

Spiritual Assessment & Care in Personality Disorders

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Scope and Definition

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- Character (William James)
- Personality (Harry Stack Sullivan)
- Self (Carl Young)
- The Self (Fritz Kunkel)
- Soul (Many religious sys)



Scope and Definition

- ▣ **Personality traits** are enduring patterns of perceiving, relating to, and thinking about the environment and self. *Way of life, stance, or as conversation, way of conduct, or “walk.”*
- ▣ **Personality disorder** is presumed **only** when these traits are inflexible, maladaptive, or cause significant functional impairment or emotional distress.

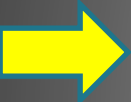
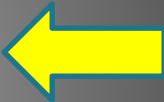
Scope and Definition

- ▣ **Personality disorder** may best be thought of as a developmentally based, adaptive relational patterned used to manage anxiety and defend the self (soul) by
 - Disrupting interactions or thought patterns.
 - Testing and sometimes isolating from the environment.
 - Provoking various emotional responses from others.
- ▣ **Recorded on Axis II**
 - Not the primary focus of clinical attention
 - No pharmacological target.

DSM Multi-Axis Assessment

- ▣ Axis I
 - Clinical Disorder or other condition that may be a focus of clinical attention.
- ▣ Axis II
 - Personality Disorder
- ▣ Axis III
 - General medical condition
- ▣ Axis IV
 - Psychosocial and environmental problem
- ▣ Axis V
 - Global assessment of functioning

A Sample of a Multi-Axial Assessment

- ▣ Axis I: Major Depression, recurrent
-  ▣ Axis II: Narcissistic Personality Disorder 
- ▣ Axis III: Hypertension, chronic
- ▣ Axis IV: Marital conflict, loss of employment
- ▣ Axis V: GAF: 50 current; 80 past year

Scope and Definition

Trauma based personality disorders
are:

- ▣ Learned defensive response to severe, repetitive, *typically sexualized* trauma.
- ▣ More disruptive and refractory than personality resulting from inadequate care or parenting.
- ▣ Contain elements of developmental deficits at several stages.
- ▣ Contain elements of interlocking cognitive error.