



## SHOE FETISHISM AND KLEPTOMANIA COMORBIDITY: A CASE REPORT

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### ABSTRACT

Sexual fetishism is defined by recurrent, intense, sexually arousing fantasies, sexual urges or behaviors involving the use of nonliving objects, such as female shoes. In this article, although it does not require and not the monetary value to the individual, irresistible impulse arising from women's shoe theft case will be processed. Although the individual is treated with psychotherapy and Clomipramine by diagnosis fetishism, depression, obsessive-

compulsive disorder and kleptomania, the individual who continue his action was sent to the Istanbul Forensic Medicine Institute for Psychiatric appreciation as mandated by the court. 36-year-old male patient was evaluated in terms of criminal responsibility and shoe fetishism and kleptomania are discussed in terms of the clinical characteristics of forensic psychiatry.

**KEYWORDS:** Shoe, Fetishism, Kleptomania, Clomipramine.

### INTRODUCTION

According to ICD-10, fetishism is classified as a disorder of sexual preference, and the stimulus that sexually arouses or gratifies the individual must be a nonliving object. Often, the fetish objects are clothes and footwear, which, in a way, are additions to human body. Although a person may have a lot of fetishistic fantasies, this is not considered as a disorder unless it leads this individual to behave in a coercive and unreasonable manner, thereby

damaging his/her sexual relation with the partner and causing distress. Originally, it was asserted that fetishism only prevails among men. Shoe fetishists or retifists are similar in principal to foot fetishists but their stimulus i.e the shoe, becomes the total focus for arousal.<sup>[1,2,3]</sup>

Frugel (1930), described the allure of clothes both as a sexual arousal as well as a symbol of the genitalia. To the fetishist the shoe became a secondary sexual characteristic. Some shoe fetishists need only the shoe and not the person to be satisfied. Making love to a shoe is quite a complex procedure. According to Rossi the fetishist may work up to an erotic pitch by kissing, licking, gently biting and caressing the item of attraction. Each part of the shoe epitomises a different part of the female anatomy. Smell plays an important part for some and they will inhale deeply the smell of the shoe. Fetishist will have a preference for particular footwear and take their relationship with their favourite shoes, seriously. Certain kinds of footwear have almost universal appeal among shoe fetishists. Masturbation commonly accompanies real or imagine contact with the fetish. The individual with fetishism often masturbates while holding, smelling or rubbing the fetish object against his body. The sexual activity may be directed towards the fetish object itself (masturbation with or into a shoe), or the individual may ask the partner to put on this object or cover part of her/his body with it.<sup>[1,4,5]</sup>

Kleptomania is defined as a recurrent failure to resist impulses to steal objects not needed for personal use or their monetary value. The person experiences an increasing sense of tension immediately before committing the act and intense gratification or relief while committing it. However, s/he cannot resist the temptation to steal again. Although the person tries a little to conceal the act, it cannot be said that s/he has taken all the necessary precautions to do so. The stealing is done without assistance from or collaboration with others. The stolen objects may be discarded, given away, kept or even returned surreptitiously. It is typical that these objects are stolen despite the fact that the person can afford to pay for them. They are, therefore, of not much value to that person who usually gives or throws them away. The act of stealing is ego-dystonic. The person regards the act of stealing as nonsensical, shameful and erroneous.<sup>[1,6,7]</sup>

If in such an act the person aims to possess the stolen object, the diagnosis is not kleptomania. The basic aim in kleptomania is not the stolen object itself but the act of

stealing. <sup>[8]</sup> This paper is, therefore, aimed at dealing with fetishism and kleptomania as observed in a forensic psychiatric case repeatedly stealing the fetish.

### Case

The patient gave a statement as follows: "I am sick, I have a weakness in women's shoes. Event day I left home to go to the doctor to control. When I saw a brilliant, sharp heels shoes in a lady's feet, I do not know, I could not stop myself. When she entered the apartment, I went to take shoes in front of the apartment and went away. I caught on notice by the people I do not know when I got out of the apartment by stroking shoes. I do not do this work willingly, I can not stop myself from doing it, I steal shoes and I am stroking, kissing them and I masturbate. Then, I returned them to the owner. My goal was not to steal the shoes. I'm sick as I said at the beginning, and I still undergoing treatment in this regard "were said.

The case in another words, "I am working as a psychology teacher for about 15 years. As noted in my health report which is on my file I have a health disease called paraphilia. This disease is still about 2 years. When I saw bright sharp heels, I warned sexually and unable to stop myself..... " as he has been told.

Our case, 17 years is married and has 2 children, 15 years he worked as a psychology teacher, stated that his wife is his uncle's grandson. He said that in the first year to have any problems with himself. 4 years ago after looking at a porn magazine began to want his wife to wear high heels, shiny shoes when entering a relationship with his wife ; three years ago, she spent elevator accidents and skin deterioration. Since then stated that began to the deterioration of sexual intercourse. He stated that he admitted to a medical school hospital, in the unit of sexual dysfunction the use of psychotherapy and medication called clomipramine with a diagnosis of fetishism, depression, obsessive-compulsive disorder. He stated he relaxed a little bit of treatment but when he saw bright, high heels on shoes he repeated the event, 10-15 times stated that this event. He stated that the difficulty to control impulses, adversely affected the social life narrows the social environment, because of being teacher, he had a difficulty in finding a place not worn this type of shoes. Examining the judicial investigation file , it has not been found any alcohol and drug abuse. In same file, it has been found also he has never been in prison before Judging by the results of clinical psychology laboratory of Forensic Medicine " with Rorschach test findings not to found dissociation observed in individuals, but found strong neurotic type reaction and a tendency to depression." In the test protocol; Infantile angouisse and feelings of guilt, Infantile objects such as circuit and

dependence on mother image, Infantile regression, repression been intense obsessive representation of trends, fear reactions, hostility and tendency of rejection the authority of image allowing analytical review drew attention to the intense richness of content. Cattell Intelligence Test score has been found in the IQ = 127, but thought to be effective in the performance of the individual's profession and susceptibility to situation and there is the psychogram that it is in the normal range of intelligence quotient.

## DISCUSSION

Fetishism and kleptomania cases are usually sent as required by courts psychiatric evaluation. Our patient already being treated in this way, he was sent to assess psychiatrically his own request in order to benefit from reduced court sentences. In a study on the criminal responsibility of the kleptomaniac, Öncü et al (2009) stated that fetish lingerie is a paraphilia in cases because balcony to dry clothes hanging offense plagiarized opened on the case had been diagnosed with fetishism and kleptomania, against burglary it has been reported that are judged to be diminished criminal responsibility. <sup>[1]</sup>

Chalkey and Powell (1983) have reported that 27% of the fetishistic cases were in the habit of stealing the fetish objects. The authors stated that one of the 48 patients stole because he was attracted to obtaining something belonging to someone he had desired and followed her home. From a psychodynamic point of view, there is a close relation between fetishism and kleptomania, as stated by Ginsberg. Some authors who share this comment contend that kleptomania and other impulse-control disorders may have something in common with fetishistic behaviors, and that fetishism may be the basis of kleptomania. <sup>[8,9,10]</sup> Of these authors, Coleman has further stated that many young patients with kleptomania have stolen women's underwear, and urge as felt while stealing a fetish object contribute to sexual arousal and orgasm; a condition which is also observed in individuals with other fetishistic behaviors. <sup>[8]</sup> Fetishism is not considered as a criminal behavior unless it is accompanied by stealing fetish objects. <sup>[4,10]</sup> Some writers defined kleptophilia when the sexual focus involves illicitly entering and stealing from the dwelling of a stranger or potential partner and they evaluated it as a paraphiliac behavior although currently it is not often used. <sup>[11]</sup>

Dinçmen (1981), he stated that the action of theft can be a tool of sexual gratification and satisfaction. Moreover, Dinçmen stated that ejaculation can be seen in action during kleptomaniac and also argued that the diagnosis of such cases is a very important symptom. <sup>[12]</sup> Opioids in the body to urge the theft has been suggested to cause an excessive increase it

is stated that people in similar situations that arise in response to physical stress. Kleptomania has also been suggested that a person's affective states can be effective in calming excessive stimulation of the regulations.<sup>[13]</sup>

In our case, starting in the late twenties to not go through puberty, the perversion done to increase sexual excitement after his wife's accident has begun to affect the patient's daily life. Two years ago, it is seen that starting treatment with the diagnosis of depression and sexual function and dysfunction, continued treated with the diagnosis of obsessive-compulsive disorder and fetishism. Although psychotherapy and pharmacotherapy treatment, it is observed that the continued action.

The act of stealing is frequently considered as a result of an antisocial behavior. Kleptomaniacal patients do not exhibit other antisocial behavior except the theft action.<sup>[9,13]</sup> In our case the absence of alcohol and drug use, the absence of prison life, the absence of self-injurious behavior, can be said to be an action to suggest that antisocial personality disorder. It has been suggested Kleptomania obsessive-compulsive disorder can be addressed in a diagnostic groups called as affective disorders including mood disorders range.<sup>[14]</sup> Serotonin deficiency is a common feature among these disorders comments are made. Another evidence for this suggestion fluoxetine, a serotonin reuptake inhibitor antidepressant and anti-obsessional-effects of clomipramine.<sup>[13]</sup>

Additionally, the patients showed significant anti-impulsive effect kleptomaniacal is another evidence. Our patients treated with clomipramine is partly reduction in symptoms may be due to this effect.

In our patient psychiatric examination, it is understood that the patient is in a participatory and cooperation is still receiving treatment and wants to continue treatment, is in shame, because of this case. The psychiatric interview; together with the evaluation of forensic investigation documents the patient's actual legal meaning and can understand the consequences of committing but relating to the action as it was significantly decreased in the behavior of routing capabilities, diminished criminal responsibility of the new penal code on patients identified, of all or a time penalty makes it possible to put in care institutions. As in our case, although the treatment of paraphilia and kleptomaniacal, performing patients' action same shows that researchers need to be taken to indicate that more guidance on new treatments.

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