

Richard Grayson

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## LIFE STYLE

### Summary of Family Constellation

Dick was the first born and only boy in a 2-1 family wherein the youngest sister, Priscilla (-17 yrs.) was far removed from the older two, although there was a shared bond in that Dick and Priscilla hated Mom. Not only was the early period filled with anxiety and fear because the "folks got mad at us," but mother was particularly disparaging with put-down remarks, and she treated the children with emotional distance and as just plain troublesome to her. Dick developed a kind of loner style in self play but awakened in late grade school with intense intellectual curiosity and interest. Dick never palled around with Patsie (-1½ yrs.) who appeared to have her somatic reaction to stress of the parents and was not a companion nor competitor to him. His middle childhood was affected by a medical ailment with terrifying nightmares and deliria. In personal qualities Dick certainly outdistanced his sister in ability, grades, achievement and perseverance. Patsie did corner the sociable qualities of friends, charm, cheerfulness, and outgoingness. This was a family in which the children were not heard, expressed little, and got nothing emotionally. Dick seemed to withdraw, still being sensitive but retained images of integrity and nobility. What he learned about life and coping in life came from relying on himself. Socially, he didn't feel athletic nor masculine and was picked on by everyone; but academically, he could shine. "I loved school" described the personal desire and probable recognition outside of the home for his talents. Socially, those were painful times; academically, he was an eager learner and was good at it. Later he was part of the small, egghead group, and "I always raised my hand" in class.

The masculine guiding line was a hard-working, taciturn "builder" whom Dick emulated, but he could be enraged by mother and change from the patient worker to angry disciplinarian of Dick. Father was very much a reactor to mother and actually directed by her. There was a silent affinity with Father in

work out at the shop or fishing in Lake Michigan. There was no communication nor emotional closeness with either parent. The feminine guiding line, as seen in his mother, was an irascible, punishing, yelling, and insulting woman who wanted her children out of the way. Mother did say to Dick at 10 years, that he should be a doctor, and that aspiration was accepted. While his parents appeared to have a happy, involved relationship with each other, mother was unhappy with herself and her family of origin. Dick received no emotional support from either parent, though at least there was a positive work model to emulate in father's actions and commitments. Mother was an enigma-- everything made her mad. Dick learned to withdraw and husband his own resources to survive. His role as a child was to keep his mouth shut, make few comments, do what had to be done, snatch some private satisfactions wherever he could, and get out of childhood in one piece.

#### Summary of Early Recollections

I am an observer and a participant in the world of men. I am curious about how things operate and get done; I want to understand, but I'm okay when I'm observing. When I take action I may screw up and draw the wrath of others. I expect the worst but that doesn't materialize. Sometimes I feel like I'm on the outside looking in at what's going on.

I want to handle my own battles but don't always have the strength or power to do that. It's not that I'm impressed with my lack of strength as much as the embarrassment that I get from the social situation about my effects. Some situations are just unfair in how I'm treated. It appears I carry that fear of not doing things right in the eyes of others.

Physical pain and injury do not bother me as much as the social pain of embarrassment. I hunger for encouragement from others but can get put down. There are comforting moments in the world of men, but I am unsure of what it takes to please women and can get angry at the unfairness displayed by them.

#### Convictions:

1. His way of dealing with the world is to know and understand.
2. He believes men are the deers and creators in life, but when he goes into action, he's not too sure he'll do it right.

3. He has an exaggerated view of the consequences of his actions.
4. There are issues of anxiety, embarrassment, and social adequacy.
5. He may see himself more as the knowledgeable overseer in life than the successful agent in action.
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Assets

1. He is intellectually curious and interested in how things operate.
2. He is an astute observer in the scientific world.
3. He is persistent in his unflinching curiosity about the world.
4. He can enjoy the simple things in life and also appreciates the greater life picture.

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