**SIGMUND FREUD**

**From Civilization and Its Discontents**

Chapter II

Religion as psychologically dangerous:

1. Idea of Good Father providing all: infantile, unrealistic, degrading
2. Primary wish for happiness mitigated: pleasure🡪reality principle
3. Total satisfaction impossible (mad or evil); pleasure exists only in small, sudden doses
4. Life too hard because of failing body, natural accidents, other people🡪palliatives needed:
5. Intoxication, drugs (dangerous effects)
6. Deflections (only for gifted people, mild anodyne does not shield completely from pain)
7. Substitutive pleasures: religion, asceticism, hermitism (denial of id demands, happiness in quietude); communal action for change (disappointed, destroyed, mad if s/he fails); aesthetics (imaginative illusions); art of living (doesn’t deny material world, but overcomes troubles through love); neurosis/psychosis (denial of reality, like religion)
8. Each person should find their own path, but religion prescribes one path for all

Chapter VIII

Guilt as the most important drawback in civilization🡪loss of happiness:

1. Derived from primal taboo of parricide
2. Conflict between personal happiness (narcissistic) and societal good, need for integration (altruistic) by restricting personal urges
3. Unconscious fear of the superego🡪wish for (self-) punishment
4. Religion prescribes impossible superego demands (love thy neighbor as thyself)
5. Since individual development is similar to societal, a society facing/enforcing impossible cultural demands can become neurotic (and incorrigible, since all share it, none strong enough to combat it)
6. Civilization a struggle of Eros to overcome Thanatos