**Dissociative Personality Disorders**

***Dissociative Disorder-*** Occurs whenconscious awareness becomes separated (dissociated) from previous memories, thoughts, and feelings. This set of disorders is the most controversial among those who study and treat abnormal behavior. The symptoms must be severe and prolonged in order for this disorder to be diagnosed. The main types include:

1. **Dissociative Amnesia-**Selective memory loss often brought on by extreme stress.

2. **Dissociative Fugue-**Flight from one's home and identity accompanied by amnesia.

3. **Dissociative Identity Disorder-**A rare dissociative disorder in which a person exhibits two or more distinct and alternating personalities; also known as ***multiple personality disorder***.

***Explaining Dissociative disorders***

* Interestingly enough, some believe this to be a cultural phenomenon especially given that there has not been any confirmed cases in Japan or India and that in North America the number of cases has increased exponentially.
* Some psychologists believe that it is another group of disorders that develop in an attempt to reduce stress and anxiety.
* Skeptics suggest that *Fugue* is an excuse to avoid reality.

***Personality Disorders-*** Disorders characterized by inflexible and enduring behavior patterns that impair social functioning. They usually occur *without*anxiety, depression, or delusions. These personalities are the extreme compared to normal variation and some say are a result of failure to establish a personal identity. Some examples include:

1. **Antisocial Personality Disorder***(formerly called a psychopath)*a disorder in which the person, usually male, exhibits a lack of conscience for wrongdoing, even toward friends and family members; the person is often aggressive and ruthless, dishonest and very manipulative.
2. **Histrionic personality disorder-**Displays shallow, attention-getting behaviors and needs immediate gratification and constant reassurance.
3. **Narcissistic personality disorder-**Tends to be self-absorbed and expects special treatment. These people are usually intensely jealous of others.
4. **Borderline personality disorder-** Marked by an unstable identity, unstable relationships and unstable emotions. These people cannot stand to be alone and tend to have chronic anger.