

# Belief in Hereafter

One of your other points was that they believed in survival after death. Is that an insane belief?—No.

And their belief that all people go to heaven or paradise?—A most unusual one.

Why?—Because they have little to go on except in their minds.

Do not many people in the world believe in that?—This is different. In private conversation the girls regard them as two planets—heaven and paradise.

## Two or Three

Do not many famous people think there are two or three places in after life? Are they mad?—No. They don't call them heaven and paradise.

They call them heaven and purgatory?—Yes.

They are not mad in thinking there are two?—It is part of a number of things they did, including the murder of their mother.

That in itself is not insane?—No.

One expressed the view that the Bible was bunkum. Many

have expressed that view, have they not? Were they insane?—I am not aware of any who have made that comment at the age of 16.

But grown-ups have?—Yes. But they were sane?—Some might have been.

That line could have been said by a perfectly sane person?—Yes.

**What is the reason for the reference to the game of monopoly?—To show their complete lack of fairness, honesty, sportsmanship, or decency towards a small boy; in brief, cheating.**

But you had evidence of all those traits in the murder itself?—Yes, but this emphasizes it.

You have known young people cheat at cards?—No. I have not. Possibly they do.

All they did was pass bits of paper under the table when one went "broke." Haven't dozens of young people playing monopoly done that? Are they depraved?—Verging that way.

You say that it showed their contempt for the moral code. Aren't those strong words to use of a little bit of cheating in a game of cards by a 16-year-old

girl?—It shows how lightly they regarded deceit, and how little compunction they had. You have not read the concluding sentence in that entry: "It was really screamingly funny."

Mr Brown: Wasn't it?—No. It was dirty.

You know that they are deceitful, liars, thieves, potential blackmailers?—Yes.

They have a number of characteristics of very bad criminals?—Yes. They were not good girls.

## Not Degree

That is rather an understatement, isn't it?—It does not express degree. It is simply a statement of fact.

Asked to explain his opinions, Dr Bennett said that a doctor was trying to make a diagnosis. He had before him a number of findings, signs, symptoms and facts. None of them finally proved the diagnosis. The doctor wanted some further information, and it might come in the form of something that completely conflicted with his theory, or it might completely confirm it.

# Traversed at Length

In this case here was a mass of evidence that had been traversed at great length, and then there was the matter of murder. To him that was the final little thing that confirmed the diagnosis of insanity. That was what he meant when he said the murder proved the diagnosis.

Mr Brown: The notes of your evidence prepared by the Judge's associate state that in

earlier evidence you said: "Although all this represents evidence of a moral irresponsibility of the pananoiact, it was the actual murder that was the final proof of the diagnosis." Is that correct? The associate is very reliable.

Dr Bennett: I think I was misquoted. I think I almost surely said: "The actual murder proved the diagnosis."

Mr Brown: You have your notes there. What do they say?

Dr Bennett: That the actual murder proved the diagnosis.

His Honor: I think you were correctly reported, doctor. I made a little note myself at the time, and you said: "But the murder was the final proof of the diagnosis."

Dr Bennett: I accept that. It makes little difference.

Mr Brown: Did you intend the jury to think it was correct?—The jury makes up its own mind.

To his Honor, Dr Bennett said he came into the Court to give his diagnosis and to show how he arrived at it. To him, the final proof, or item of proof, was murder. The jury could or could not accept that evidence.

Mr Brown: Is not the whole purpose of your evidence to convince the jury that you are right?—Yes. So far as I am concerned, my statement is correct, but, as his Honor pointed out, it is not a mathematical matter.

Dr Bennett said the girls committed the murder because they were insane.

You know they shop-lifted in Woolworth's?—Yes. If they had been arrested that would have been the final proof of their irresponsibility.

Would you have said they shop-lifted because they were insane?—Had I known as much as I do now, I would have said yes. They had no other reason.

So the shop-lifting had no purpose? It was an insane act?—Yes. They were acquiring experience for their creations and their novels, as they explained it to me. They set out to break the Ten Commandments in the same way.

Continued On

Page 3

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