

## FREUD 3

FREUD

Hello. Yes, Anna...Oh! Thank you.

(FREUD hangs up; turns on the RADIO)  
Chamberlain.

NEVILLE CHAMBERLAIN

"...Up to the very last it would have been quite possible to have arranged a peaceful and honorable settlement between Germany and Poland, but Hitler would not have it...

His action shows convincingly that there is no chance of expecting that this man will ever give up his practice of using force to gain his will. He can only be stopped by force.

Now may God bless you all. May He defend the right. It is the evil things that we shall be fighting against - brute force, bad faith, injustice, oppression and persecution - and against them I am certain that the right will prevail."

BBC ANNOUNCER

You have been listening to a broadcast from 10 Downing Street-

(FREUD turns the radio off)

Start

FREUD

So it begins.

LEWIS

Again.

FREUD

I thank your God who "blesses" me with cancer I won't be here to see another.

(THE PHONE RINGS)

Excuse me.

(PICKS IT UP)

Yes? I heard...No; give your lecture, your students will need you...Doctor Schur will be here in half an hour....Who could rest now? Good. We'll talk then.

(FREUD hangs up)

My daughter Anna. I underestimated Hitler. I thought he would be satisfied after brutalizing Austria.

LEWIS

How long ago did you leave?

FREUD

A year and four months. The Brown Shirts broke down our door to arrest me; take me in for questioning. Anna insisted I was too sick, that she would go in my place. I refused, but they took her anyway. Twelve hours she was gone. Twelve hours I was certain I had lost her.

When she was released I bribed everyone necessary to leave the country immediately. But it took near tragedy for me to see Hitler for the monster he is.

LEWIS

History is filled with monsters. And yet somehow we survive.

FREUD

To welcome the next monster. Man's physical self evolves, as my personal saint, Charles Darwin, has proven. But not man's character. We cannot survive without enemies. They are as necessary as air.

Hitler wisely chose a familiar target. Jews are sub-human, they are maggots who have never made a contribution to civilization. A claim so ridiculous people should be outraged, but they cheer him instead.

LEWIS

Not everyone.

FREUD

Not yet. But Hitler learns from history. A warrior's greatest ally is always God. When Hitler claims that crushing the Jews is the "will of the Lord", he raises an army who worships them both.

LEWIS

There's another way to look at it. By Hitler's very evil, he may become an instrument for good.

FREUD

How so?

LEWIS

His despicable actions reinforce the necessity for the opposite. The good man serves God as his loving son, the evil man serves God as his tool.

FREUD

So while Hitler hammers, God waits to see who survives his blows.

LEWIS

We have to begin by accepting that there's a moral law at work-

FREUD

I don't accept it. There is no moral law, only our feeble attempts to control chaos.

LEWIS

Moral codes have existed throughout time. Tell me one civilization that admired theft or cowardice. Mankind has never rewarded selfishness.

FREUD

Selfishness rewards itself.

LEWIS

Then the Nazis are right in their actions?

FREUD

Of course not.

LEWIS

So there is a morality you're comparing them with. A man can't call a line crooked unless he knows what a straight line is.

FREUD

Ah! Geometric morality.

LEWIS

Moral conscience is something we're born with. It grows as we do. When I was younger, I thought about right and wrong as much as a baboon thinks about Beethoven.

FREUD

And this "conscience" is God created.

LEWIS

Yes.

FREUD

Ha. I am laughing. You might argue god did an adequate job with the sunset, but as far as conscience he failed completely. What you call conscience are behaviors indoctrinated into children by their parents. These become the crippling inhibitions they struggle with all their lives.

LEWIS

Unless you rescue them with Psychoanalysis. Relieve them of their repressions previously known as right and wrong. The concept of shame, for example, is a thing of the past.

FREUD

You think shame is a good thing?

LEWIS

I'd love to see more of it! Admitting to bad behavior doesn't excuse it.

FREUD

If only we had met years ago! I would have listened to my patient's sins, then told them to fall to their knees and beg absolution. Psychoanalysis doesn't profess the arrogance of religion, thank God.

LEWIS

(Pause) What did you say?

FREUD

A bad habit. I've tried to break it all my life. "Thank God", "With God's grace", "God help us". I was raised by a devout Roman Catholic nanny who dragged me to church every Sunday. I learned to genuflect, make the sign of the cross, all the obsessional neuroses. She taught me stories of the New Testament. My father, an orthodox Jew, read the Old Testament aloud. There was no escape.

**Stop**

LEWIS

None here, either. My Grandfather was vicar of our local church. He preached sermons that went on forever because he kept stopping to weep. My brother and I punched each other to keep from laughing.

FREUD

Your father; he was also religious?