

Understanding the Transition

1. Review the points from last class
 - a. Read page 45 from the dawn
 - b.

Please read the following paragraphs and consider the following question:

How does this information help us understand the actions and motivations of Achashverosh?

(Based on <http://emedicine.medscape.com/article/1519417-overview#a0101> which works off of the DSM V)

Narcissistic personality disorder (NPD) is a cluster B personality disorder defined as comprising a pervasive pattern of grandiosity (in fantasy or behavior), a constant need for admiration, and a lack of empathy.

Signs and symptoms

In the American Psychiatric Association's *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition (DSM-5)*, NPD is defined as comprising a pervasive pattern of grandiosity (in fantasy or behavior), a constant need for admiration, and a lack of empathy, beginning by early adulthood and present in a variety of contexts, as indicated by the presence of at least 5 of the following 9 criteria:

- A grandiose sense of self-importance
- A preoccupation with fantasies of unlimited success, power, brilliance, beauty, or ideal love
- A belief that he or she is special and unique and can only be understood by, or should associate with, other special or high-status people or institutions
- A need for excessive admiration

- A sense of entitlement
- Interpersonally exploitive behavior
- A lack of empathy
- Envy of others or a belief that others are envious of him or her
- A demonstration of arrogant and haughty behaviors or attitudes

Specifically, in this proposed new model, NPD is characterized by moderate or greater impairment in personality functioning, manifested by characteristic difficulties in 2 or more of the following 4 areas:

- Identity - Excessive reference to others for self-definition and self-esteem regulation; exaggerated self-appraisal inflated or deflated, or vacillating between extremes; emotional regulation mirroring fluctuations in self-esteem
- Self-direction - Goal setting based on gaining approval from others; personal standards that are either unreasonably high (in order to see oneself as exceptional) or too low (from a sense of entitlement); frequent unawareness of one's own motivations
- Empathy - Impaired ability to recognize or identify with the feelings and needs of others; excessive attunement to reactions of others, but only if these are perceived as relevant to the self; over- or underestimation of one's own effect on others
- Intimacy - Relationships that are largely superficial and exist to serve self-esteem regulation; mutuality constrained by little genuine interest in others' experiences and predominance of a need for personal gain

The DSM is a manual that therapists use to determine how to best treat their patients and identify their issues.

- **How does this help us understand the actions of Achashverosh?**

- Why would Achashverosh appoint Haman as a solution to his problems?

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תנא: המן ספר של כפר קרצום היה עשרים ושנים שנה.