



Anger, Madness, and the Daimonic: The Psychological Genesis of Violence, Evil and Creativity (Suny Series in the Philosophy of Psychology)

Stephen A. Diamond

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Explores the links between anger, rage, violence, evil, and creativity and describes a dynamic therapeutic approach that can help channel anger and violent impulses into constructive and creative activity.

Though the causes of violence in our society are complex, the troublesome human emotions of anger and rage play a central role in the genesis of violent behavior and psychopathology in general. In this provocative book, clinical and forensic psychologist Stephen A. Diamond determines where rage and anger originate and explores whether these powerful passions are—as most people presume—purely negative, pathological, and evil or can be meaningfully redeemed and redirected into constructive activity. Using clinical and biographical case studies, as well as striking visual images, he traces anger, rage, and violence through their most destructive expressions to their creative and transcendent functions in art, psychotherapy, and spirituality.

“An excellent book ... I have always felt that Dr. Diamond’s emphasis on the daimonic was extremely timely and important in our day. The myth of the daimonic covers vital, archetypal human experiences, as this work clearly illustrates. I find it very readable, and done like the true scholar.” — from the Foreword by Rollo May

“Drawing on an impressive study of existential and depth psychologists as well as his strong grounding in the practicalities of clinical work, the author analyzes the psychology of evil and the central role of anger and rage in psychotherapy.” — *CHOICE*

“...revolutionary ... The daimonic today is ... the pursuing shadow of the human potential movement ... Diamond’s book is a key to our understanding of ... how to deal constructively with daimonic anger and rage in psychotherapy and most importantly, how to transform them creatively.” — *San Francisco Jung Institute Library Journal*

“Diamond redeems anger in much the same way that Rollo May redeemed anxiety ... few books are a more important read. Anger, Madness, and the Daimonic is an excellent introduction to the breadth and depth of existential theory.” — Louis Hoffman, Saybrook University

“...[a] powerful book ... Diamond’s reach is ambitious: to consider the ‘meaning’ of human violence and evil ... He asks what produces serial killers, the Oklahoma City bombing, the Bobbitt castration case, the O. J. Simpson murder trial, and explores more generally the male response to the rise of feminist anger ... enjoyable, extremely readable and accessible ... a sincere, thought-provoking contribution to an important subject.” — *Journal of Analytical Psychology*

“Evocative, very thorough and succinct, Stephen Diamond’s superb book will remain the seminal work on this shadowy subject for a long time to come.” — Jeremiah Abrams, author of *Meeting the Shadow and The Shadow in America*

“...a brilliant and indispensable resource for students of human personality.” — Ernest Becker *Foundation Newsletter*

“An impressive, prodigious work; so comprehensive, so rich, and very creative. This excellent book is unique in making sense of the ‘senseless violence’ that permeates American society today. When we understand the root causes of the human need for violence, we will be able to make an ally of the energy it liberates.” — June Singer, author of *Boundaries of the Soul*

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