



*The Death of Julius Caesar, by Camuccini 1809*

# On the Killing of Charlie Kirk

A look below the surface at the perpetrator and the environment.

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“One kills a man, one is an assassin; one kills millions, one is a conqueror; one kills everybody, one is a god.” — **Jean Rostand**, biologist, author, activist

## Some People’s Opinions

Charlie Kirk’s murder is no better or worse than the murder of any other good person. All the talk about his murderer’s mainstream political, cultural, and religious affiliations is beside the point. There is no mainstream political, cultural, or religious movement that endorses the assassination of anyone within their own culture. You cannot connect the logic of murdering another person within your own context with any generally accepted national platform or institution.

I realize this is somewhat vague. There have been generally unaccepted national platforms that advocate murder. There have been individuals who've murdered others under the auspices of institutional authority. But sane people are not sanctioned to murder others within their own domain for their own advancement.

Of course, we will allow and encourage murder when it is justified and legal. This limits murder to situations of mercy killing, self defense, protection, war, espionage, and such. In all cases the murder is not presented as righteous; it's justified as necessary. It's the most efficient thing to do.

A person who individually and unilaterally plots, plans, and conducts the execution of someone they don't know for some intangible benefit is not sane. It's a suicidal venture, not a sane plan of action.

## **Murderous States of Mind**

I was suicidal once; it was the result of a hallucinogenic plant. The plant put me in a state of complete psychosis. Whatever actions I might have taken under those conditions would have in no way implicated any normal system of thought, political platform, or religious belief.

It was a hellish state of mind, but the experience was useful. I was entirely lucid and all of my thoughts were eminently reasonable. It was my perceptions and memories that were corrupted. It gave me the experience of finding myself in an entirely different world.

In this case, that was a profoundly evil and painful world. Luckily for me, I was in an immobile, blind, and non-communicating state that wore off after 15 minutes.

I've spoken with climbing partners and therapy clients who have killed people, or so I assume. These were soldiers or criminals, and each group had a different mindset. These people were having trouble adjusting to normal life, but they were not manics.

These people never entirely lost their minds, though they endured abnormal situations and acted abnormally. They were forced into psychotic behaviors they did not intend or want to repeat. These peoples' lives could be redeemed.

An assassin's state of mind—aside from those who act under the direction of some authority—is unhinged. Any talk of justice, punishment, or “setting an example” for psychotic behavior is preposterous. Psychotics and psychopaths don't see the reality that you and I see. What a psychotic needs is to be brought back to a functional reality. And while psychopathy does not change, it still behooves us to better understand what triggers psychopathic behavior.

We're talking about the actions of a psychopath or a psychotic, but that does not mean they are irrational. A psychotic can also behave effectively at times. It is the defining characteristic of a psychopath that their world seems perfectly reasonable to them and, what's more, they execute their plans effectively. You'll appreciate this if you read the more lucid serial killers, such as Ted Kaczynski's *Manifesto* (Kaczynski 2020), or the interviews with Edward Kemperer (Scott 2024).

## Understand Psychosis — It Is Inside You

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“Previous views of psychotic symptomatology as intrinsically pathological have been replaced by the idea that, in many cases, psychotic symptoms may fall within a spectrum of normal experience.”— **Ian Kelleher** (2011)

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## **Can We See Through Peoples' Masks?**

No one is as they appear to be because no one has just one personality. You have no idea of what other personalities exist behind a person's socially presented mask. The one thing that all of us are taught is how to behave, not how to think clearly or pursue virtue. The purpose of all public education is to create personalities that respect social order.

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“Of individuals with new, incident subclinical psychotic experiences at baseline, only 8% had persistence of the psychotic experiences at the subclinical level whereas 84% no longer presented with any psychotic experiences.” — **J. van Os** (2009, 190)

The reason we have a large number of homicidal people has little to do with cultural, political, or religious beliefs. It is related to the large number of psychotic and psychopathic individuals in the general population whose behaviors we accept, tolerate, condone, fail to recognize, consider as normal, elevate to management, and elect to public office.

## The Awfulness of This Event

“People who don't appreciate the awfulness of this event aren't just lacking empathy — they're naive. They apparently don't realize that political violence pushes us backwards on the civil society evolutionary timeline.” — **Jeff Maurer** (2025)

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## What To Do?

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