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How HEAL Identifies and Defines Cults

How HEAL Identifies and Defines Cults

By Angela Smith, HEAL National Coordinator/Co-Founder

As a survivor of coercive thought reform (a.k.a. aversive behavior modification), sexual assault, fraud, harassment, stalking, and similar crimes, I have a uniquely informed perspective on how to identify criminal behavior. While I'm not a licensed mental health professional and I have degrees and/or certifications in child development, history, English literature, and philosophy, I do believe I'm capable of identifying narcissists. And, it just so happens that cult leaders are defined by the scientific community (livescience.com) as narcissists.[1] PsychCentral.com also reports that narcissism is a typical characteristic of those prone to criminal misconduct.[2] Narcissism often involves delusional beliefs about one's own importance or superiority which often results in their surrounding themselves with only people who are "yes men" while ignoring any statements or beliefs contrary to their own delusions of grandeur.

The industry (as referenced in the previous article posted to this blog) is going to love this one. I'm not going to use the industry as my example for coercive thought reform for this article. I, being a compassionate person who cares about animal welfare, was recruited by the local "animal rights" community in the mid-90s. I was traumatized by repeat footage of animals being tortured. Peer pressure was used to get me to be vegan where I wouldn't be accepted in the fight for animal rights or welfare unless I converted. One of the local "leaders" of one of the animal rights groups was a narcissist. He was charming. He convinced so many that he was dedicated to saving the lives of animals. He operated his little marketing/labeling front selling shirts, books, buttons, and offering some free literature too. I don't recall his organizing any effective activism or advocacy to help animals directly beyond encouraging his followers to participate in effective advocacy efforts provided by the Humane Society of the United States. So, he had a lot of "work parties" out of his bachelor pad. And, underage girls regularly

Blog Archive

- ▼ **2019** (26)
 - ▶ **July** (4)
 - ▼ **June** (13)
 - You May Not Be As Dissatisfied With The Government...**
 - "So, You Don't Like My Tone..."**
 - A Failure To Communicate...**
 - How I Became Aware of Sacred Breath Academy**
 - Anger and Despair Management for Traumatic Stress ...**
 - This Happened....**
 - How HEAL Identifies and Defines Cults**
 - Is Sacred Breath Academy A Cult?**
 - The Arguable Hypocrisies of HEAL**
 - How Would You Handle My Out of Control Teen?**
 - Why Do Some People Hate Activists?**
 - Is Angela Smith A Hypocrite? For The Sake of Justice**
 - ▶ **May** (2)
 - ▶ **April** (2)
 - ▶ **March** (1)
 - ▶ **February** (2)
 - ▶ **January** (2)
- ▶ **2018** (25)
- ▶ **2017** (10)
- ▶ **2016** (10)
- ▶ **2015** (4)
- ▶ **2014** (9)
- ▶ **2013** (3)
- ▶ **2012** (14)
- ▶ **2011** (10)

volunteered for these "work parties". He was in his thirties. Two of the girls confided in me that he raped them. I advised they report that to the police. They said, "But, he's such a great voice for the animals and he really does care. I was waiting for my Mom to pick me up from volunteering and I said "no", but, he's the leader and so passionate about animals." I then told another woman to help me encourage them to report. That woman said, "We need him for the movement. And, they told me too and I discouraged reporting. Where's your loyalty to the cause?" That's what in part led me to co-founding Human Earth Animal Liberation as a safer alternative focusing on reporting crimes and violations to the proper authorities while running consumer advocacy campaigns among legislative efforts. So, while there are legitimate activist and advocacy causes, organizations, and networks, I've found cults or those using coercive thought reform techniques can be found behind many storefronts beyond academic and healthcare frauds. I've covered that to some extent in the free e-book Activism 101 available at <http://www.beyondbusiness.net>.

Narcissists are emotionally manipulative and intellectually dishonest. If that isn't clear by the description of the "animal rights" leader discussed in the above paragraph, please do your own research on it too. And, any narcissist with friends that also buy goods or services from them in an overly enthusiastic manner is often someone I at first glance will consider to possibly be a narcissist. See, your friend could be Alton Brown and he could run a restaurant you frequent because it's good. But, if you then go on talk shows or everywhere saying to everyone "You should only eat Alton Brown's food. No other food is good enough. It will save your life. His cooking is that good. It is the only food anyone should ever eat and it must be prepared by him or you might as well be dead. His food changed my life. But for his recipes and style of cooking, honestly I think life wouldn't be worth living. In fact, if you disagree or prefer Gordon Ramsay, I want nothing to do with you and you need to get out of my life," then you are in a cult around Alton Brown's cooking and being very narcissistic by proxy in stating that he's the only one you follow or from whom you'll consume while offering gratuities. And, that's counter to free market principles among other issues. I call that narcissism by proxy because the narcissists in training feel a false sense of pride in their new found lifestyle exalting their opinion above that of others to the point of excluding loved ones who dare to disagree. This was an example because I like Alton Brown's cookbooks. And, I've never considered Alton Brown to exhibit narcissistic characteristics. But, I only know him through his work and he pisses people off like I do so not charismatic enough in that regard, but, I find him quite charming.

Beyond the above and to again expand on the last blog post, I'll now explain how I differentiate between a cult and a club. Organized crime (i.e. gangs) can operate more as a cult or more as a club.

About Me



HEAL

HEAL is an egalitarian network of activists self-empowered to plan events, create change, and make the world a better place for all life. Our goals include the liberation of humans, nonhuman animals, and the earth! We work in cooperation with like-minded organizations that put compassion in action!

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Though, not all clubs are organized crime storefronts and most are quite enjoyable and/or provide a public good (i.e. 4-H). Clubs tend to be more democratic with consideration that everyone has a mutual interest that benefits themselves with enjoyment or opportunity to explore said interest with others who share that interest. Clubs honestly disclose what they are about, any membership fees, provide venues for exploring said interest (i.e. Sturgis), and often people do make friends with other people who share similar interests. Now, that's how I define a club. And, a club could arguably also be involved in organized crime, but, smart enough not to advertise it because often organized by people capable of honest reason with some understanding of the existence of a higher authority (i.e. criminal justice system) that will exercise said authority if certain conditions are met. But, cults have a hierarchy (a female can just as much be a cult leader as a male, #GenderEquality) and the leader gets to dictate claiming authority over all the power, money, and property while never having their authority questioned without risk of penalty to the questioner. And, they deceive claiming the exchange of your autonomy and independence relative to their power, financial gain, and undue influence over you is what you need and beneficial to you which they expect you pay gratitude for as well often through sexual coercion like was described in the animal rights example above. Those who feel servile and subjugate themselves to such "leaders" are co-dependents. Narcissists target and exploit co-dependents (people who lack independence and rely on an authority figure to make their decisions feeling a lack of self-esteem or self-worth to be in charge of their own lives). A cult leader says, "Haven't I changed your life? You'd still be nothing if not for me. Jeffrey Epstein runs "Gratitude America" for a reason. Certainly you find me more appealing than Epstein. Where's your gratitude? Perform cunnilingus on me right now to prove your grateful and happy to serve." They probably are more charming about it, but, since they have their followers maintain suspension of honest reason/disbelief to serve their selfish purposes to the followers' own detriment, I felt being a little more blunt might better make the point.

In addition to exercising due diligence by checking the veracity of claims made by anyone trying to sell me goods or services or recruit me to any clubs, organizations, or the like, I ask a lot of questions to see if the seller or recruiter is credible. I have an excellent memory and can catch when they contradict themselves. Critical thinking and logic really assist in helping to determine whether someone is being more honest than not. And, if after much consideration they are found to be dishonest, I don't get involved with them and certainly don't give them money or any control over me and my life.

Beyond determining whether someone is being honest or dishonest, in matters of faith, honesty is a sign of good faith, but, the other virtues matter too. However, if honesty isn't present the virtues you

may perceive or be told exist are likely deceitful and manipulative depending on how presented or of whom virtue is required. A cult leader demands transparency and total control of members while not being honest, transparent, or otherwise virtuous. A cult leader penalizes through peer pressure, shunning, isolation, "corrective rape", and many other means of manipulative control. But, part of their scam is that they often do it all in the name of spreading virtue. But, a person offering philosophical guidance in good faith who does so as a registered or tax-exempt charity that manifests virtue through good works like feeding the hungry, housing homeless veterans, or any similar work arguably following Christ's example of practicing virtue and honesty religiously (daily) for the greater good is a church and not a cult. And, it doesn't have to be Christian, I am a Christian minister with a universal philosophy that embraces ecumenical principles. So, some may find that they are prejudiced against me as a result of said faith while not understanding I'm committed to truth and virtue regardless of storefront or cultural influences and if you want to call your version atheistic humanism where you put truth (science/empirical data for you only) and virtue (compassion, respect, consideration for others, environmental sustainability, etc) in atheistic terms, I respect that. I'm not as concerned with how everyone uses language and culture to define their own understanding of their own philosophical explorations or personal values as I am with stopping vicious narcissistic criminals and cult leaders who take all the honest and virtuous and often provoke wrath when justice is not accessible.

But, where you find dishonesty and the dishonest person wants to control you, wants your money, or exercises undue influence in your life for their own self-aggrandizement at your expense, please leave that situation. And, suspending disbelief for an extended period likely results in severe mental illness and institutionalization. So, it is best to really hone your critical thinking skills and ability to honestly reason based on empirical facts the majority of the time. And, those that fail to do so often become victims and have a variety of influences or considerations that affect their actions in response to being victims of narcissists, cults, or any other criminals. We're here to help by providing examples of honest reason, using empirical data to dispel the lies told by narcissists/cult leaders/frauds/etc, and suggest resources for reporting crime to the proper authorities while also looking at how existing laws can be strengthened to better protect people not exercising due diligence to the extent reasonably required by them to avoid becoming victims in the first place. I'm a victim and survivor too and don't blame anyone for their susceptibility to undue influence. But, I pray daily that everyone will at least recall the scientific method^[3] and basic math enough to be able to determine if they are dealing with a dishonest person to avoid being taken advantage of by said dishonest person (s). Here's an example:

Question/Subject of Study: How do I know if I'm being lied to by UHS, Inc.?

Background Research: Have they lied before? Well, with Universal Health Services, Inc, they have many programs on the HEAL watch-list. And, they've been in trouble for fraud and falsifying records, both of which involve deception.[4] So, we know in this example that UHS, Inc has a history of being deceptive or lying.

Hypothesis: UHS, Inc is lying to me.

Test Hypothesis: UHS, Inc told me they could keep me legally without a court order and involuntarily on my parent's consent alone in violation of due process. Is that legal? Is that dishonest? The truth is it isn't legal without a court order, but, UHS, Inc makes sure parents sign waivers and indemnity clauses indemnifying their service providers from any legal liability. This is why David Taylor's mom had to pay the majority of damages for false imprisonment in that case. See: <http://www.heal-online.org/provocases.htm>. And, UHS, Inc will claim they relied on the signed statements made by the parents that the parents had the authority to make the placement which negates their mens rea not unlike Hillary Clinton claiming not to know what the "c" meant in regards to classified documents or transmissions. So, UHS, Inc relies on the ignorance of placing parties regarding the limits on their own authority to do so while claiming the parties seeking services should do their research before making any deals. And, HEAL is here to help with said research even though often those seeking such services are extremely ignorant and arguably at times willfully blind.

Analyze Data/Draw Conclusion: UHS, Inc has a history of falsehood for which they've been previously penalized by the Department of Justice. They are not arguably legally responsible to inform parents of the limitations on parental authority set by existing laws and precedents being they are not offering legal services or counsel. The law has judged that purchasers of goods and services also must exercise due diligence and advise consulting an attorney before taking actions that may result in legal liability such as having a child falsely imprisoned without due process. But, morally given the history of being co-defendants or knowing of co-defendants operating similar services being co-defendants where the courts have found false imprisonment to exist and be actionable, it seems really exploitative of the ignorance of parents in that regard to set them up for a lawsuit or prosecution even if not legally required to disclose the potential liability.

Share Your Results: The above covers it, right?

Instant gratification and laziness or lack of due diligence for any reason is how people get lured by dishonest charlatans promising to

cure or treat everything from anxiety to cancer for cash, your suspension of disbelief, and your willingness to obey or take direction without question or protest under the misguided notion somehow you are getting something of value in exchange. That's particularly true in the case of Sacred Breath Academy which is totally unlicensed, unaccredited, and unqualified. See <http://www.heal-online.org/breathless.htm> for more information on what to avoid.

[1]<https://www.livescience.com/65164-what-cult-leaders-have-in-common.html>

[2]<https://psychcentral.com/blog/the-ties-between-crime-and-malignant-narcissism/>

[3]<http://www.ldonline.org/article/40493/>

[4]<https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/residential-youth-treatment-facility-medicaid-recipients-marion-virginia-agrees-resolve-false>

Posted by **HEAL** at 4:07 PM

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