

SIGMUND FREUD'S MISSION

by Erich Fromm

GENERAL -ENVIRONMENTAL TRAITS

1. MIDDLE CLASS -- Member of the newly emerging middle class whose motto was "Dare to Know"
2. JEWISH HERITAGE -- Great cultural emphasis on education -- tried to dispel several superstitions and stereotypes
3. DECAY OF MONARCHY -- Government in Austria-Hungary was in a state of decline and corruption -- Age of Enlightenment in Europe -- influence of writers Voltaire and Rousseau

PERSONAL TRAITS

4. INTELLECTUAL SUPERIORITY -- IQ of 160
5. TRUSTED ONLY HIMSELF -- Disappointment and trauma with Mom and Dad
6. DESIRE FOR POWER AND PROMINENCE -- Wanted control and fame
7. COURAGE -- Despite ridicule and accusations of insanity
8. EMOTIONALLY COLD -- Relied upon and trusted only logic -- no room for emotions and feelings

All of these traits contributed to Sigmund Freud's intense search for TRUTH and heavy reliance upon REASON. His life and theories were the result of these factors and other experiences.