

## Burari Horror: A Perfect Example of “Tertiary Induction” Termed as “Folie an Onze”

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### Abstract

A recent incident happened in New Delhi, India, which has prompted us to neologise a phrase similar to the ones already in use. These are “folie a deux” meaning that two persons in the same family have gone insane. When three persons in the same family go insane it is termed “folie a trois”. In the incident that has shaken the country eleven people have gone in to partnership insanity or shared insanity, hence termed as “folie an onze”. Detail about this case is subscribed and the readers would be amazed as we are to realize how collective psychosis could play havoc in the lives of unfortunate victims.

**Keywords:** Folie an onze; Tertiary induction; Shared insanity; Burari horror

### Discussion on the Related Aspect of the Case

A recent incident has occurred in Burari area of New Delhi, India, in which eleven people ages ranging from 12 years to 75 years died in a pact suicide [1].

As reported in the newspaper all the members of the family were overtly religious minded and they had deities’ portraits in the house. The bodies were detected blindfolded, tied, gagged and hanging from the window grill. All the bodies had their legs touching the ground except the eldest member of the family 75 years old female whose body was found in the adjoining room with signs of asphyxia death.

The newspaper has reported that the patriarch of the house—since deceased—was a dominating figure and a strict disciplinarian. It is alleged that he would lose control of himself whenever the religious functions took place and would recoil by shouting incomprehensible things and often acted weirdly. Furthermore, there are rumours that the family members tried to achieve salvation (moksha). Portraits of deities and eleven rubber tubes protruding out of the wall, seven straight and four with ends bent downwards could be seen. In addition the police have found a diary in which strict guidelines are mentioned about how to conduct themselves which the members religiously followed.

The authors contend that this particular incident fits exactly in the robe of shared insanity. By principle in this syndrome there is a primary insane in the house and other members residing with him or her develop psychotic tendency by slant inhibition. Single primary insane is able to influence one or hardly two secondary insane. This particular incident where eleven family members committed suicide presumably at the instigation of one elder member is an extremely rare occurrence and deserves to be read and debated. Although the police investigation is in full swing initial probe points the finger towards psychotic disorder.

This event is important because in all eleven people in a closely knit economically well off family were involved. Typically it illustrates the phenomenon of ‘shared insanity’. At this point the authors emphasise that in such psychiatric manifestation two terms are broadly used, i.e., ‘Folie a Deux’ and ‘Folie a Trois’. In the former two people are involved, whereas in the second three people are involved. In each case there is a primary insane in the family and secondary insane who may be more than one. In Burari’s Horror all the eleven members in the family were involved. This case is important because it leads to multiple avenues of research both in the fields of pure psychiatry and forensic medicine. The authors realizing its potential were quick to respond and shared this important profile of the victims.

We have termed this phenomenon as ‘Tertiary Induction’ demonstrating that more than three people were involved. One would be primary insane and two would be secondary insane, whereas after that rest would fall under the category of tertiary insane. Here the possibility arises that several members of the family may have gotten rubbed insanity from secondary insane and not from primary insane as generally happen, and hence this should be considered as tertiary manifestation. We have forensic medicine background [1,3] and the second author is clinical psychologist pursuing Ph D. Logically our next step would be to look at this grave mental manifestation from forensic perspective and carry forward the work already published [2]. This possibility cannot be gainsaid that weakly inducted tertiary psychotic individual may be compelled to commit a crime by primary or secondary insane under whose influence the individual may be leading to a huge challenge to law of the land.

Readers’ response shall be highly appreciated and shall be acknowledged and accommodated in our next publication.

### Conclusion

The authors are of the opinion that until and unless the probe comes to finality initial academic exercise on the incident points towards the phenomenon known as Folie a Trois [2,3]. Since this is an extremely rare occurrence where mass suicide has taken place at the instigation

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of cult leader reminds one the Jonestown incidence [4]. Occultism and false perception of life may lead to bizarre manifestations.

## References

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