

ALFRED ADLER

M. Wagey Tairas

Fakultas Psikologi, Universitas Airlangga

ADLER'S LIFE

Alfred Adler was born on February, 7, 1870, in Vienna, Austria of a middle class family and died in Aberdeen, Scotland, in 1937 while on a lecture tour (Hall, & Lindzey, 1990). He was the second born of six children. Alfred's father, Leopold, was a grain merchant who had come from Burgenland, a province of Hungary. His father's favorite son, and he frequently took walks with him. Young Adler was evidently not on close terms with his mother, partially due to his memories of the birth and death of his brother Rudolf. Adler was afflicted with rickets in early childhood and had great difficulty in running. He decided early in life to become a physician because of his own illnesses and the death of his brother.

Adler was not a good student, but he received a medical degree in 1895 from the University of Vienna. At first he specialized in ophthalmology and then, after a period of practice in general medicine, he became a psychiatrist. Because after he graduated, he devoted himself for a few years to the study of internal medicine and ophthalmology in various hospitals before he opened private practice. During his student years, he had been active in the socialist student movement. He had a lifelong interest in the promotion of preventive medicine for the poorer classes. In 1897, he married Raissa Epstein, a young Russian student, who had come from Moscow to Zurich and then to Vienna because women were not admitted to Russian Universities. They met at a socialist

meeting, she was an ardent socialist, and their progressive ideas attracted them to reach each other.

In 1902 Adler was one of four physicians invited by Freud to join in a discussion group. This was the beginning of the Psychoanalytic Society. After with Freud, Adler became known as the founder of Individual Psychology. In 1935, three years before Hitler occupied Austria, Adler prevailed on his family to go permanently to the United States. He started the English edition of the Journal of Individual Psychology and lectured all over the United States and Europe (Hall, & Lindzey, 1990).

THE RELATIONSHIP TO FREUD

Around 1900, Adler's chief interest was the study of psychopathological symptoms within the field of general medicine. In 1902, when he wrote a review of Freud's book on dream interpretation, Freud send him a postcard inviting him to join his discussion circle. upon Freud's assurance that many different views, including Adler's own, would be discussed, Adler accepted the invitation. Adler had never agreed with Freud's theory that early sexual trauma caused mental disease and he persistently opposed Freud's method of dream interpretation. The major break between Adler and Freud concerned the importance of biological drives. Freud belief that biologically based sexual and aggressive strivings were the basis of all behavior, Adler believed