

4.3. TABOOS & DRAWING A LINE UNDER HISTORY

Are there are certain things about the past we shouldn't talk about? It's a question I often asked myself in the process of researching *The Pendulum*.

During my travels in the countryside in northern Germany I visited a number of towns that had once been strongholds of Nazism. Sometimes the period 1933-45 was excluded in the annals of these towns. Often those who had lived through it did not want to be defined by this period of history. Most of the towns I visited had very long histories going back to the Early Middle Ages. All of their history was relevant and had formed them, and it seemed to me that it would be better to include all of their history, rather than to exclude a part of it.

Although I could understand their approach because I came from a family that had attempted to distance itself from that time, it seemed to me that by excluding their local histories during the Third Reich, they defined themselves even more by it. This was the case in my family.

4.3.1 What conclusions can be drawn from *The Pendulum* about maintaining historical taboos or trying to draw a line under history?

4.3.2 Are there times when we should forget or certain historical taboos that should be respected for the sake of our families?