Feature

CONNECT

How Many Answers Are There?

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To a narcissist, there's only ONE answer to any question – THEIR answer.

"Narcissist" is a label which seems to be used more often, now, in society. But ARE there more narcissists than there used to be? One Canadian researcher believes that we have a MASSIVE global narcissism problem.

Does narcissism simply mean too much self-love? Although the original meaning of the word is from the Greek myth of Narcissus - a man who was in love with his own reflection and had no interest in falling in love with anyone else - there is more to it than that. Narcissism - according to this researcher - is at the root of a dangerous global cult that threatens our world.



First of all – what is Narcissism?
It is a mental health condition in the form of a personality disorder. We all show its traits but it's a question of how much and how often – it's a spectrum. Psychology Today's article on Narcissism gives a good explanation of the condition.

Narcissism is a lot more complicated than simply spending a bit too much time talking about oneself. It does not necessarily mean too much self-esteem. Rather, it is:

a hunger for appreciation or admiration, a desire to be the centre of attention, and an expectation of special treatment reflecting perceived higher status.

A grandiose sense of self-importance, a lack of empathy for other people, a need for excessive admiration and the belief of being unique and deserving of special treatment are all symptoms shown by narcissistic people.

We can all have these at times, but a narcissist will be consistent in showing many or all of these behaviours most of the time.

Pathological narcissism, also known as narcissistic personality disorder, affects an estimated 1% of the population according to the <u>Psychology Today</u> article. 1% of the population is the same proportion that owns half of the world's wealth - according to the World Economic Forum in their 2015 article <u>Who are the 1%? The answer might surprise you.</u>

Pathological narcissism or narcissistic personality disorder impairs sufferers' daily functioning - typically by causing friction in relationships due to the pathological narcissist's lack of empathy. As well as grandiosity and attention-seeking, pathological narcissists see themselves as superior and view everyone else as inferior. They tend to be intolerant of disagreement or questioning of their views.

The article also says that any relationship – not only the romantic type - with a narcissist can be deeply frustrating and distressing. Narcissists are driven by a need for control and admiration. This leads to them manipulating and exploiting other people. Damaging people's self-esteem and aiming to alter other people's sense of reality are in a narcissist's box of tricks.

Narcissists often have an intense drive for power, attention and affirmation. This often means they seek positions of leadership. Once they have attained power, however, a narcissistic leader is likely to focus more on self-promotion and suppressing any opposition than on advancing the goals they were selected – or elected – to implement. Also, narcissists' lack of empathy doesn't foster much loyalty.

When it comes to relationships with other people, a narcissist's desire to elicit admiration and praise often makes them charming and charismatic - but their lack of empathy is likely to prevent them from maintaining a healthy relationship with other people.

This description, in the article, relates to romantic relationships and other forms of relationship.

This article says that there's a belief that narcissism is on the rise around the world. Polly St George, a Canadian researcher, agrees, saying that narcissism has increased – it's now a global problem - of pandemic proportions.

In a video called "Narcissism Went Global" Polly St George, also known as Amazing Polly, explains why she believes that there is a global narcissism problem and what we need to do, in her view, to solve that problem.

It's a fascinating video and I highly recommend watching it.

Polly explains that narcissists are obsessed with themselves. That is - their image, their reflection, their status. A narcissist doesn't consider anyone else - it's all about them. This means it's all about their idea of themselves.

Anybody who criticises what a narcissist thinks they are, or any situation that

exposes that the narcissist isn't what they think they are inside –represents, to the narcissist, an existential threat. The narcissist may see themselves as perfect, beautiful, capable, knowledgeable, popular, or a champion of whatever it is they do.

Anything that contradicts that image of them is like someone pointing a gun at them. They panic. They want to destroy the person who has said it or who has exposed them, even if the exposure was inadvertent. The narcissist views any threat to their image of themselves and the story they tell themselves as poison, danger, a terroristic threat. It will annihilate them in their minds. It will murder them, psychologically and emotionally. This *essence* of a narcissistic person, in Polly's view, can be extrapolated to a bigger situation. The most obvious example of a bigger situation than a single person, is a cult. A cult is built upon a story, a narrative. That narrative usually morphs into some kind of bond, a form of servitude to the narrative of the cult – and to the cult's, strict rules. No aspect of a cult can be criticised or even questioned.

Cults usually have leaders - one or a group of leaders. In a cult, it's not so much that the people leading it are narcissistic. The system - the cult - has become narcissistic because you can't question it. Members have to promote the system and serve it. If they don't do so, the system receives that as an existential threat and feels the need to destroy *anything* that might crack the narrative of the cult.

"And now," Polly says, "go bigger. Go bigger than just a cult like Scientology or Jim Jones' cult. In the end, all those guys drank the Kool-Aid because it was easier to do that."

This reference to "drinking the Kool-Aid" has a dual meaning. One meaning is mindlessly adopting the dogma of a group or a cult leader without fully understanding the ramifications or implications. The other meaning is that at Jonestown, Guyana, followers of Jim Jones' Temple cult drank from a vat containing a mixture of "Kool-Aid" [a fruit-flavoured drink], cyanide and prescription drugs including Valium.

Polly explains that *entire countries* are under the spell of a narcissistic, cult-like narrative that cannot be questioned. Everybody inside it will be viewed as a threat if they are seen to be doing anything that might crack the fable that is being told.

Polly sees a narcissistic system as a pyramid, one that is strong and well-structured. At the top is the narcissist. This applies whether the system is a family, a cult, a union or a major corporation. Larger still is the system that is the whole of society. The system that is now threatening our world is a system of global scale - global narcissism.

Polly explains this by reference to four distinct levels. Beneath the narcissist at the very top, the next level down is the Golden Child or the Golden Children. Below them – level 3 - are the Enablers, the part of the pyramid consisting of the greatest number of people.

The base of the pyramid – level 4 - is the Lost Children.

It is the narcissist who FORMS the narrative and who tells everyone else what is what. The narcissist is the one with the image that must be protected at all costs. It is the narcissist that is the person - or the entity - that is the source of all truth, even if that "truth" is a lie. And it is the narcissist that is at the top of the pyramid.

I actually have the words of Jacinda Ardern, New Zealand's Prime Minister, ringing in my head now – speaking about *sources of truth* relating to Covid. A short section of video, <u>Jacinda Ardern - "We will continue to be your single source of truth"</u> shows her telling the people of NZ in early 2020:

"You can trust us as a source of information.

You can also trust the director-general of Health and the Ministry of Health...

Otherwise, dismiss anything else...

We will continue to be your single source of truth."

Golden Children are the people who give the most back to the narrative. They agree with everything - and they can do no wrong. They can murder - as long as the murder serves the narrative, they are not punished. The narcissist treats them the best and gives them the most rewards.

However, Polly has a warning for the Golden Children. Nobody is safe in a narcissistic pyramid, except the narcissist. Being a Golden Child is as precarious as any other role within the pyramid structure. A Golden Child can accidentally do something that questions the narrative, or get a little too uppity. Any perceived threat to the narcissist or the all-important narrative and – BOOM! That Golden Child can be demoted - and they won't just be kicked down a level.

Usually, they will become a Scapegoat – they will become Enemy Number 1. A Scapegoat can appear from any level and it serves a very important function – to keep the pyramid structure intact.

Below the Golden Children are the Enablers. The Enablers are the people who go along with the narrative but are not as productive as the Golden Children. Enablers want to stay out of the limelight. They don't stick their heads above the parapet. They are ultra-cowardly. Enablers don't necessarily want to say something to support the narcissist or the false narrative, which they might see clearly, but they don't want to fight against it, either.

Enablers will let anybody be sacrificed, including their own children, because they're that devoid of courage and of any substance in themselves. If the narrative goes away, they won't know what to do. Enablers, in her view, are worse than narcissists. They actually prevent the relatively small number of

narcissists at the top - perhaps as few as just 5,000 - from being dealt with. They are in effect a passive castle wall.

Enablers, actually number in their hundreds of millions or billions.

The Lost Children - of which there are again many - are similar to the Enablers - but are not paying attention. They don't understand what's going on and cannot see the connection back between what's happening and the top of the pyramid. They're hard-working, poor and often the most downtrodden of those in society. They form the wide base of the pyramid. Although silent, they keep holding up the whole structure.

We can pick out the people at the top of the pyramid of Global Narcissism. We can pick out some Golden Children. But, more important is the gigantic group of Enablers – cowards - these people who won't stand up to even the gravest injustice around them because they are so dependent on the narrative.

Whenever anyone says or does something that puts a dent in the narrative, they are an existential threat. The narcissistic system spots them and wants to eliminate them. It doesn't even matter how insignificant they are – because there can be NO threat to the narrative. None!

The narcissist turns such events to their advantage by turning these people into the Scapegoats I mentioned. They become examples - test cases - the person in the square who is hanged in a massive public ritual. That serves to keep the rest of the pyramid nice and tight and in line. People will never dare to speak out, because look what happened when someone did! It's a perfect, self-policing system.

One such person might be Udo Ulfkotte. He was a prominent German newspaper editor who declared that the media was corrupt. He went further to explain in his book and a video just how corrupt – and how he was himself a part of that corruption. Shortly after his book was released he was found dead in suspicious circumstances.

You can see his declaration in the short video titled Busted!.

5 <u>Psychology Today</u>'s article on Narcissism says that a narcissist may seek to establish strict rules in a relationship and attempt to isolate a partner from friends and family, among other disturbing behaviours.

Change the word "partner" to "other people" – isn't this *exactly* what began to play out in early 2020? It appears, to many people, that Covid began the global narcissism problem - but it goes back further and is much wider than Covid.

Polly refers to Mattias Desmet, the professor who popularised the Mass Formation theory, which is like *giant group hypnosis*. Desmet uses that theory to explain what happened with Covid. The mainstream media shut down the Mass Formation theory and Google limited search results for the term, making it difficult for people to find out about it.

Polly describes how Google's former CEO, Eric Schmidt, once asked someone a question about Google search results. Schmidt asked: "When you Google something, do you get multiple results?"

The answer was yes.

Schmidt said:

"That's a bug. There's only one right answer."

That was about fifteen years ago and now, we can see clearly what Eric Schmidt meant – that there is one answer to every question - and that is what Google will give you.

Polly describes this as a company – Google - being narcissistic. But Google is only a part of the system and only plays a small role in that system. Google's role is to be an **Enabler** in a narcissistic system.

There are other narratives, many of which intertwine. Many of these narratives have been covered in articles on CONNECT and will be covered in future articles.

Alexander Burgemeester, a neuropsychologist, runs a blog called The Narcissistic Life in which he posts articles, based on both science and experience, about narcissism. One of his articles, What Is Narcissistic Supply – Are You Their Supply? explains Narcissistic Supply, which is something that narcissists need other people to provide them with. Narcissistic Supply is anything that builds up the narcissist's ego and re-affirms their feelings of superiority, grandiosity and entitlement.

Ways in which narcissists obtain their supply include adulation, admiration, subservience, attention, being feared, approval, compliments, affirmation, respect, applause, celebrity status, money, being in the media and sexual conquest.

All of these forms of supply are experienced on a regular basis by the people who form the pyramid in Polly St George's narcissistic system paradigm. The last one in the above list - **sexual conquest** – might not be an obvious result of being in a position of political or economic power - but it often goes hand in hand with having power of those kinds.

The recently replaced Prime Minister of the UK, Boris Johnson, for example is well known to have received all of those forms of supply. Is he a narcissist? Ask him! Narcissists are usually aware of their narcissism and happily admit to it, so the question is unlikely to cause offence. But he's only one of the many people who clearly seek all those "benefits"

By the way, attention of any kind – *positive or negative* – constitutes Primary Narcissistic Supply. Alexander explains that infamy is as sought after as fame and that being notorious is just as good as being renowned. A

narcissist's achievements can be imaginary, or fraudulent, but they will bask in them as long as others believe them to be true.

Truth does not matter to a narcissist. Only the perception matters.

Narcissists prefer Primary Narcissistic Supply but they also like Secondary Narcissistic Supply. This is what they get from being seen to "lead a normal life." Surprisingly, this is a source of great pride for a narcissist - financial security, social acceptability, upward mobility and companionship. Secondary Narcissistic Supply includes having a spouse or partner and possessing - and flaunting - obvious wealth, such as mega-costly wallpaper, perhaps? It also includes being creative, running a business, being a prominent group member, reputation and success. The narcissist seeks status symbols and makes a point of showing them off.

7 So – what about a solution? What can we do about this global problem?

Arguing with a narcissist is pointless – it's all about them and they have no empathy for, or indeed interest in, other people except as a source of supply. The solution presented both by the Psychology Today article and Polly St George is to cut the ties with the narcissist or narcissistic system. What you CAN'T do is enlighten anybody in that system, because as Polly explains, they're like Terminators from the film "The Terminator." Their life mission - for ever - will be to destroy you. They will never leave the system - because that narrative is all they have.

Usually, the answer is to get away from the narcissist or the narcissistic system and never have any contact with those people again. They may leave you totally alone then, because all they wanted was to shut you down and shut you up. If you prove, over the course of a long time, that you're not going to come back and threaten them, they'll leave you alone.

But what do you do when it's the whole of society that's narcissistic? How do you - as a non-narcissist - get your needs met within the narcissistic dynamic in which we are now living? If you challenge the narrative, the people in the narcissistic system will want to destroy you.

So what if you avoid challenging it, you might ask, just using it for what you need?

Then, Polly says, you're upholding the system. All the time you're still in contact with the system, you cannot escape playing one of the roles in the pyramid. Also, associating with the narcissistic system will be used by the narcissist to win the war of public opinion.

Polly suggests some brilliant solutions. We need parallel systems and parallel societies to enable buying and selling, healthcare and children's education, to name but a few of our requirements for modern life.

Parallel systems, that is, that don't have the ideological bent of "science" and "efficiency" – euphemisms that means we should eliminate people who don't contribute such as the old and the sick and people with disabilities. This so-

Magazine: CONNECT M3

called "progress" is eugenics by another name.

We need to replace the current system with a self-supporting ecosystem, one in which ALL life forms thrive.

A couple of final points.

Narcissism is not a subject that everyone is familiar with. I hope this article helps to explain what it is, how to recognise it, how to deal with a narcissist – and how narcissism explains many of the issues in our current world.

The <u>Psychology Today</u> article says that it's a good idea to reflect on the characteristics of the narcissist, after one has broken off contact with them, to avoid being in a similar situation in the future.

Let's expand that idea to include, not only narcissistic people, but narcissistic systems as well. Reflection on those narcissistic systems – how they came to be in place and how they came to be supported - is an excellent idea and an essential one.

Who wants to leap out of the frying pan, only to later find themselves in the fire?

CONNECT'S Maxim and Oath

Connect is only interested in finding and sharing the TRUTH. In search of that TRUTH, we only pose questions – we have no answers.

By: Helen King

Source: CONNECT: Magazine

- 2 LINK Psychology Today: Narcissism
- 2 <u>LINK</u> World Economic Forum: Who are the 1%? The answer might surprise
- 3 LINK Bitchute: Polly St George [Amazing Polly]: Narcissism Went Global
- 3 <u>LINK</u> Amazing Polly
- 4 <u>LINK</u> YouTube: Jacinda Ardern "We will continue to be your single source of truth"
- 4 LINK Bitchute: Busted! Media Crimes Exposed
- 6 <u>LINK</u> The Narcissistic Life: What Is Narcissistic Supply Are You Their Supply?

FURTHER READING

- **LINK** Wikipedia: Narcissus [mythology]
- LINK Wikipedia: Kool-Aid: In popular culture
- LINK MIND: Narcissistic personality disorder

LINK

WSWS: Google's Eric Schmidt admits political censorship of search results [manipulating search results to censor sites critical of the US government]

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