

SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN: PSYCHO OR CYPHER?

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Sirhan made noises on occasion that he was politically motivated, but was outraged at being classified as a psycho; observers agree that Sirhan is a little of both, but more an enigma than anything else.

Theoretically, only Sirhan knows why he plotted and then murdered a man he allegedly both loved and hated. His testimony - or what there was of it - alluded strongly to Sirhan's having several outstanding traits. He made it plain that he was bright, aggressive, arrogant, wiley, and a patent liar.

The latter facet to Sirhan's character caused both the State and the Defense to grasp at straws in ascribing motive from their respective positions. That a major world figure had been murdered was the only thing either side knew beyond question. From this immediate conclusion, an uncontested theorem was advanced from both directions: Sirhan was some kind of loner-Communist-psycho, who had taken revenge for an imagined life of violence he had suffered, who had autonomously decided to become a national hero to a foreign element he had virtually no affinity with whatsoever.

The only rational thing was the verdict: Guilty in the First Degree.

62-587-1199

ENCLOSURE

Such an analysis of Sirhan's mental state more or less coincided with that of both the prosecution and the defense; however, certain less noble aspects of Sirhan's past and current life were skirted and/or avoided by the two court "protagonists"; to pursue a more seamy side of their victim-client's personal involvements would have cast doubt on their otherwise pat evaluations of this strange little man - and his possibly invented rationale.

The State charged that Sirhan was a political assassin, some kind of loner-Communist, who killed RFK in order to become the national hero of Middle Eastern Arab-Communists, by drawing attention to their being victims of RFK's alleged oppressor-friends, the Israelis. Unfortunately, Sirhan didn't accomodate the State too well, for his alleged political motivations came through both late and vaguely defined.

The defense contended that their client was mentally bereft, that this was the cause for his political machinations that led him to murder RFK; they claimed his experiments with the occult had produced some sort of self-propelled "Machiavellian Candidate"; finally, the defense asserted that their curious little client was really the byproduct of a violent American society and world turmoil, not really a murderer per se.

Ultimately, hard, irrefutable, material evidence persuaded the jury that Sirhan was sane at the time he executed RFK, that his was unmistakably a calculated and contemplated crime against society. His only mistake was in getting caught.

However, expedience, not justice, had prevailed. Ignored were the threads of truth in an otherwise fabric of lies - and both sides had effectively avoided the obvious: Conspiracy.

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In between two of these same phrases appears a somewhat huge number - an 8, followed by 5 or 6 zeros. This seeming sum was evidently on Sirhan's mind as he urged himself toward the murder of RFK.

On an adjacent page, Sirhan toys with another suspicious thought. Says Sirhan: "Today I must plan to come home in a new car...today I must plan to drive home in a new new new Mustang....in in a new Mustang...in a...tonight tonight tonight we I must by(sic) a new Mustang tonight tonight tonight tonight tonight Meet me tonight tonight Come tonight.tonight tonight...".

Whatever else Sirhan was at this particular time, he was also a young man in an obvious hurry to achieve instant affluence. Murder and quick wealth - or thoughts of same - are ingredients not necessarily incompatible with assassination.

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Elsewhere in his Diary, Sirhan expounded his thoughts on his real and imagined plight in American society:

"Whatever may be said in praise of poverty, the fact remains it is not possible to live a complete or successful life unless one is rich. No man can rise to his greatest possibility.....

"I have often wondered what it is like to be rich.....rich.....RICH. Black Magic!"

Some "Communist", this Sirhan! His pre-occupation with wealth and/or the lack of it should have triggered serious curiosity in relation to his possible ulterior motive for murdering RFK.

The fact remains that no one did - and the question remains unanswered: Was Sirhan motivated in whole or part by promises of substantial wealth as his reward?

JERRY OWEN - SERMON AT SONOMA

On September 14, 1968 Jerry Owen was conducting a series of well-organized Revival Meetings at the National Guard Armory at Sonoma in Northern California. His sermon or stage act - billed him under the title of "The Walking Bible". The following is a transcribed excerpt from a motion picture soundtrack of that evening's performance:

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"And tonight the television cameras are here and they're televising here parts of this. They'll go through the tape and blend it together and, er, I just hope and pray that it'll be a blessing and that if somebody's viewing in home the spirit of God will come right where you are and touch you because America needs a spiritual awakening. We need a revival of the love of God - we need a baptism of the love of God. Now we realise the hippies talk love but that is a physical love and a sexual love. We don't need that. We need the love of God, a spiritual love like never before here in the United States of America. Now I'm going to ask the Lord to put his word within my heart and maybe tonight for fifteen to eighteen minutes, we might not take time to read 'em but have your Bibles ready, because on television lots of times I'd go for twenty-five minutes without stopping - just the Bible, just unrolling verse after verse, but maybe the Lord will call one or two of you and if we do, as I call you, walk up with your verse and stand here and read it to show the audience tonight, and a television audience, how God has put thirty-one thousand a hundred and seventy-three verses in this preacher's heart. And the reason the cameras are here tonight is because last - the other day before yesterday I believe it was, I was on one of the big stations in San Francisco with a man that talks to people and he interviewed me for one hour and, er, the owner of these cameras in this Company was so touched and thought it was so wonderful that sent his men here tonight. He had to leave to go back East on important business but his camera crew were here tonight and this is how they did - how they televise and how they make movies. I first started in "Prize-Fighter and a Lady" with Max Baer and then with Mae West, "Diamond Lil" and "Belle of the Nineties", "Swamp Angel" with Loretta Young, George Raft in "Prison Cell Break" and, er, way back in the early thirties I got a lot of bit-part work. I was just either a chauffeur, a newspaper boy, or a bodyguard or something but you know what happened to me? In 1937 I got acquainted with a man called Jesus and I'm sure proud of it. Do you know what he said in Job 22/21? "Acquaint now thyself with him and be at peace, thereby good shall come unto thee" and I got acquainted with him that night and now I'm going to ask you to bow your heads in a word of prayer and I'm going to ask God to give me a loaf of bread. Now you know why we call it a loaf of bread? In John 6:51 Jesus said "I am the living bread which come down from Heaven - if any man eat of this bread he shall live forever for the bread that I give is my flesh which I shall give for the life of the world".

JERRY OWEN: MAN OF MANY HATS & COLLARS

Jerry Owen sports a curious set of names and identities. They are: Jerry Owen as such; Oliver Jerry Owen, understood to be his legal, given name; J. C. Owen, a seemingly-obvious inference; "Curly" Owen, a descriptive nickname; SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS, a title used on one of his religious bags of tricks, whereby this Orange County Christ performed social miracles by providing "Free pony rides for boys and girls who go to the church of their choice, read their Bible verse, and mind their parents."; for the time being Owen has discarded this last monicker in favor of an older, more tried and -true calling, THE WALKING BIBLE, a man who has "committed 31, 173 Bible verses into (this) preacher's heart (memory)", which is the billboard for a performance of seemingly-incredible Biblical recall. That Owen uses to fleece the provincial flocks throughout the nation's countryside. Whatever else Owen is, he is a spellbinding practitioner of rhetorical legerdemain - on stage and off.

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Ultimately, hard, irrefutable, material evidence persuaded the jury that Sirhan was sane at the time he executed RFK, that his was unmistakably a calculated and contemplated crime against society. His only mistake was in getting caught.

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JERRY OWEN - SERMON AT SONOMA

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"And tonight the television cameras are here and they're televising here parts of this. They'll go through the tape and blend it together and, er, I just hope and pray that it'll be a blessing and that if somebody's viewing in home the spirit of God will come right where you are and touch you because America needs a spiritual awakening. We need a revival of the love of God - we need a baptism of the love of God. Now we realise the hippies talk love but that is a physical love and a sexual love. We don't need that. We need the love of God, a spiritual love like never before here in the United States of America. Now I'm going to ask the Lord to put his word within my heart and maybe tonight for fifteen to eighteen minutes, we might not take time to read 'em but have your Bibles ready, because on television lots of times I'd go for twenty-five minutes without stopping - just the Bible, just unrolling verse after verse, but maybe the Lord will call one or two of you and if we do, as I call you, walk up with your verse and stand here and read it to show the audience tonight, and a television audience, how God has put thirty-one thousand a hundred and seventy-three verses in this preacher's heart. And the reason the cameras are here tonight is because last - the other day before yesterday I believe it was, I was on one of the big stations in San Francisco with a man that talks to people and he interviewed me for one hour and, er, the owner of these cameras in this Company was so touched and thought it was so wonderful that sent his men here tonight. He had to leave to go back East on important business but his camera crew were here tonight and this is how they did - how they televise and how they make movies. I first started in "Prize-Fighter and a Lady" with Max Baer and then with Mae West, "Diamond Lil" and "Belle of the Nineties", "Swamp Angel" with Loretta Young, George Raft in "Prison Cell Break" and, er, way back in the early thirties I got a lot of bit-part work. I was just either a chauffeur, a newspaper boy, or a bodyguard or something but you know what happened to me? In 1937 I got acquainted with a man called Jesus and I'm sure proud of it. Do you know what he said in Job 22/21? "Acquaint now thyself with him and be at peace, thereby good shall come unto thee" and I got acquainted with him that night and now I'm going to ask you to bow your heads in a word of prayer and I'm going to ask God to give me a loaf of bread. Now you know why we call it a loaf of bread? In John 6:51 Jesus said "I am the living bread which come down from Heaven - if any man eat of this bread he shall live forever for the bread that I give is my flesh which I shall give for the life of the world".

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The State claimed that Sirhan was legally sane at the time he murdered RFK. Concurrently, the State claimed considerable premeditation went into the planning of RFK's murder on June 5, 1968. The evidence was most persuasive in backing this contention.

The Defense claimed Sirhan was and is insane, that he suffers from "diminished capacity" as well as a catalog of other psychiatric malfunctions.

Sirhan made noises on occasion that he was politically motivated, but was outraged at being classified as a psycho; observers agree that Sirhan is a little of both, but more an enigma than anything else.

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Theoretically, ~~there~~ only Sirhan knows why he plotted and then murdered a man he allegedly both loved and hated. His testimony - or what there was of it - alluded strongly to Sirhan's having several outstanding traits. He made it plain that he was bright, aggressive, arrogant, wiley, and a patent liar.

The latter facet to Sirhan's character caused both the State and the Defense to grasp at straws in ascribing motive from their respective positions. That a major world figure had been murdered was the only thing either side knew beyond question. From this immediate conclusion, an uncontested theorem was advanced from both directions: Sirhan was some kind of loner-Communist-psycho, who had taken revenge for an imagined life of violence he had suffered, who had autonomously decided to become a national hero to a foreign element he had virtually no affinity with whatsoever.

The only rational thing was the verdict: Guilty in the First Degree.

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Such an analysis of Sirhan's mental state more or less coincided with that of both the prosecution and the defense; however, certain less noble aspects of Sirhan's past and current life were skirted and/or avoided by the two court "protagonists"; to pursue a more seamy side of their victim-client's personal involvements would have cast doubt on their otherwise pat evaluations of this strange little man - and his possibly invented rationale.

The State charged that Sirhan was a political assassin, some kind of loner-Communist, who killed RFK in order to become the national hero of Middle Eastern Arab-Communists, by drawing attention to their being victims of RFK's alleged oppressor-friends, the Israelis. Unfortunately, Sirhan didn't accomodate the State too well, for his alleged political motivations came through both late and vaguely defined.

The defense contended that their client was mentally bereft, that this was the cause for his political machinations that led him to murder RFK; they claimed his experiments with the occult had produced some sort of self-propelled "Manchurian Candidate"; finally, the defense asserted that their curious little client was really the byproduct of a violent American society and world turmoil, not really a murderer per se.

Ultimately, hard, irrefutable, material evidence persuaded the jury that Sirhan was sane at the time he executed RFK, that his was unmistakably a calculated and contemplated crime against society. His only mistake was in getting caught.

However, expedience, not justice, had prevailed. Ignored were the threads of truth in an otherwise fabric of lies - and both sides had effectively avoided the obvious: Conspiracy.

THE SIRHAN DIARY

UNEXPLAINED/UNCHALLENGED CLUES:

Sirhan's Diary notes contain several cryptic thoughts that are interwoven in his obvious mind-conditioning efforts to murder RFK.

Says Sirhan: "I have never heard please pay to the order of..."; this would seem to be an effort to remove the thought concerned with some sort of payment. However, available Diary excerpts find the phrase "please pay to the order of" repeated at least three other times. These occur immediately before and after Sirhan's pre-occupation with the pending murder of RFK. Here, the Sirhan Diary notes will speak for themselves. Obviously, Sirhan's murderous thoughts are concurrent with his pre-occupation of receiving some kind of payment.

In between two of these same phrases appears a somewhat huge number - an 8, followed by 5 or 6 zeros. This seeming sum was evidently on Sirhan's mind as he urged himself toward the murder of RFK.

On an adjacent page, Sirhan toys with another suspicious thought. Says Sirhan: "Today I must plan to come home in a new car...today I must plan to drive home in a new new new Mustang....in in a new Mustang...in a...tonight tonight tonight we I must by(sic) a new Mustang tonight tonight tonight tonight tonight Meet me tonight tonight Come tonight tonight tonight...".

Whatever else Sirhan was at this particular time, he was also a young man in an obvious hurry to achieve instant affluence. Murder and quick wealth - or thoughts of same - are ingredients not necessarily incompatible with assassination.

THE SIRHAN DIARY: Continued

Elsewhere in his Diary, Sirhan expounded his thoughts on his real and imagined plight in American society:

"Whatever may be said in praise of poverty, the fact remains it is not possible to live a complete or successful life unless one is rich. No man can rise to his greatest possibility.....

"I have often wondered what it is like to be rich....rich.....RICH. Black Magic!"

Some "Communist", this Sirhan! His pre-occupation with wealth and/or the lack of it should have triggered someone's curiosity in relation to his possible ulterior motive for murdering RFK.

The fact remains that no one did - and the question remains unanswered: Was Sirhan motivated in whole or part by promises of substantial wealth as his reward?

JERRY OWEN - SERMON AT SONOMA

On September 14, 1968 Jerry Owen was conducting a series of well-organized Revival Meetings at the National Guard Armory at Sonoma in Northern California. His sermon - or stage act - billed him under the title of "The Walking Bible". The following is a transcribed excerpt from a motion picture soundtrack of that evening's performance:

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"And tonight the television cameras are here and they're televising here parts of this. They'll go through the tape and blend it together and, er, I just hope and pray that it'll be a blessing and that if somebody's viewing in home the spirit of God will come right where you are and touch you because America needs a spiritual awakening. We need a revival of the love of God - we need a baptism of the love of God. Now we realise the hippies talk love but that is a physical love and a sexual love. We don't need that. We need the love of God, a spiritual love like never before here in the United States of America. Now I'm going to ask the Lord to put his word within my heart and maybe tonight for fifteen to eighteen minutes, we might not take time to read 'em but have your Bibles ready, because on television lots of times I'd go for twenty-five minutes without stopping - just the Bible, just unrolling verse after verse, but maybe the Lord will call one or two of you and if we do, as I call you, walk up with your verse and stand here and read it to show the audience tonight, and a television audience, how God has put thirty-one thousand a hundred and seventy-three verses in this preacher's heart. And the reason the cameras are here tonight is because last - the other day before yesterday I believe it was, I was on one of the big stations in San Francisco with a man that talks to people and he interviewed me for one hour and, er, the owner of these cameras in this Company was so touched and thought it was so wonderful that sent his men here tonight. He had to leave to go back East on important business but his camera crew were here tonight and this is how they did - how they televise and how they make movies. I first started in "Prize-Fighter and a Lady" with Max Baer and then with Mae West, "Diamond Lil" and "Pelle of the Nineties", "Swamp Angel" with Loretta Young, George Raft in "Prison Cell Break" and, er, way back in the early thirties I got a lot of bit-part work. I was just either a chauffeur, a newspaper boy, or a bodyguard or something but you know what happened to me? In 1937 I got acquainted with a man called Jesus and I'm sure proud of it. Do you know what he said in Job 22/21? "Acquaint now thyself with him and be at peace, thereby good shall come unto thee" and I got acquainted with him that night and now I'm going to ask you to bow your heads in a word of prayer and I'm going to ask God to give me a loaf of bread. Now you know why we call it a loaf of bread? In John 6:51 Jesus said "I am the living bread which come down from Heaven - if any man eat of this bread he shall live forever for the bread that I give is my flesh which I shall give for the life of the world".