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I shall become weak'."

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## EVIL IN WOMEN—"DELILAH SYNDROME"— A NEW PSYCHIATRIC SYNDROME\*

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OSCAR R. SCHMALZBACH\*\*

". . . and it came to pass when she pressed him daily with her words and urged him that his soul was vexed unto death". ". . . and he told her all his heart and said unto her 'there has not come a razor upon my head . . . and if I shall be shaven then my strength will go from me.

(Judges Chapter 16, 17 and 18.)

THIS quotation from the Bible is used here as an introduction to a Psychiatric Syndrome which I would like to call the "Delilah Syndrome". It is not unusual for biblical names and personalities to be used in modern psychiatry to describe cundrame or a perconality problem. Front used mythology as well (i.e.

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important new one which according to our researches has not been published to date.

The first time I thought of it was on March 23, 1973 (early morning hours), when I put on paper the general points about the syndrome as "Evil in Women" based on the story of Delilah. A recent check through computers at various libraries (universities, etc.) has shown that no such syndrome in the context of Evil was previously described. There were two references to Delilah; one by Prof. R. B. Greenblatt of Georgia (U.S.A.) (1976) who wrote in a chapter of his monograph "In Search of Scriptures" about Samson's most infamous haircut in history and mentioned it in connection with modern man's preoccupation with hair, especially head hair, as a symbol of "beauty" and unisex, etc.

The other reference was made by Dr. Allan Gerson who wrote about the role of aggressive fathers in female promiscuity and spoke of Delilah in this context only (Perspective in Psychiatric Care (Vol. 12, 2; April, 1974)). No description of a "Delilah Syndrome" has been published, as far as could be ascertained.

Samson and Delilah have inspired three great works of art: Milton's: Epical

\* Presented at the 4th Austral-Asian Pacific Forensic Science Congress on "Evil in Man" organized by the Australian Academy of Forensic Sciences and the World Psychiatric Association (W.P.A.) and held at the Sydney Opera House on August 26-29, 1982.

\*\* Consultant Psychiatrist.

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