

Freud: Prophet Or Pervert?



PSYCH 1101

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DAY 20

Schedule

- Monday- Emotions Pt. 1 (from Doha)
- Wednesday- Emotions Pt. 2 (from Doha)
- Friday- Guest lecture, Prof. James Cutting (about movies)

How Successful Was Behaviorism?

- The family of theories emphasizing the basic principles of learning
 - Led to rigorous, scientific research that continues to this day
 - The principles of classical and operant conditioning are as close to fundamental laws of behavior as we have
 - We know, because *it just works*

Is It True That Everything Is Learned?

- There is considerable evidence for innate (unlearned) knowledge
 - this differs across species
 - it is easier to train pigs to dig, and pigeons to peck
 - we acquire fears for snakes, spiders, and tall heights much more easily than for, e.g., cars

Is It True That Everything That Is Learned Is Learned Through Conditioning?

- Plenty of evidence that we learn a great deal through *observational* learning
- Children learn easily through the modeling of adults, but animals also:
 - Pigeons have used observational learning in eliciting reinforcement from pecking behavior.
 - Rhesus monkeys learn to fear snakes through observational learning
 - Chimpanzees learn to use a novel tool through observational learning (using a human model)

Are “Unobservable” Psychological States Unscientific?

- Two reasons this is not the problem that Skinner believed it to be:
 - There is no problem with proposing unobservables as a way to explain the data
 - other sciences (e.g., physics) talk about unobservables
 - it makes sense to explain a complex and intelligent mechanism in terms of internal representations
 - Methodologies have been developed by researchers to actually measure things that Skinner believed to be “unobservable.” E.g.,
 - emotions
 - implicit memories and attitudes

The Legacy Of Behaviorism

- Powerful tools for understanding, predicting, and controlling human behavior
- Unsatisfying as a theory to capture the entirety of human (and probably animal) mental life
- In short, explains a LOT. It just cannot explain it ALL.

Why Care About Freud?

- Unscientific
- Much of what he said about psychology is likely wrong
 - (Even worse, *not even wrong*)
- Also, weird
- But also some very interesting and influential ideas
- And some things just *have* to be taught in an Intro Psych course



Example Of A “Big” Theory

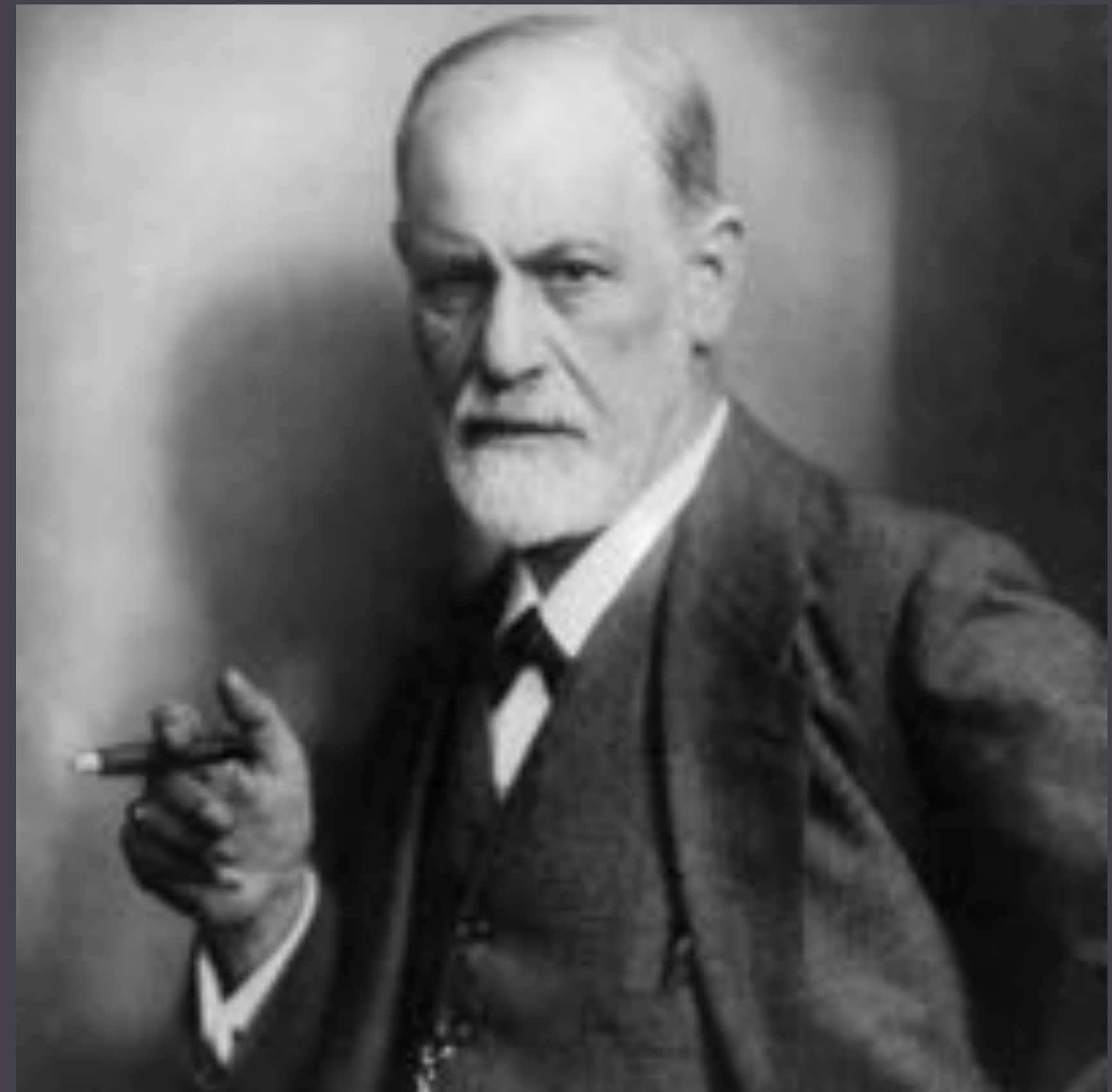
- Tries to understand everything--everyday life, humor, dreams, development, personality, etc.
- Attempts a real explanation
 - (dreams, jokes, personality, neuroses—even religion and civilization owe their existence to the *dynamic unconscious*)
- Understanding failures of Freud’s attempt at big theorizing sets the stage for understanding how scientific psychology unfolded

Lasting Contribution

- The unconscious mind
- Basic, often hidden, motivations influence all aspects of psychology
- The importance of early childhood development
- Willingness to discuss pleasure and sexuality (broadly defined)

Freud: Some Background

- 1856-1939
- Trained as an M.D. (neurologist)
- Bourgeois Vienna, sexuality was not polite conversation
- Became interested in work being done on patients with odd symptoms with no clear physical basis



Freud Asks:
How Does The Mind Work?

The Origins Of Psychoanalysis: Anna O. And The "Talking Cure"

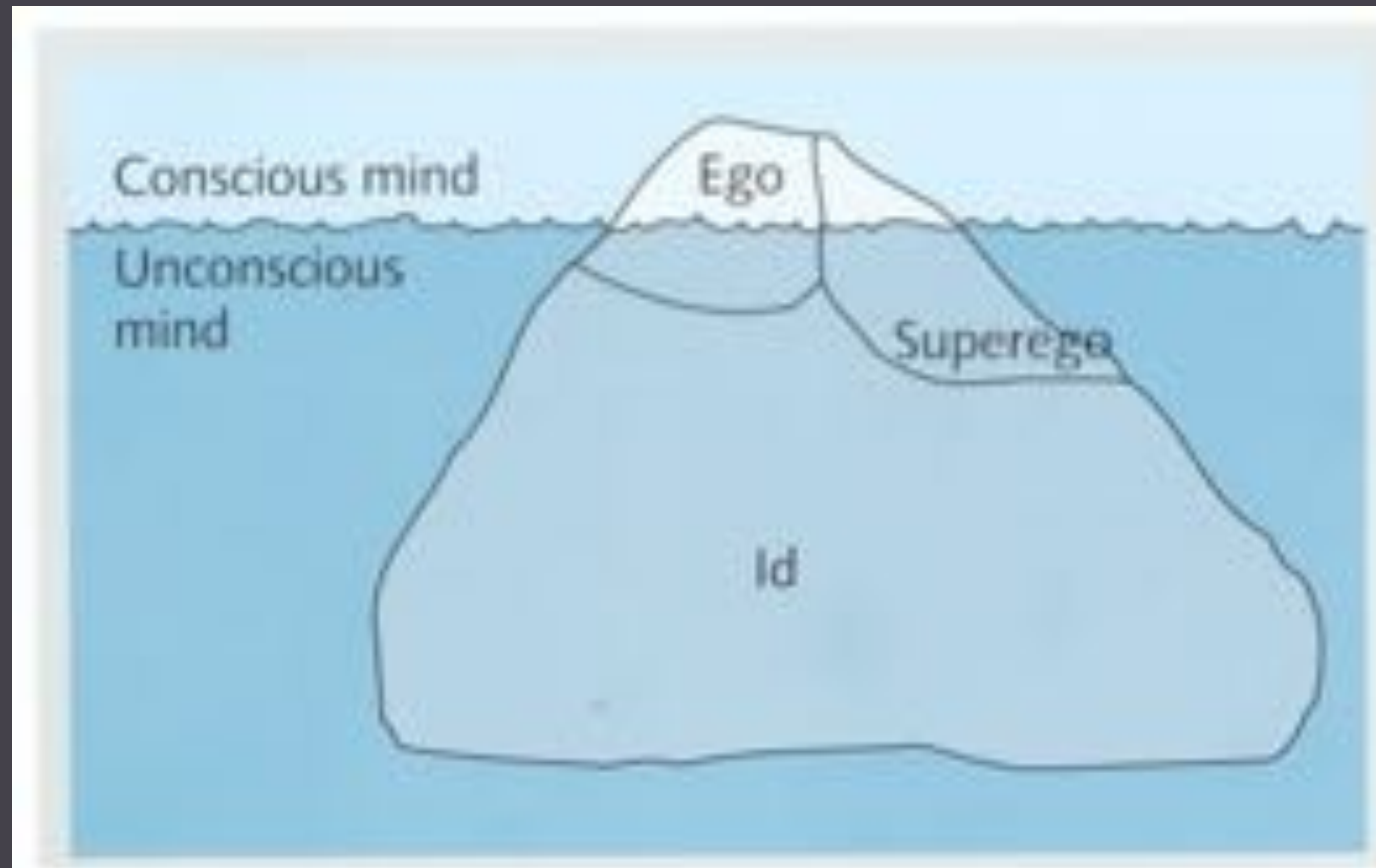
- Patient of Dr. Josef Breuer (Freud's friend and collaborator)
- Patient presented with "hysterical" symptoms
 - "glove" paralysis (no organic cause possible)
 - hallucinated about snakes, skulls, and skeletons
 - would lose ability to speak her native German, and would only speak French or English
- But during treatment, symptoms would start disappearing when she would start speaking about them
 - Anna O. dubbed it the "talking cure" and "chimney sweeping"



"Structural" Theory Of Mind

- Id (*das es*, the "it") - "dumb," driven by instinct, present from birth
 - does not distinguish between reality and fantasy
 - operates according to the *pleasure principle*
- Ego (*das ich*, the "I") develops out of the id in infancy
 - understands reality and logic
 - mediator between id and superego
- Superego (*das uber-ich*, the "over-I")
 - internalization of society's moral standards
 - responsible for guilt

Big Idea: Most Mental Life Is Unconscious



The Mind As "Hydraulic"

5 Stages Of Psychosexual Development

- Infant is all Id
- Each developmental stage characterized by the primary source of pleasure
 - oral
 - anal
 - phallic
 - latent
 - genital
- An individual can become *fixated* on a stage--never quite move along
 - an attempt to achieve pleasure as an adult in ways that are equivalent to how it way achieved in these stages

Oral Stage (Birth - 1 Year)

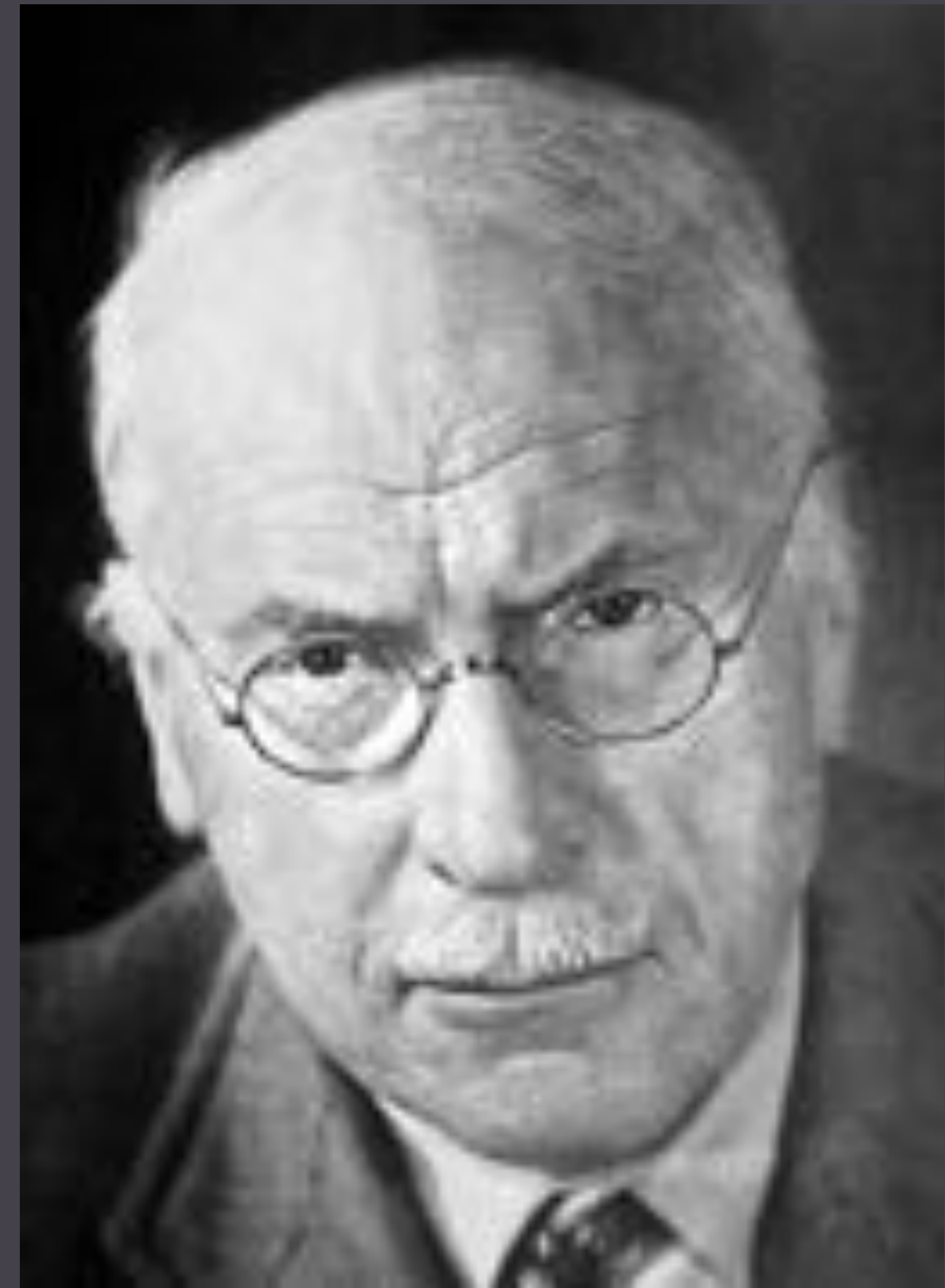
- Mouth is associated with sexual pleasure
- Weaning a child can lead to fixation if not handled correctly
- Fixation can lead to oral activities in adulthood

Anal Stage (1 - 3 Years)

- Anus is associated with pleasure
- Toilet training can lead to fixation if not handled correctly
- Fixation can lead to retentive or expulsive behaviors in adulthood
 - (in everyday life we still refer to some people as *anal retentive*)

Correspondence With Jung

“First trauma between 3rd and 4th year. Saw her father spanking her older brother on the bare bottom. Powerful impression. Couldn’t help thinking afterwards that she had defecated on her father’s hand. From the 4th-7th year convulsive attempts to defecate on her own feet, in the following manner: she sat on the floor with one foot beneath her, pressed her heel against her anus and tried to defecate and at the same time to prevent defecation. Often retained the stool for 2 weeks in this way! Has no idea how she hit upon this peculiar business; says it was completely instinctive, and accompanied by blissfully shuddersome feelings. Later this phenomenon was superseded by vigorous masturbation. I should be extremely grateful if you would tell me in a few words what you think of this story.”



CARL JUNG 1875-1961

Phallic Stage (3 - 5 Years)

- Focus of pleasure shifts to the genitals
- Oedipus or Electra complex can occur
- Fixation can lead to excessive masculinity in males and the need for attention or domination in females

Oedipus Complex

- Mom is nice, I love her. I mean, I *really* love her.
- But this “Dad” guy is always up in my business...
- *He must die.*
- Uh oh. Dad is mad
- *No worries, what’s the worse he can do?*



Oedipus Complex

- **Castration!**
- Dad wins
- Let's not think about sex for a while



Latency Stage (5 - Puberty)

- Sexuality is repressed
- Children participate in hobbies, school and same-sex friendships

Genital Stage (Puberty On)

- Sexual feelings re-emerge and are oriented toward others
- Healthy adults find pleasure in love and work
- Fixated adults have their energy tied up in earlier stages