The Revenge of Conscience in John Grisham's *A Time to Kill*: Psychoanalytic Study


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ABSTRACT:
This research paper presents the main theme of the revenge of conscience in John Grisham’s *A Time to Kill* (1989) is connected with the law especially when the law is misused by statesmen according to many causes such as an identity problem, judicial, racism, and black people oppression in the American community. The aim of the study is too dependent upon the psychology field according to Freud's personality psychoanalytic theory (1923). The protagonist of the novel who is Carl Lee Hailey (Samuel L. Jackson), decides to take his own right after the law fails to convict the two murderers (Cobb and Willard) who raped his ten-year-old daughter Tonya Hailey and left her on the brink of death. For this reason, Carl lee decides to take the way of revenge against the two white men for his daughter and racist bigotry spread against every black man at a time when the south of the USA considered blacks as second-class citizens which leads to the psychological struggle in Carl lee Hailey's mind and leads him to take his own right by the revenge of conscientious for the two crimes: raping his daughter and racial oppression.

Keywords: revenge, conscience, conscientious objection, Grisham, psychoanalytic.

1. Introduction:
In the current study, the revenge theme has significance in social's life in various crimes like the crime of rape and beating ten-year-old girl Tonya Hailey in Grisham's *A Time to Kill* (1989). She is kidnapped and raped by Billy Ray Cobb and Willard on her way home from the grocery store. It is dedicated for different reasons including justice and the laws that leave the offender without punishment. And the study also investigates the psychology of revenge by examining challenges connected with defining revenge then discussing that there is no clear standard for proving that an act is driven by revenge. Revenge is an interpretation of behaviour based on the perceivers’ attributions for the act. Thus, the psychological harms related to taking revenge in distinguishing between the desire for revenge and the act of revenge, maybe the idea of the act of revenge is a natural or
pervasive response to injustice the appearance of external systems that can restore justice on behalf of victims. Thus, this current study tries to answer some questions below:

What means revenge of conscience in idiomatic and psychological?
What is a resource for the decision of revenge?
When can the man take the right decision of revenge?

Actually, the revenuer decides to take his rights against the one who has harmed him without dealing with any regard back to religion or to the law. In *A Time to Kill* (1989), the revenuer, Carl lee decides to have his revenge by taking the decision from the high authority that is called the conscience after appealing the justice of American law. Further, vengeance in this novel includes the result of a reaction towards the rapists of his daughter and the racism towards him because he is a black colour people thus, racism enters as a part of concerning revenge also. Indeed, the word revenge has an association with psychoanalysis, the indications of the violence of the victim, his feelings, his desire to show them through the psychoanalysis theory is concerned to examine the theme of revenge. To make the readers interpret and follow the themes of his novel: the revenge of conscience, Grisham chooses Carl lee, a black American, as the hero who suffers from racism on the one hand and misuse of the laws on other hand all that made him committed a crime in order to achieve justice by the revenge of conscience instead of the law.

Therefore, this study endeavours to examine the revenge of conscience as the main subject through conscientious revenge that is a normal consequence of the psychological feelings of persecution and disorders throughout analyzing the behaviour of the character of Carl lee Hailey and the racial state that he has faced in his white society. All revengeful literary works focus upon revenge as the main thematic in different literary works such as Shakespeare's *Titus Andronicus* (1588-1593) Especially, when Titus appealed the law but without benefit, after that, he decided to revenge against Tamora and her sons who were rapists of Titus's daughter Lavinia, in the end, he has taken his own right by the revenge of conscience instead of the law. (Hasan, 2019). And *Hamlet* (1599-1601), like the meaning of revenge when Hamlet says that “Prompted to my revenge by heaven and hell” (*Hamlet*, Act 2, Scene 2). He tries to wake up his uncle's conscience through a dramatic technique like showing to him the play within a play to return the authority to who is owner rightful, Hasan comments upon that in *Hamlet*, "his desire to get revenge against his uncle … to return the legitimate authority to its rightful owner and achieve justice after the absence of the role of law such as the motives and circumstances of the person invoking his right to the authority of the conscience of the ruler to achieve the goals" (2019:15).

Despite this evident enthusiasm for revenge, general perspectives toward vengeance are varied. Some regard vengeance to be an irrational act that has no place in a civilized society (Elster,1990). However, others consider revenge as both rational and morally justifiable in the face of injustice. Victims of injustice who disregard revenge may be considered as
either saintly or cowardly and the texts of the religion are reflected this bipolar perspective in most of the major world religions which are considered revenge is both demanded, for example, the principles of an eye for an eye and other is prohibited for example eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. Whereas others have beliefs that if someone slams you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. (Tripp et al., 2002).

According to the Oxford English Dictionary interprets of revenge is defined as an act in reply to some identified wrongdoing by the harmed person that is planned in future to exact harm, damage, and punishment against the offender. Whereas Salingar has seen the theme of revenge actually appears for getting right less during crimes are committed, while the law cannot punish the offences so ethically called him the conscientious objector who takes the law into his hands and chooses the retaliation against his enemies in various issues such as social problems for personal honour, the protection of feudal chaos, and the political issues of oppression and strike (1955:334). Similarly, Schumann and Ross have seen that the man should adopt the theme of revenge in order to retrieve his right by the sound of justice that is affected by psychologically support. Indeed, revenge does not have any way to cancel the hurt that the victim has been affected before but it can retrieve the suffering balance between the criminal and the victim, and it makes the power balance between them (2010. pp: 1194-1195).

Many arguments are given by some philosophers and writers to explain the effect of revenge on the man such as Joel Feinberg has said that it "puts revenge in close company with blood lust" (Feinberg, 1970:103). Whereas, Robert Nozick have seen that revenge is always individual in the feelings are consisting of enjoyment at the hardship of another and a particularly passionate mood (1981: 367). Also, Osgood asserts that "revenge is about retribution, vengeance is typically triggered only by unjust harms, revenge-seekers report a moral imperative, justice beliefs predict revenge, and justice-related information has the greatest influence on punishment calculations". (2016:1).

1.2. Literature review

Generally, literature has focused on revenge themes in various literary devices. It has been a common theme in novels, dramas, and poetry. Despite many cultures discovered revenge themes for returning the right not by the law but by settling the conflicts especially when the victim losses the hope for returning his own right through legal ways. A view of literature, legal writings, religious, historical, and contemporary events imply that revenge is a pervasive and possibly inevitable reaction to injustice. The theme of revenge is available in classic plays and novels such as Iliad (762 B.C.), The Law of Talion (450 BC), Hamlet (1604), Macbeth (1606), Medea (431 BC), The Count of Monte Cristo (1844–45), The Great Gatsby (1925), The Virgin Spring (1960), The Godfather (1972) and Kill Bill (2003). Whereas Legal rules dating back to Hammurabi’s code in 1790 BCE endeavour to curb ungoverned or personal retaliation by guiding socially acceptable attitudes of punishment. Indeed, the act of revenge in ancient Greece proposed that was natural and allowed by the gods according to the
belief of many people in this period (Griffiths, 1991). While the Middle Ages, blood feuds retaliatory rounds of the clash between fighting clans were common, often enduring for many generations (Fletcher, 2003). In the early twentieth-century, many white American and African-American blacks writers used the literature in different characteristics to achieve the African-American's political, economic and social requests, which is employed before because it is an influential and powerful educational device in the domain of black liberation and they believe it is a weapon and a strong tool help them break all kinds of restraints of racism and oppression for achieving the justice through right use the law and push them to as the main part of moderm America (Bigsby, C. W. E. 1972). In particular, in the same period has witnessed appearance the artistic movement called the Harlem Renaissance that has encouraged Black playwrights to write serious dramatic works that reflect the reality of Black people live and the kinds of injustice they faced, this period extended from 1910 to 1930 and they had established more than 157 theatres through it (Goldfarb & Wilson, 1983:422).

1.3. Methodology

The researcher has depended on two sorts of sources; primary sources that improve the discussions with examples and reinforcing proof, and secondary sources that are examined with the objection of the revenge of conscience in John Grisham's A Time to Kill (1989) from various psychoanalytic views. The researcher also employs analytical, comparative, and interpretive techniques essential to describe the themes connected to the revenge of conscience. More particularly, it examines the topic of the revenge of conscience and its application in John Grisham's A Time to Kill (1989). Furthermore, the researcher also employed a theoretical framework with qualitative textual analysis for providing illustrations of the psychoanalytic theory on the one hand and the visions that conduct as the devices of analysis for these texts of the main and secondary characters in the novel. The psychoanalytic approach which endures in John Grisham's novel is not a reflection of the condition of the author himself, but rather it is the narrative of some social and political problems that he targets to discourse through the engagement of the characterizations, plot settings in his own novels. One can discover a numeral of several aspects in the revenge of conscience-based work that reflects the dilemma of the individual, which usually arises in the American society as a dilemma that continues in the Americans' minds who previously survived an unstable period.

1.4. The Problem Statement

This study investigates the revenge of conscience of the modern man in the USA in John Grisham's A Time to Kill (1989). It further examines the effects of racial oppression impact on the Black community. The study is also designed to psychoanalytic study examine the dark human conditions and their force on shaping personalities' behaviour. Hence, The study aims to highlight the theme of revenge by conscience settings that the main character acts within it and the problem in this study aims at addressing is
the “revenge of conscience” as the voice of conscience and following it instead of the law by the main character Carl Lee Hailey in A Time to Kill (1989), after he appealed to the court to achieve justice against the white men who Cobb and Willard raped his daughter and attempted to murder her and so, took it upon himself to avenge the rapists of his ten-year-old daughter after the court's decision to release them on bail. Moreover, the study also provides a close reading of texts that represent the pervasive influence and distinguishes between the desire for revenge and the act of revenge which refers to challenging the concept the act of revenge is an intuitive or pervasive reaction to unfairness which is considered a statement problem in the current study. According to Francis Bacon has stated it as “wild justice”: “Revenge is a kind of wild justice, which the more man's nature runs to, the more ought law to weed it out. For as for the first wrong, it does but offend the law; but the revenge of that wrong putteth the law out of office” (qtd in. Anderson, 1987:15). Revenge today is disagreed from the law, not in the classification but only as a matter of degree has been embodied into the mainstream legal culture but do not consider the law's bloody (Berkowitz, 2005). likewise, Dunne also has called it the “Vindictive Justice” (2016: 16). For that reason, the study highlights some aspects that affect whether victims of injustice decide to take acts of vengeance such as the continuation of anger, imaginations of the costs of vengeance, cultural and religious values concerning vengeance, and the existence of external strategies that can revive justice on behalf of victims.

1.5. The Conception of The Revenge of Conscience According to Freud's Psychoanalytic Personality Theory:

Sigmund Freud has founded the psychoanalytic personality theory (1856-1939), who has used literary texts for psychoanalysis such as Oedipus Rex (429 BC) by Sophocles and discovered the term called an Oedipus complex, he also used Hamlet's texts by Shakespeare as a raw material for psychoanalysis them then he applied psychopathology through practising the dialogue between the patient and psychiatrist. According to Freud, psychoanalysis refers to the double meaning the first one is a system that is ordered to treat mental disorders. While the Second is a method that is extended into various theories due to the use of “Psychoanalytical Therapy" which is a sort of talk therapy that tries to bring unconscious thoughts and feelings to the conscious mind. (McWilliams, 2004). As a result, Freud's theories, approaches and research have contributed to the treatment of common psychiatric diseases and in the interpretation of the behaviours of societies according to various cultures on the one hand and of individuals on the other hand. It is generally accepted, Freud has divided the mind of humans into two parts: the first one consists of three elements: Conscious, Pre-Conscious, and Sub-Conscious while the second part includes three segments: "Id", the "Ego" and the "Superego", then he considered the superego as a part of conscience. Freud considers that the Id is a vital part of the humans' personality; it includes sexual desire (libido). It is also the only component that is indicated from our birth and it is from which the Ego and Superego are grown. He has used the Ego for referring
to the sense of self, but then he distills it to refer to a set of psychic functions like control, judgment, reality, tolerance and testing while the last part of the human personality is the Superego. According to Freud, this part judges whether our acts are wrong, guilty or right thus he considers it as a part of conscience but lastly, others have seen it as absolute conscience. (Hasan, 2019 pp: 16-17).

The psychoanalytic theory is well suitable for analyzing the reasons that drive the character, especially the protagonist Carl lee of *A Time to Kill* (1989) to take revenge against the oppressors because revenge is the exporter of inspiration for Freud. The aim of using psychoanalysis in analyzing the characters is to observe not just how the responsibility in *A Time to Kill* (1989), but to what extent those characters are psychologically effective or comforting (Sirola, 2013). Although this clear enthusiasm for revenge, general perspectives toward vengeance are various. Some thinkers have regarded retaliation to be an illogical act that has no position in a civilized community. While others have seen revenge as both morally justifiable and rational against injustice whereas victims of injustice who disregard revenge may be considered as either cowardly or righteous. Indeed, previous studies focus on the revenge theme as a conception that suggests rather than discussing factors of revenge and without identifying its resource and who is the owner of the decision to revenge, while the psychologists might more constructively study the motivational and contextual aspects that lead someone to label an act as revengeful or not. Until now there has been little research performed on this topic. As a result, Budziszewski has asserted that:

So conscience has its revenge. We can’t not know the preciousness of human life—therefore, if we tell ourselves that humanity is a matter of degree, we can’t help holding those who are more human more precious than those who are less. The urge to justify abortion drives us inexorably to a system of moral castes more pitiless than anything the East has devised. Of course we can fiddle with the grading criteria: consciousness, self-awareness, and contribution to society have been proposed; racial purity has been tried. No such tinkering avails to change the character of our deeds. If we will a caste system, then we shall have one; if we will that some shall have their way, then in time there shall be a nobility of those who Have their way. All that our fiddling with the criteria achieves is a rearrangement of the castes (1998: V).

John Grisham in *A Time to kill* implies the psychoanalysis theory, according to the Freudian conceptions of human personality: the Id, the Ego and the Superego. He also displays the inner conflict between the three structures. It is generally accepted that the Ego is responsible for treatment with reality through which the man can achieve happiness (Rasheed et al., 2020). Carl lee deals with the reality of raping his daughter by the revenge of conscience against the rapists of his ten-year daughter to relieve his conscience from the psychological crises between the three structures above that have led him to follow his conscience's decision for achieving justice after failing the law in punishment the rapists. The superego is the part of
conscience according to Freud, and it is a high court in humans’ minds according to Mahatma Gandhi and the voice of God according to Aristotle (Hasan, 2019:39). Carl lee is not a bad man in his personality, but the crisis of racism in the society in which there is a distinction between black and white Americans and misuse of law leads him to take his own right by revenging by his own way in which he lives and in which there is a distinction between black and white Americans leads him to be a murderer. (Pardita, 2012).

1.6. Textual Analysis of A Time to Kill

This dramatic novel is set in the southern state of Mississippi in Canton, Black father Carl Lee Haley (Samuel L. Jackson) decides to victorious for justice in his own way after the judiciary system fails to sentence the two white men who raped his ten-year-old daughter and left her on the brink of death but a brave young lawyer and his assistant defend a black man accused of murdering two white men, inciting violent vindication and revenge from the Ku Klux Klan gangs. Especially, when the young lawyer had taken up the conscience of the court and all those present in it with powerful words that shake and move the conscience of humanity towards achieving justice. In fact, the case of Carl lee’s daughter raping leads him to a psychological struggle and no way only of thinking that controls his mind is how to avenge for and restore his honour no matter how the results will be especially when he met with his own lawyer, Jake Tyler Brigance they said that:

What would you do?
I don't know. I don't know what I'd do.
Lemme ask you this. If it was your little girl, and if it was two niggers, and you could get your hands on them, what would you do?
Kill them.

Here, the conversation of the revenge of conscience begins between the lawyer, Jake Brigance and the father of the ten-years black girl, Carl lee Hailey and it reflects the idea of revenge and desperation of the law and the role it towed his matter thus it is evident he is busy with the idea of revenge in his mind and planning to do it, starved his idea from the reaction of the lawyer in the problematic case which related with his own daughter instead of the ten-years black girl. In fact, Carl Lee succeeded in moving up the imagination and conscience of a lawyer, Jake. As a result, Carl Lee considers Jake's reaction as giving a legitimate for taking revenge against two rapists, Cobb and Willard. revenge is the most complicated human motivation because the idea of revenge hits the mind and breaks all restrictions which cause psychological struggles among his own personality: the Id, the Ego and the Superego which mention above according to the Freudian conception. His seeking for vengeance is the consequence of thinking that revenge will restore justice and that is why the desire to harm rapists revealed the hidden oppression of his mind by his
own conscience. Likewise, Rasheed et al., has commented on this conversation above:

One of the main reasons that make the individual think about revenge is that it is considered to be an effective method of deterrence and that is what happens with Carl lee. When his daughter is raped he cannot psychologically stand this and takes the revenge as an effective method of deterrence and that is why when the lawyer asked him, he ironically smiled and laughed intending that he will take his revenge at all.(2022:12)

Still, the conversation between them reflects the revenge of conscience by which Carl lee had already taken his final decision after a psychological struggle by his own mind's elements and getting it from the superego which is considered a conscience. Freud sees one of the psychological symptoms in human beings who have a psychological struggle is the need to sleep there is clear when Carl lee refers to his psychological case especially he can not sleep peacefully until he kills the two men who raped his ten-year-old daughter Tonya that is clear through their interchange conversation below:

Are you ready to defend another member of my family?
Don't do it, Carl Lee. It's not worth it. What if you're found guilty and they give you the electric chair? What about your children? Who'll look after them?
I have no choice, Jake. I'll never sleep till those two are dead.
I owe it to my little girl, I owe it to myself, and I owe it to my people. It'll be done.
One more thing, Jake. Will you meet me at the jail when they arrest me? (Grisham,1989: 68).

Hence, the novelist turns his story to another important part which leads all of them to clash within American society in the main idea, racism between the American white and black people thus it considered the second important reason to take revenge which around the protagonist of the novel by these ambiguous circumstance thus one can note that through the conversation below:

Are you going to do it?" asked Willard.
Cobb hesitated. No, I'll let you do it.
Willard said, "It wasn't my idea. You're the one who's good at killing niggers. You do it. He thought for a minute while he finished a beer. Let's throw her off a bridge.
Good idea. Very good idea," said Billy Ray. (Grisham,1999: 1).

Willard asked Cobb if she was dead, but Cobb opened another beer and he says she was not dead because black people commonly could not be killed by kicking, hitting and raping but It need more like a knife or a gun or a rope to dispose of black people. Here, the novelist wants through this conversation above to draw the attention of his readers to the problem of racism by the white community and their persecution against the black society in America in the early twentieth century. Consequently, racism is also lead to the revenge of conscience as a result of racism, kidnapping and
rape, all these factors are connected to the psyche. As known that there is a
great distinction between White and black American communities, at the
same time the two white Americans had raped the black girl, Tonya, they
are not paying any attention to her honour even they do not put that in their
account that the niggers cannot be killed whether by beating, raping and
kicking. all these racial distinctions psychologically drive black people to
use violent means like revenge in order to retrieve their honour. Historically, Whites men were often afraid of slave rebellions. In many
slave-holding regions and states, Blacks were an enormous percentage of
the population. "The fear of slave violence may also be attributable to
White guilt over the subjugation of Black slaves and the fear of Black
retaliation for this treatment. After the Civil War, the stereotype of the
violent Black male was used to scare Whites and to justify the oppressive
Jim Crow laws"(Baynes,1997:550). That appears this distinction in the
treatment of African American defendants by the illicit justice system, and
particularly by juries, has to do with the prevalent stereotype of the African
American male as the savage. Unfortunately, this image is profoundly
rooted in the culture of American society. Boyer et al., has mentio-

Over one hundred blacks died by latching in the 1930s, and other
miscarriages of justice continued, especially in the South. In 1931 an all-
white jury in Scottsboro, Alabama. sentenced eight black this to death on
highly dubious, charges of rape. In 1935, after heavy publicity and an
aggressive defense, the Supreme Court ordered a new trial for the
"Scottsboro Boys" because they had been denied legal counsel and blacks
had been excluded from the jury. Five of the group jury again convicted.
(2013:579).

One can note is that justice for niggers is impossible. The lawyer
Jake believes that it is not easy for the black man, Carl lee, to get his
freedom because he is black not white American. This speech offers the
idea of racism when the lawyer tells him that if he is a white American, the
case will be distinct. Jake says to Carl lee that the Ku Klux Klan's presence
affects the decision of a jury. That is clear throughout these words "I'm
white, and this is a white county. With a little luck I could get and all-white,
which will naturally sympathetic. This is not New York or California. A
man's supposed to protect his family. A jury would eat it up"
(Grisham,1989: 69). In any criminal case, the prosecution tries to present
any evidence of previous violent behaviour or acts that will offer a tendency
on the part of the defendant to commit violence, this evidence recreates
changes the stereotype of the Black man to a savage. Psychologically effect
on his mind which leads him to follow his conscience instead of the law for
achieving justice actually the voice of conscience is considered the voice of
justice and the voice of God in the human mind. After all the acts of raping
and kidnapping the lawyer, Jake declares that he will defend him and he
will be his lawyer in the court. At the same time, he faced and received
many threats. The first one was against his own secretary. they were
threatening against her. She said that: "They threatened me because I work
for you. Said I'd be sorry because I worked for a nigger lover. The ones
here threaten to harm you and your family. I'm just scared” (Grisham, 1989:146). This indicates that racism case is directed towards anyone who helps, supports and defenses the black people because the white Americans will not respect him and if he does not give up his decide they will hurt him and his family thus Jake when he decides to defend Carl lee in the trail he revived different threats. That is reflect there are some motivations that drive to the racism or it had called the motivations of racial self that affected psychologically on the peoples' behavior and treatment between them which leads to ignore their sense and psychological effects.

Ozzie Walls was the lone of black sheriff in the police of Mississippi and was hated by the white but he was loved by the blacks because he considered he is belonged to them, unfortunately, he also faced the racism by ridiculing, insulting and cursing by whites that is clear when he has arrested Cobb he cursined him and told him of his origins and ridicules the niggers believing them low-grade to the whites:

Ozzie tapped his left palm with the stick and grinned at Cobb. You have the right to remain silent. Anything you say will be used against you in court. You have the right to a lawyer. If you can't afford one, the state'll furnish one. Any questions? Yeah, what time is it? Time to go to jail, big man. Go to hell, nigger. (Grisham, 1989. pp:24-25)

Grisham has offered racism to readers as the moralistic problem within American society with a white racial hero who helps the people to imagine race troubles in a personal sense. If racism is dominant on an individual basis, then race takes place through moral reforms, not through social that could challenge different factors such as legal, economic and political regulation.

1.7. Conclusion

This study has based on the psychology of revenge through strong decisions that are given by the conscience which is considered as a high court in the human mind in a specific situation especially when the law fails to restore the right. The research paper also has been discussing all challenges correlating with the meaning of revenge which is surrounded the protagonist of the novel Carl Lee Hailey through all the arguments that refer to is no evident measure for showing that an act is motivated by revenge because it is a motivation for behaviour established on the perceivers’ attributions for the react therefore revenge is an intuitive reply to injustice by injustice victims who have the changelessness of anger, perceptions of the cost of revenge, religious and cultural values concerning revenge on the one hand, and the existence of external systems that can repay justice on behalf of victims on the other hand.
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ملخص:

تقدم هذه الورقة البحثية الموضوع الرئيس لنواحي الضمير في رواية جون غريشام وقت القتل، وفقاً لدراسات سابقة. يشير هذا إلى اجتماع القانون وفقاً لأسباب عديدة مثل مشكلة البوهية والقضاء، والعنصرية، وقمع السود في المجتمع الأمريكي. الهدف من الدراسة يعتمد بشكل كبير على علم النفس وفقاً لنظرية التحليل النفسي تأثر نشاط فرويد (1931). يطلق الرواية على جون ويل (مايكل كلارك جاكوبسون) يقرر أن يكون حقه بعد أن فلس القانون في إدانة القاتل (كوب وويلارد) اللذين اغتصباً ابنته هيلد بابا. أحد عشر سنوات وتركوه على شفا الموت. لهذا السبب، قرر كارل لي أن يسلك طريق الانتقام من الرجلين، عن أنفه، وانتشار التعصب العنصري ضد كل رجل أسود في الوقت الذي كان في جنوب الولايات المتحدة السود مواطنين من الدرجة الثانية، مما أدأ إلى صراع نفسي في ذهن كارل لي. يعود إلى أخذ حقه من خلال انتقام الضمير لجريمتي: اغتصاب ابنته والاضطهاد العنصري.

الكلمات المفتاحية: الانتقام، الضمير، الاستكشاف الضميري، غريشام، التحليل النفسي.