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Editor's Column

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Editor's Column

"Sometimes a cigar is just a cigar." Others had learned, "My son, sometimes a cigar is just a good smoke." Like many of our colleagues, we believed that these were Freud's words during a question and answer session after a lecture he gave at Clark University. The words were comforting in a way, giving us a chance to chalk at least some things up to pure coincidence, thus releasing us from relentless unconscious agendas and hidden sexual interpretations.

When we initially reviewed Dr. Zafar Ibrahim's article, "Sometimes a Cigar is Just a Cigar," for this edition of *The Journal*, we returned it to him and suggested that if he was going to quote Sigmund Freud he needed to cite the proper reference. He therefore undertook a literature search to find documentation of the well known quotation. He asked local analysts. He called the New York Psychoanalytic Institute. He called the archivist at Clark University. He even called the librarian at the Sigmund Freud Society in Austria! But his enthusiasm and persistence failed to reward him with any documentation that Freud ever said, "Sometimes a cigar is just a cigar."

Lydia Marinelli at the Freud Society in Austria went through the complete English Standard Edition of Sigmund Freud's works, and was kind enough to note the only two cigar references she found:

"... and as the gentlemen are already smoking, the cigar-smoke sticks in my memory (Vol II, p 120)."

"The most dainty morsels of food are thrust into its mouth, delicacies of all kinds and even cigars (Vol. XIII, p. 37)."

Nevertheless, without implying that Freud actually said it, the popular phrase makes a fitting title for Dr. Ibrahim's article in this edition of the *Journal*. And don't stop reading—we present excellent and informative articles in this issue written by other equally enthusiastic and persistent authors.

We thought you would enjoy our short story of editorial adventure. If anyone is aware of documentation of the phrase popularly attributed to Freud, let us know!

Mary E. Donovan, M.D.
Chief Editor