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Title: “I’ll Be Your Mirror”, the Soul, and Intelligence and Counterintelligence Applications

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Many, perhaps all people, find a disparity between what they think they are and what they think they want to be. This disparity may wax and wane moment-to-moment. It may often pertain to the most sensitive, personal, and fragile aspects of the soul. So, one entrée to love another or believe one is loved by another is to allow that other to become a mirror displaying that most desired soul that one’s own mirror does not reflect.

In 1966, The Velvet Underground and Nico recorded “I’ll Be Your Mirror” written by Lou Reed (1). Its lyrics capture the mirror-love connection.

“I’ll be your mirror/Reflect what you are, in case you don’t know/I’ll be the wind, the rain and the sunset/The light on your door to show that you’re home”. Finally, the life-long quest for an authentic home of mind, body, and soul ends in glorious victory.

“When you think the night has seen your mind/That inside you’re twisted and unkind/Let me stand to show that you are blind/Please put down your hands/’Cause I see you”. No more the child make-pretend of shutting out reality by covering one’s eyes, pretending one is not seeing when one sees with eyes wide shut.

“I find it hard to believe you don’t know/The beauty you are/But if you don’t/Let me be your eyes/A hand to your darkness, so you won’t be afraid”. The desired soul has been there the whole time, and I can help you see it. I can introduce you to your real, desired soul.

When you think the night has seen your mind/That inside you’re twisted and unkind/Let me stand to show that you are blind/Please put down your hands/’Cause I see you”. No more nowhere to run, nowhere to hide. No more, “It's not love, I'm a running from It's the heartbreak I know will come” (2). You’re already where you want to be.

The mirror motif underlines applied scholarship on mirror-hungry charismatic leaders and ideal-hungry followers of charismatics (3). The leaders need followers who reflect the leaders’ desired soul—e. g., grandiose feelings of strength, omniscience. The followers need leaders who facilitate the followers’ sharing of the leaders’ desired soul—nourished by followers’ reflecting leaders’ desired soul. Followers willingly give up autonomy to be part of the gift they give leaders. In this way followers heal psychic wounds, fill up feelings of emptiness with a fantastic fullness. From a malign perspective arises, perhaps, Hitler. From a benign perspective, perhaps, Ataturk.

The mirror motif underlines applied research on people who intentionally violate trust—when the betrayers think they’re doing the right, not the wrong, thing (4). This may occur through a political or religious conversion, through assuming the mantle of the whistleblower. Whether they finger people for death or otherwise willingly supply
sensitive or secret information, they like the new desired soul now self-reflected via mirror. Often enough this occurs through exploitation by others giving them a new mirror for an older, cracked one.

The mirror becomes a key tool to engender mass stabilization and destabilization, to aid and abet the coming and going of the leaders of masses through information operations—covert and clandestine, propaganda, disinformation, the gospel truth. The mirror also becomes an intelligence officer’s key tool to identify, develop, and manage agents.

Becoming and being someone’s mirror as love, as love as life, and, often enough as life against death. The underlying meaning of history, the future of history, and the future.


Keywords: Counterintelligence, Disinformation, Espionage, Intelligence, Leadership, Propaganda. Political. Psychology.

Abstract/Description: This article describes how the psychological trope of mirroring can explicate mass leadership and betrayals of trust.

Disciplines: Other Psychology, Philosophy, Philosophy of Science. Political Science, Other Political Science, Psychology, Defense and Security Studies, International Relations

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