

# Our Father Who Art in Hell

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A Factual Account

All that is necessary for the triumph of evil  
is that good men do nothing.

*Edmund Burke, 1790*

"The first in-depth German study of a DID patient with a background of severe home abuse, child prostitution, and SRA has been published"<sup>1</sup>. These words were written by Onno van der Hart in 1997 in an essay on ritual abuse in Europe in reference to my book *Vater unser in der Hölle* [Our Father Who Art in Hell], which I had spent four years researching. The book had an impact: victims found a corroboration of their experiences in it, and doctors and trauma therapists who work with dissociative patients use it for workshops and training courses. A parliamentary inquiry examined the topic of ritual abuse, as did the Parliamentary select committee "Sects and Psycho-Groups," which mentions the book several times in its concluding report. A foundation for victims of ritual abuse was set up. Three surveys on ritual abuse were carried out. Together with Michaela Huber's textbook *Multiple Persönlichkeiten* [Multiple Personalities], it changed the German public's perception of one of the darkest areas of organized violence.

For eight years; then the book went out of print. Remaining copies that had cost 20 euros on the market were now being auctioned at eBay for up to 200 euros each. Several publishers realized that this subject was important and sought to acquire reprint rights. Subsequently I revised and updated the book, adding a further ten years of the protagonist "Angela Lenz"'s life to the account. Handwriting samples from a number of her personalities were added, as well as letters with thoughts and memories of her therapist. The book also contains an afterword by Professor Onno van der Hart, prefaces by the trauma therapists Professor Luise Reddemann and Michaela Huber, the former member of parliament Renate Rennebach, who had been part of the Parliamentary committee "Sects and Psycho-Groups." An updated text by the social pedagogue Thors-

ten Becker on ritual abuse in Germany was also added. An accompanying website ([www.ourfatherinhell.com](http://www.ourfatherinhell.com)) offers additional resources in English and German on the subjects of trauma, sects, cults and ritual abuse.

I have now been dealing with the subject of ritual abuse for over fifteen years, have made the acquaintance of many survivors, and have observed – and perhaps influenced – the public's attitude to it as a journalist, yet without losing sight of "Angela Lenz"'s life. In the course of time, this journalistic coverage has become a long-term study. The following excerpts from the new edition of *Vater unser in der Hölle* offer insights into the state of knowledge and changes concerning ritual abuse in Germany.

„This is one woman's story: the story of Angela Lenz.

Angela Lenz has multiple personalities. Multiple Personality Disorder<sup>ii</sup> can be understood as a survival system for the soul. In scientific terms: a reaction to traumatic stress caused by extreme abuse in the early childhood years, abuse that takes place over a long period of time and which the child cannot escape. Hers is a story shared by many people. Angela Lenz is not the only person in Germany to survive incest, forced prostitution and rituals carried out by a satanic group. Everything that Angela reports is confirmed by the testimony of other victims. The victims' reports seem incredible, and one would rather not believe them.

What made me think I could trust her accounts?

Angela does not appear to be mixed up or confused. Rather, she is calm, controlled, and clear. If she cannot remember something, she admits it, corrects her mistake and admits that there are holes in her story that she cannot fill. She did not try to hide the contradictory nature of her personalities from me, but instead revealed their diverse feelings and opinions.

Professionals who study cults, representatives of the police and doctors, confirm these descriptions. Therapists from Germany, Holland, Belgium, America, Canada, England, France, Spain, Denmark, Norway, Turkey, Australia and Israel with whom I spoke or corresponded described similar incidents and phenomena. Many of them have more than twenty-five years of therapeutic experience working with torture victims like Angela Lenz.

Based on school reports, correspondence, photo albums, official documents, medical reports, x-rays and newspaper clippings, I have tried to create a picture that comes as close as possible to the true events. Parts of Angela's family history can no longer be reconstructed. Her father is dead. The causes of his pedophilia can only be speculated about today. Family history reveals the abusive and promiscuous nature of the grandfather as well as the strict pietistic climate his family has lived in for generations. Angela's father also grew up in a family where public and private life were clearly dissociated from one another. Quite early in the family's history there was a diagnosis of something that was described at the time as schizophrenia.

The family is granted special protection by the state. But who protects the children in families that neglect or abuse them physically, emotionally or sexually? Most violence takes place at home, behind closed doors. All over the world.

Incest is a profound emotional injury and an early development factor that prevents many children from reaching autonomy and a feeling of clear personal limits. The constant stress undergone by small children in a state of fear affects nerve connections in the brain and the biochemistry of the body: when in danger, each of us automatically produces large amounts of a "hormone cocktail" intended to help us fight or escape, then calm down again. If danger keeps returning unpredictably and inescapably, the body creates its own form of drug addiction. If the perpetrator is also the protector – i.e. the father or the mother –, the child undergoes severe conditioning. It becomes a different child to the one it could have become.

What a bitter way to start one's life.

According to Francisco Orengo, incest is the apprenticeship for prostitution. Pimps know this, the Spanish psychiatrist emphasizes; in his clinic, he has helped many women to escape from prostitution. Pimps, he states, recognize the women who have been hurt early in life.<sup>iii</sup> He describes it as a form of knowledge passed on from father to son. And a trap from which few escape.

How did Angela Lenz manage to do it?

To find out, I visited the sites of Angela Lenz's memories. I visited the quiet, exclusive neighborhood of her childhood, I followed the path behind the houses and went into the forest where Angela was tortured. I went to church and listened to a sermon

held by a man Angela identifies as a pedophile criminal. At the start of my research, he was still in office. Why had he not been removed? Angela did not press charges against him. She did not press charges against anyone.

That was the “deal” with the perpetrators.

We know their names and know where they live. Whenever “Uncle Paul” moves to a new federal state I can keep track of him, as he always registers his name with the telephone company like a law-abiding citizen. From his last house he had a good view of a former concentration camp.

Angela wrote down the names of the perpetrators, the scenes of the crimes, and all the circumstances surrounding what was done. These records have been preserved in various places. In some cases, the original records have been left with people instructed not to hand them out to anyone, not even to Angela herself. But who will pass them on to the public prosecutor's office in case she dies. Or in case anything suspicious happens to a member of her family, her therapist, the author or others connected with this book. Even if they fall victim to what looks like a normal traffic accident, these records will be distributed accordingly.

That was the deal with the perpetrators. A deal that even the police accept. For a long time, abusers were far ahead of the investigators in their technical methods. Photos of sadistic sex scenes with children aged 5, 3 or 1, even with babies, are sent all over the world via high speed lines on the information highways, but it took more than a decade for special police units to be equipped with the necessary hard- and software to intercept them. In the last ten years, such criminals have progressed even more rapidly. When I began my research for this book, few people suspected what police have meanwhile determined to be the case: child abuse in the "second life" of a virtual world in the Internet<sup>iv</sup>, torture of babies and infants online in front of webcams<sup>v</sup>, murders with clear Satanic indications in several European countries<sup>vi</sup>, attempted cover-ups in the cracking of Mafia-like networks involving figures from politics, business and organized crime, with mentions – as in Saxony in 2007 – of child abuse and child brothels.<sup>vii</sup> An explosive mixture. When Angela became acquainted with this dark world decades ago, nobody believed her accounts. The taboo was intact and the perpetrators were safe.

Now the taboo is beginning to break down. Some journalists will not be fooled; nor will some doctors. "At the time, people thought we were insane for believing our patients," reports Prof. Dr. Luise Reddemann. "Now all the terrible things you described in your book have sadly turned out to be true."<sup>viii</sup> Medical and therapeutic knowledge is increasing.<sup>ix</sup> Brain researchers can now identify the switch from one personality to another through magnetic resonance imaging. And there are now three studies dealing with ritual abuse in Germany, as well as an Internet survey with results from all continents. It is conceivable that some fragments of Angela Lenz's memories may be attributable to suggestions by the perpetrators. Others could be images representing ordeals experienced, or memories used to mask others, for example to protect herself from knowing the full extent of her father's actions. Nonetheless, after 15 years, I am still convinced that Angela Lenz was subjected to extreme violence, sadistic torture and ritual abuse.

Names, dates, places, professions of the perpetrators and victims have been changed in order to prevent identification of Angela, her current family or her family of origin. The same applies to any other potentially revealing information such as hobbies and athletic events. The therapists' names, "Nina Temberg" and "Elisabeth Gebhard," are also pseudonyms.

The names and quotations from the scholars, psychiatrists, therapists (Thorsten Becker, Dr. Catherine Fine, Prof. Onno van der Hart, Dr. Arne Hofmann, Michaela Huber, Anne Jürgens, Dr. Richard Kluft, Prof. Francesco Orengo, Monika Veith and others) are authentic. Interviews with them took place as reported.

When the altered mental states of victims recall the traumas they endured, these memories often have a timeless quality: a feeling of being outside of time and space. Dissociated identities that feel caught up in the middle of a traumatic memory often cannot tell that the experience is over, and first have to work out the person, place and time. Their reality has to be reinforced literally: "Look, here is the floor, you are standing on it, you are safe, it is over." But this is also true in another sense: because these victims often suffer from a loss of temporal orientation, the perpetrators are further protected if neither the place nor the time can be named.

For this reason, each chapter that tells of a remembered trauma opens with a short list of historic events, in order to place the trauma in the context of its place and time. For example, such-and-such an event can be connected to the time that *Sugar Baby Love* was heard regularly on the radio, when Helmut Kohl was chancellor of Germany, and Charles Manson went to jail on charges of ritual murder.

Some episodes are derived from the reports of other survivors. The lives of people who grow up in destructive cults – neo-Nazi or occult – possess a fixed structure which may include the birth and sacrifice of one’s own child. Angela was spared this, at least – as far as we know today. And although she was not the one who personally endured such an experience, she was traumatized by having to share the event.

Writing this book meant approaching the unbearable: coming so close to evil that it could be felt. The unbearable things that happened to Angela made her a victim; that was bad enough. But even worse: a perpetrator. Because Angela was both.

Violence is a spiral that keeps on turning. I have tried to find a way of speaking about these things that avoids passing on that violence, yet still expresses what happened because it did really happen and continues to happen.

Many of the strategies used by child pornography rings and destructive cults to infiltrate the therapies of victims who have broken away are so monstrous that I did not initially want to accept that they really happened. For this reason, the psychological tricks I have documented in this book are only ones that have been confirmed by at least three therapists independently of one another. This applies, for example, to the disgusting use of photographs and recordings of the therapist during torture in order to create an aversion or fear towards her.

Angela Lenz describes two worlds: a bright, cheery, colorful one and a dark, brown-black, threatening one full of horror and violence. Full of violence she experienced. Some of Angela’s personalities want revenge. Most of them, however, simply hope that “the bright world will finally realize that there really is another, darker world.”

It really exists, here among us, very close to us. Not only in the Belgian town of Sars-la-Buissière, where Marc Dutroux tortured and killed children. Or in the forests around Milan, where the heavy metal band Beasts of Satan carried out murders in Sa-

tanic rituals. Or in the French town of Angier, where 45 children between six months and twelve years of age were raped and sold into prostitution by 65 adults, including their own parents. Or in London, where, according to police reports, 300 colored boys between four and seven years of age disappeared in 2001, and a boy's torso found in the river Thames forced Scotland Yard to start investigating ritual abuse and archaic ceremonies. Or in Portugal, where over 600 cases of sexual violence against children were uncovered in Casa Pia, a chain of children's homes. Or in Spain, where police arrested 66 in July 2007 in "Operation Punishment" and confiscated 50 million (!) images of children being tortured. No: here too, in our own country.

Violence creates divisions; sometimes even among the helpers. It took a long time before the different areas in this great field of human misfortune gathered their knowledge together and joined forces. It was only at the end of the 1990s that trauma research and therapy in Germany began to take off. This had several causes.

One of these – as terrible as it may sound – was the worst rail accident in German history: the Inter City Express crash in Eschede in 1998. The media reported at length on the horrific disaster, in which 101 people died and 88 were severely injured. For the first time, an ombudsman was appointed to determine the claims and needs of survivors and represent them against the rail service. The former vice president of the Federal Social Security Court, Professor Otto E. Krasney, accomplished this task so effectively that the significance and consequences of traumatic experiences filtered through the press and reached the public awareness. The German rail service paid for the counseling of survivors and relatives of “Eschede”.

Then public perception was changed again by terrorist attacks and major natural disasters: New York (2001), Madrid (2004) and London (2005); the Tsunami in the Indian Ocean (2004) and Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans (2005). Now the media began to focus on the possible long-term consequences for survivors.

In parallel, the extremely dynamic development of the Internet assisted the explosive dissemination of child pornography around the world. Step by step, national and international teams of investigators were able to uncover criminal networks of producers, distributors and consumers of these torture films. The number of arrests increased.

Now, finally, the media began to examine the consequences of such abuse for the little victims of this million-dollar business.

But there are differences: some may still remember the Dutch "child porn scandal" of 1998.<sup>x</sup> The discovery of 9000 photos and CD-ROMs with images of extreme sexual violence against children and babies in the seaside resort of Zandvoort was described as a "bombshell" and stayed in the headlines for weeks. "Zandvoort" did not, however, remain in the collective memory as long as "Eschede." The tragedy for these victims is that this violence takes place in secret; it is "dirty" and taboo. Accordingly it is soon forgotten again.

There is no compensation, either for the victims of natural disasters or for children who have been tortured. But there can be acknowledgement. Some victims of torture and sexual or ritual abuse have fought to be acknowledged – and succeeded. By raising their voices, they broke free from their tormentors, for "the mightiest weapon in the hand of the oppressor," according to the South African politician Stephen Biko<sup>xi</sup>, "is the spirit of the oppressed." I had already learned twenty years ago from Wolfgang Kneese, an escapee from Colonia Dignidad, a German sect in Chile that practiced ritual violence and served as a torture camp for the Pinochet regime, what this lack of freedom feels like: "With every little decision I make in life, I'm not the one deciding – in my head, it's Paul Schäfer standing up and deciding. And I can't get him out of there."

Wolfgang Kneese is a fighter. He made the fight against his tormentor Paul Schäfer, the founder and leader of the Colonia Dignidad sect, his life's mission. "I want to see him in court," he said. In 2006 he succeeded.

Anna Burger also succeeded.<sup>xii</sup> She was granted political asylum in Australia in 1998 after fleeing from a destructive cult in Germany at the start of the 1980s. She came from a family that seems to have been working for the child pornography mafia and dressing up these activities in Old Germanic ideology. Anna Burger fled to the other side of the globe to escape. The Australian government acknowledged that Germany has a problem with ritual abuse carried out by occult groups, and that the German government is either unable or unwilling to protect the victims. This marked the first time ever that a survivor of ritual abuse had been granted asylum.

(translated from German by Wieland Hoban)



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<sup>i</sup> Van der Hart, Onno: "Ritual Abuse in European Countries" in Fraser, George A. (ed.), *The Dilemma of Ritual Abuse: Cautions and Guides for Therapists* (Washington + London: American Psychiatric Press, 1997)

<sup>ii</sup> "Dissociative Identity Disorder" since the DSM-IV in 1994.

<sup>iii</sup> Personal message, June 14 2007.

<sup>iv</sup> Focus online, 08.05.2007 [http://www.focus.de/digital/games/second\\_life/second-life\\_aid\\_55693.html](http://www.focus.de/digital/games/second_life/second-life_aid_55693.html)

<sup>v</sup> "Kids, the Light Of Our Lives" was the cynical name of a website which over 700 users worldwide used to exchange images showing the sadistic torture of children and babies.

<sup>vi</sup> E.g. Germany in 2001, Turkey in 1998, as well as Italy and Norway.

<sup>vii</sup> MDR, June 12 2007; Jürgen Roth on the corruption affair in Saxony in Roth, Jürgen/Nübel, Rainer/Fromm, Rainer: *Anklage unerwünscht – Korruption und Willkür in der deutschen Justiz* [Prosecution Not Wanted – Corruption and Abuse of Power in German Justice] (Frankfurt, 2007).

<sup>viii</sup> Personal message, June 26 2007

<sup>ix</sup> Groundbreaking study: Gast, Ursula et al.: "Die dissoziative Identitätsstörung – häufig fehldiagnostiziert" [Dissociative Identity Disorder – Often Wrongly Diagnosed] in *Deutsches Ärzteblatt* 47/2006.

<sup>x</sup> In 1998, police found six computer systems and roughly 9000 images of child pornography distributed or obtained via the Internet in the apartment of murder victim Gerrit Ulrich. This unimaginable [back then!; U. F.] number of images and the manner of representation, including the abuse of babies and very young infants, seemed to add a new, previously inconceivable dimension to this dirty trade. (See "Sodom und Internet? Neue Medien – Möglichkeiten und Herausforderungen" [Sodom and the Internet? New Media – Possibilities and Challenges] by Jörg-Michael Klös (senior commissioner of the criminal investigation department from 1993-1998, in charge of the inspection of sexual and child protection offences at the Office of Criminal Investigation in Berlin).

<sup>xi</sup> 1946-1977

<sup>xii</sup> Name changed.