

Sigmund Freud

Pramethat Pongpipatchai

ID:5404640905

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Sigmund Freud is one of the most well known people in the world. Due to his great work that concerns about all those psychology things such as psychoanalysis, dreams interpretations, the unconsciousness of human (id, ego, and super-ego), and the theory that life, death, aggressiveness and sexual desire drives people to do things. And that was what most of people sees when they think of Sigmund Freud, the Austrian neurologist. But there's some of his work that is famous too, not most people would know about it. Sigmund Freud's one of the most important contributions to mankind was that he was the founder that cocaine is a wonderful medicine, yet a very dangerous one.

To start with cocaine, Freud was interesting in the leave of the coca tree that some Indian tribes use to chew them to make them feel stronger.<sup>1</sup> So from that information he had, he started to have some experiment with it. And this is the starting point of one of many great works he presented to the world.

In that time, it is very expensive to get it. He managed to get one gram of cocaine. At first he tried it on himself first, which he put on only 0.01 gram of cocaine per dose. He felt that his mood is better than what his mood was before he tried it, interestingly, he

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<sup>1</sup> Sherwin Nuland. "Sigmund Freud's Cocaine year." *The New York Times*. 29 Jan. 2012. <[http://www.nytimes.com/2011/07/24/books/review/an-anatomy-of-addiction-by-howard-markel-book-review.html?\\_r=1&pagewanted=all](http://www.nytimes.com/2011/07/24/books/review/an-anatomy-of-addiction-by-howard-markel-book-review.html?_r=1&pagewanted=all)>

felt that his stomach is full like he had eaten well after using cocaine of one dose.<sup>2</sup> Since that he has been using it against himself in order to write his essay about his discovery about cocaine, and using it to calm himself from the depression from the work he has done. Then he said in his essay about the coca leaf that there is no side effect using cocaine, if 0.01 gram of cocaine is being used per dose. One of the first things Freud did about cocaine using with medical treatment was when one of his friends, Ernst von Fleischl-Marxow (1846-1891) had been noticed by Freud that Fleischl was addicted to morphine because of he was infected at the age of 25 while studying about parasite, and he has to cut off his thumb in order to cure the infection. But yet, he has not cured, the pain had not gone and he started to infected more. That is when he started using morphine to cure the pain, then; he addicted to morphine and wanted to be cured. So Freud came up with the cocaine idea from his research and offers himself to cure Fleischl addiction.<sup>3</sup> Freud suggested Fleischl to take doses of cocaine but just a little per dose. Here comes the tricky part, Fleischl has been cured from morphine addiction, but instead, he started to addicted to cocaine.<sup>4</sup> Because he put more amount of cocaine per dose, the amount risen up to a gram of cocaine per dose which is in the level of dangerous level.<sup>5</sup> After Freud sees the side effect of cocaine using, he still believe that cocaine is a wonderful medicine, but Freud said that the side effect depends on person.

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<sup>2</sup> Jones, Ernest. Lionel Trilling, Steven Marcus. *The life and work of Sigmund Freud*. 1961. p.54-56.

<sup>3</sup> -Jones, Ernest. Lionel Trilling, Steven Marcus. *The life and work of Sigmund Freud*. 1961. p.54.

-Wikipedia contributors. "Sigmund Freud." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. 31 Jan. 2012. <[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sigmund\\_Freud#Cocaine](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sigmund_Freud#Cocaine)>

<sup>4</sup> Jones, Ernest. Lionel Trilling, Steven Marcus. *The life and work of Sigmund Freud*. 1961. p.63.

<sup>5</sup> Jones, Ernest. Lionel Trilling, Steven Marcus. *The life and work of Sigmund Freud*. 1961. p.62.

The second thing his work has done to revolutionize the eye surgery in that time was making cocaine as liquid and dropped it in the eye of a patient to make the patient fell numb in order to do an eye surgery. Which in one case, in 1885, he uses this fact that he found and applied to his father, Freud got helped from two of his friends, one is Carl Koller, who is an expertise about ophthalmology and diagnose that Freud's father was having glaucoma and the second was Königstein who was the one who had operated, and it was a successful one. That is the reason where Freud is so proud in his work of cocaine used in medical treatment.

These are some of the example of Freud's work about cocaine that does help people and medical world to improve in its way. But not all decease cocaine can be used for help. Nowadays, cocaine is well known in the way that it is a kind of dangerous drug.

In the present day, cocaine is better known in such a negative way more than positive way due to its users or abusers, which might be because of all the news reported about all those drug abusers that ended up in more likely bad ways. Because when it comes to the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, the cocaine use is clearer in the way of the addiction to it. That any people who use it, would become addict to it, eventually. That's when cocaine was more likely to be prohibiting from using in human because of the addiction and other various resulting,<sup>6</sup> such as this example that there is a report that any women who use cocaine while pregnant would be resulting that the fetus might have some problems in

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<sup>6</sup> Wikipedia contributors. "Sigmund Freud." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. 9 Feb. 2012. <<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cocaine#Prohibition>>

growing up.<sup>7</sup> Or another example is when any person uses cocaine it will decrease the brain function, in the way that the brain could not order the body as good as normal, like the effects caused by drinking alcohol.<sup>8</sup>

From the examples above, cocaine has some good benefit in the way that Freud has shown us about using it to be the ingredient of the eye drop to make the patient's eye numb before doing an eye surgery. The founding of that eye drop was a revolution of ophthalmology. But more of bad results from cocaine using. The worst case from using cocaine is when you over dose them, that can kill you. Therefore, Freud's work about cocaine has shown that cocaine is a wonderful medicine, but yet, a very dangerous one.

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<sup>7</sup> -Journal contributors. "Cocaine Use in Pregnancy." *The New England Journal of Medicine*. 10 Feb 2012.

<<http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJM198509123131105>>

-Journal contributors. "Effects of Maternal Marijuana and Cocaine Use on Fetal Growth." *The New England Journal of Medicine*. 10 Feb 2012.

<<http://www.nejm.org/doi/pdf/10.1056/NEJM198903233201203>>

<sup>8</sup> -Harris DS, et al. "The pharmacology of cocaethylene in humans following cocaine and ethanol administration." *Drug Alcohol Depend.* 2003.72(2):169–182.

-NIDA contributors. "InfoFacts: Cocaine." *NIDA National Institute on Drug Abuse*. 10 Feb. 2012. <<http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/infofacts/cocaine>>