, people with lived experience and worried public

Abstract Text:

When culture is absent, or when you have grown out of the authority of your parents, you realize that you can act in an evil way. The devil or Hitler appears. So what prevents people to do other people harm?

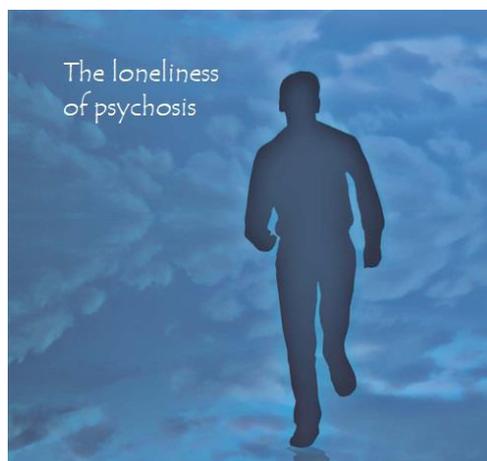
Listen to the tale of the scorpion and the frog: A scorpion wants to cross the water, he meets a frog and asks him to ride on his back. The frog says: "What if you sting me?" "Oh no," the scorpion says, "I will not do that." Then the frog takes the scorpion on his back, halfway he feels the burning sting and they both sink in the water. "What did you do?" the frog cries, "Now we will both be dead!" The frog says: "I can't help it, it is in my nature!"

It is in the nature of humans to help. For the very simple reason that people are social animals, they have to survive in a group. To do harm is more difficult than one thinks. To commit the mass murder on Jews (and psychiatric patients) Nazis did have to do tricks to persuade the German people to put Jews in concentration camps. Systematically for years and years they isolated the Jews and made propaganda to convince people that Jews were a despicable race.

When people really meet in person, they realize that the other is a person like themselves. Then the social instinct is awakened. In a psychosis people are living in a world of their own, other persons don't really exist. Psychotic persons can therefore act in an annoying way. (Or the other way around they can hurt because they seem to long for really meeting the other?)

What is needed is a real encounter.

Attendants can practice it in a roleplay.



**ON THE HEALING POWER
OF HUMAN RECONNECTION**