

you have some kind of an explosion if you cross them or anything. Apparently they were scared stiff of his behaviour. That's really strange that the parents would have been so afraid to ask him questions or cross him or anything. He must have really had mental problems & they were afraid to upset him. They were super friendly to any kind of friends he brought over, probably because they were just trying to humour him no matter what kind of friends he had, hippies, druggies & whatnot!

7. It's a typical characteristic of some forms of abnormal behavior, they talk incessantly about themselves. It's like nothing could have pleased him better than to have her sit down & have him talk about nothing but himself.

8. The questioner must be really on the ball when they're trying to find out things about people—ask questions. Like interviewers on TV, they keep firing questions at them to find out this & that. She should have asked him why his folks sent him to a psychiatrist, & why they had to send him to a mental hospital. What did he do? What was wrong with his behaviour? When you come to parts of people's story where you need to know items in greater detail, you need to stop them and ask them.

9. That's always a sign of abnormality, unconcern about others & self-centeredness. It's just amazing to me nobody ever found it out before!—All his experiences with psychiatrists. I mean he was really a problem case!

10. Maybe it'd help if they'd come right out, flat out & tell him the thing that's been causing all the trouble is a real thorn in the spirit, so to speak, a messenger of Satan that's been buffeting him, a real annoyer, sort of a besetting spirit, a spirit that's really tried to ruin him.

11. (Maria: Is he actually demon-possessed?) You're not possessed until you can no longer control yourself, until your own spirit is no longer dominant & you're under the complete or total control of another spirit. (Maria: I don't think you've ever brought that point out before. We've always been a little hazy about Christians, that they can't be possessed, but we've never really brought out what possession actually is.)

12. You can certainly be annoyed by pestering spirits just

like you can be tempted by the Devil, just like the rest of the Devil's pests! (Maria: In other words, you can even have a spirit trying to speak through your mouth but not be possessed?) Yes. You can even have the wrong spirit speak through your mouth sometimes & inspire you to say the wrong things.—But not necessarily be completely possessed.

13. It's a temporary thing, like flying off the handle in a rage saying things you're later sorry for & that you know you shouldn't have said. He seems to be a lot like that. He does things & says things on the spur of the moment that he knows afterwards he shouldn't have & then he says he's sorry.

14. It's kind of like Karol's curse, in "God's Curses!" (No. 1647), an annoying little devil that brings a thing like that as a hinderer, hindering spirits. It's the evil spirit that brings such curses, but she had to take a specific definite all-out stand against it & a special prayer, & I think they had some fasting too, didn't they, to get rid of it?

15. (Maria: But even if he wasn't in him possessing him, he was there. Maybe he can be in you, but not possessing you, because look at the spirit that tries to talk through him. It's sort of like we wonder whether it's inside you or on the outside, but maybe that's not the distinction to make? That's not where you should make the distinction, whether it's just sort of an external or internal pest.)

16. The distinction, the difference is as to what degree you allow him to control & rule over your life. It's like Grandmother used to say about temptations & evil thoughts, "You can't keep the birds from flying over your head nor those thoughts from going through your mind. It's the voice of the Devil. But you can sure keep them from building a nest in your hair!"—In other words, roosting there & entertaining them full time & letting them take over. You just have to keep resisting & fighting until they see you're not going to surrender or give up, & they give up & go away & leave.

17. Apparently he's been pestered by that thing for a long time, maybe since his childhood. They just need to have special prayer & exorcise the situation & get rid of the spirit once & for all. It's not that it possesses him or that he's filled with an