

## **Crime attracts masses**

Crime and evil deeds in general have posed an attraction for the mankind ever since Cain killed Abel because of God's preference of Abel's gifts over Cain's. The Old Testament has always been preferred over the New Testament although the former generally encourages violence and the latter peace and love among all living creatures. Although philosophers and scientists have been trying to pin down the reason for this incomprehensible behaviour for centuries, their work had insofar not borne any fruit.

One of the reasons for our inclination towards acts, which are contrary to the law and the accepted moral norms, is probably the fact that buried deep down our nature is still as beastly as that of an animal trying to survive in the wild world governed by Darwin's Law of the Fittest. Although the humankind as a specie and in terms of sociology, has come a long way since the first humanoid monkey-like creatures began to populate the Earth, the beastly characteristics of our Self is, as Freud points out, still deeply rooted in our sub conscience. Of course, the laws that govern in wildness have little in common with the laws of our society and that might be the cause of our fascination with violence. You see, the laws are mostly forbid us to vent out this inhibited part nature of ours. We are therefore forced to play by the rules, which are unnatural by the standards of the wildlife. But this raw energy, which is a part of every animal, including human beings, does not simply disappear at our will. Sooner or later it is manifested through our dreams, occasional short temper and through more extreme acts, such as acts crime. After all, few things make one's blood rush through one's veins as fast as yet another piece of news on the TV, discussing an act of grisly crime. Our interest, without doubt, grows exponentially if the villain who committed the crime is a celebrity. Let me illustrate my point on an example. When Michael Jackson was arrested for rape of a minor, the whole world stopped for a few days. Every camera in existence was covering his case, although no one knew for certain, whether he actually was guilty of the crime he was charged with. The mere possibility of him committing a crime was enough to make us glue our eyes on the TV set. Not that the case was really interesting. It simply presented a plausible way of venting out our energy, which we were, up that point, unable to get rid off.

Another reason, very much related to the one mentioned above are media. The programmes on TV are succeeding each other at such a fast pace that one is often unable to distinguish between the truth and fiction, even right or wrong. All the media are based on a "happening", i.e. offering something, which would get our undivided attention. Of course, the chairpersons of the television networks rarely care whether the programme they are broadcasting is good or

bad, as long as the network's ratings are high enough. And here we are again, with our subconscious's wanton for crime and blood and the television as the means of satisfying it. In other words, we no longer care for the content of the programme, we are watching, as long as it satisfies our needs. For this reason and in accordance with the second paragraph of this essay, TV and other media are saturated with violence and acts of crime. But because we watch television to such an extent, our lives often become saturated with violence as well and so it attracts us, because it is a big part of us. It is the aspect with which the mass is the most familiar with, and thus drawn to it.

We must therefore exercise caution. After all, we do not wish to become zombies, satisfying only the most basic of our needs. We must tear our attention away from our individual needs and repress our need to just blindly follow the herds with no regard of what it is doing. After all, each of us surely is original in his or her own way and this is the aspect of our character that should be nurtured.