**Open Your Class with this Tomorrow**

**A Visionary Madness**

**Directions:** Read the following case study of James Tilly Matthews and then refer to the description provided from the current DSM-5 which, lays out the specific criteria that must be met to issue a schizophrenic diagnosis. Create a list of characteristics displayed by Matthews to indicate that he might have schizophrenia and another to list the characteristics that indicate that he might be sane. Finally, based on the information in both lists, determine if you believe James Tilly Matthews was schizophrenic (by modern standards) or sane and include a rationale for your decision.

| **DSM-5 Disorder Class: Schizophrenia Spectrum and Other Psychotic Disorders** |
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| Two (or more) of the following, present for a significant portion of time during a 1-month period  Delusions  Hallucinations  Disorganized Speech  Disorganized or Catatonic Behavior  Negative Symptoms such as lack of emotional responses |
| For significant time since the level of functioning in one or more major areas, such as work, interpersonal relations, or self-care, is markedly below the level achieved prior to the onset. |
| Continuous signs of the disturbance persist for at least six months. This six-month period must include at least one month of symptoms. |
| The disturbance is not attributable to the physiological effects of a substance (e.g., a drug of abuse, a medication) or another medical condition. |

**Case of James T****illy Matthews**

James Tilly Matthews was diagnosed as delusional and paranoid; he believed the British government was out to get him. Matthews also believed that there was an “influencing machine,” which he described as an “air loom” that could control people`s thoughts and actions. He believed the machine was operated by a team of men and Matthews produced many detailed drawings and thousands of words of descriptions regarding the workings of the “machine.” The impetus for Matthew`s diagnosis and eventual confinement occurred when he attended a session of the House of Commons and then loudly accused the Prime Minister of treason. He was removed and taken immediately to Bethlem asylum. Once admitted to Bethlem, Matthews refused to associate with the other patients, claiming they were not lunatics but rather spies placed there by the government to keep an eye on him. He also refused to drink the water believing that it could be poisoned.

It is possible however that Matthews was not insane at all but rather the patsy in a government cover-up. Matthews had worked as a spy for the British government, he acted as an intermediary between French and British forces just after the French Revolution. He and a colleague worked through intermediaries on behalf of William Pitt (a government official) to find a way to keep peace between England and France. He accompanied David Williams to Paris to work with the committee drafting the new constitution. They had received the invitation via a French agent in London and were traveling undercover on enemy soil. Matthews had been well-funded and supported by the British government, however, once talks fell apart, Pitt refused to meet with Matthews and eventually he found himself a prisoner in France. After his imprisonment, the British government seemed to want to distance themselves from their previous involvement in his covert actions. Matthews went from an esteemed agent for the state to a pauper. Matthews` family and a number of his associates remained steadfast in their claims that he was perfectly sane. Initially, Matthews` stay at Bethlem was paid for by his local parish as was customary at the time, but for reasons unknown, without the Parish of Camberwell (the paying parish) ever being informed, Matthews was designated as a state prisoner. This seems suspicious and supports the idea that the state may have been behind the internment from the start. The diagnosis of schizophrenia with paranoid symptoms is generally categorized by delusions so bizarre that they are difficult to follow, Matthew`s supposed delusions were characterized by events that could be demonstrated as fact, and they remained consistent over the length of his internment.

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| **Evidence for a Schizophrenic Diagnosis** | **Evidence for Sanity** |
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**Final Assessment:**  Based on the evidence provided above, do you believe that James Tilly Matthews was schizophrenic or sane? Provide an explanation for your assessment.

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