

- A helpful distinction:
  - Sexual Contact = Involves another person
  - Sexual Attraction = Involves self
- Who are the Characters?
  - Rasputin
  - Pygmalion
  - Potpar's Wife
  - Shahrazede

# *Predictors of Behavior*

Adapted from the work of Kenneth Pope, MD, *Identifying and rehabilitating sexually abusive therapists*, Annual meeting of American Psychiatric Association, San Francisco, CA, May 1989.

- **Power and Control**

- Sexual preoccupation
- Substitution
- Attraction to pathology or history of abuse
- Authoritarian orientation
- Physical or psychic immobilization

- **Anger**

- Physical Battering
- Emotional abuse
- Provoking debilitation

- **Sadism**

- Pleasure in causing pain
- Sexualized humiliation

# Sexually Exploitive Archetypes

Adapted from Richard Irons, MD, *On Seduction and Exploitation: A Medical Model Approach*, The Menninger Clinic

- The naïve prince/cess
  - Young, feels powerful, invulnerable, “special relationships;” *blurred roles & boundaries*.
- The wounded warrior
  - Dependent on professional status for validation, but overwhelmed and wishing to escape. Seeks *affirmation and gratification*.
- The false lover
  - Enjoys the *game* of seduction
- The self-serving martyr
  - Work has become their life
  - Isolated, existentially stuck in career. Seeks *adventure*.
- The dark ruler
  - Charming, charismatic, successful, manipulative.
  - Expression of *power, dominance & manipulation*
- The wild card
  - Extensive sexual acting out, probably multiple *Axis I*

# Common Traps

- Confusing intimacy/caring with sexuality
- Confusing  $\square$ emotionality with sexuality
- “Proving” caregiver safer/different than abuser
- Avoidance of anger at limits- pt or caregiver
- Difficulty distinguishing concrete from symbolic
- Gamesmanship/debate
- Gender specific:
  - **Female** caregiver intuitively child beneath macho exterior
  - **Female** caregiver can reform male with love
  - **Male** caregiver can confuse cultural ritual with sexual cue
  - **Male** caregiver can take care of female, confusing maternal with erotic

# Early Warning Signs

- Excessive self disclosure
- Excessive concern re: appearance on seeing patient
- Prevalence of sexual narratives
- Fantasies about patient
  - Sexual contact
  - Giving or receiving pain
  - Rescue or uniting fantasies
    - “All she/he needs is someone who cares”
    - “If only we had met under different circumstances”
    - “Maybe we can agree to meet a year from now”
- Dreams about patient
- Anxiety in the face of sexualized transference

# Issues for Consultation

- Make commitment to consultation early
  - Lovestruck caregiver would rather do nothing but bask in the feelings
  - A point of no return is reached when consultation is ineffective
- Questions:
  - Is consultation asked to bless doubts, or explore them?
  - Of what feeling are you most confused/frightened?
  - What would make you the most uncomfortable if known?
  - What is being re-enacted ?
  - Who has the patient become for the caregiver?
  - Who has the caregiver become for the patient?