

# Treating Destructive Cult Believers With the “Latent Learning Method”

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How to let the special stubborn destructive cult believers relieve the destructive cult’s spiritual control and to break away from the destructive cult is a major problem faced by people all over the world who are devoting themselves to treating the destructive cult believers. Experience shows that the use of the “latent learning method” can achieve good results. The article expounds three psychological theories based on this law, includes the behaviorist psychologist, Tolman’s latent learning theory, Bandura’s indirect learning theory, and physiological psychologist Penfield’s surgical discovery that all things perceived in the brain are stored in the brain. This article also introduces the specific operation and application of latent learning method in psychological treatment and the precautions to prevent it from being invalidated.

*Keywords:* latent learning, indirect learning, reinforcement, mental control, psychological setting

## **Intrduction**

The people all over the world who devotes themselves to treating the destructive cults believers are facing a big problem, that is how to let the particularly stubborn destructive cult believers who were deeply influenced by the poison to realize the destructive cult’s nature is “evil”, “false”, and “deceive”, to relieve the spiritual control of the destructive cult and to break away from the destructive cults. In the past more than 10 years, the Chinese mainland has treated the number of followers of the Falun Gong who were cheated and involved into the urn by Falun Gong carefully and patiently, they have made the vast majority of them get out of the Destructive cult abyss and return to the society living a life like the normal people. But there is no denying that there are still a few stubborn destructive cult believers who are difficult to cure. Some of them have deep faith in destructive cult because of a long period of learning and practice. They even think that they are going to get a successful and satisfactory result. Some of them who suffered from some psychogenic diseases or psychosomatic diseases believed that his/her disease was completely cured after believing in the cult. Some of them saw the Falun World and the hell with their own illusions in their practice. These destructive cult believers are hard to be cured by using the methods of warming them by kinship, law breaking, and scientific knowledge telling. This is the right time to adopt this “latent learning method”, when all the above methods are not available to awaken them from the obsession.

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### **What is the “Latent Learning Method”?**

The so-called “latent learning method” means that the rescuers can leave latent information in the particularly stubborn destructive cult believers’ mind by two paths when they resist treatment and reject all kinds of treatment information. First, the rescuers can take turns to explain to the destructive cult believers all kinds of treatment and educational materials. Second, the rescuers can make the treatment and education materials into tapes or CDs and broadcast to them repeat and repeat, allowing them to listen and look again and again. The material that they have heard or read has left “latent memory” in their mind. When the latent memory accumulates to a certain degree, it will change from the quantity to the qualitative. The situation of the “insight” will appear which the rescuers may not expect.

It is undeniable that those stubborn Falungong believers will turn a blind eye to the materials, which have been played, but it is impossible to block the channels of listening. The rescuers can send the information in an auditory way. The information covers the materials as follows: It can be a authorities’ banning of the cult policies and regulations, It can be a material that exposes the “evil”, “false”, and “deceive” nature of the metaphysical fallacy. It can be a refutation of the fallacy of destructive cult’s metaphysics with scientific truth, but more should be the typical present statement of the same type of destructive cult who has been awakened.

### **The Psychological and Psychophysiological Basis of “Latent Learning”**

The psychological treatment and education method of the “latent learning method” is the specific application in the treatment and educational transformation to the followers of the destructive cult. The theoretical basis of “latent learning” is the behaviorist psychologist Tolman’s “Latent Learning Theory” and Bandura’s “Theory of Observational Learning”.

Latent learning theory (Ye, 1998) is proposed by Tolman, an American behaviorist psychologist. It is based on animal experiments. The so-called “latent learning” refers to what animals perceive and experience, even if it is not reinforced, learning will happen, but the result is not very obvious, it is “latent”. Once, it is reinforced or has the motive of operation, the result of learning will be clearly manifested by behaviors.

Tolman tested this view by the experiment of white mice going through the maze. He divided the mice into three groups: The Group A did not give any food and was named “no food reward group”; Group B gave food for reinforcement each time and was named “food reinforcement group”; and Group C was the experimental group. The experimental process is as follows: The mice of Group C were not been reinforced with food in the first 10 days, and the food was given to the mice for reinforcement from the 11th day. The results showed that the errors in the Group A had been running high and the Group B’s errors fell rapidly, while the Group C had the same mistakes as the Group A in the first 10 days, but the errors of the Group C suddenly decreased from the 11th day, almost as little as in the Group B, or even less. In this regard, Tolman believes that although the first 10 days of the group have not been reinforced by food, but the animals have been aware of the shape and relationship of the space, so the learning has occurred, only because of the lack of reinforcement, it is not shown. He called this kind of learning “latent learning”. This type of learning discovered by Tolman in animal experiments reminds us that perception and experience itself means learning. Once the object of learning is perceived and experienced by organism, learning will happen. However, Tolman’s theory was put forward on the basis of animal experiments. Are there any qualitative differences between animals and conscious people? Can Tolman’s theory be used to explain human’s behavior of learning?

Faced with this difficulty, after more than 20 years of his theory, another American psychologist Bandura put forward the theory of observational learning.

Bandura defined it as “one person learned some new reactions by observing the behavior of others and their intensification, or adjusting some of the behavioral responses that he had already had”. Meanwhile, in the process, the observer did not make explicit operation on the demonstration reaction (Yang, 2000). In the process of observing learning, the object of observation is called an example or a demonstrator, the subject of observation is known as the observer, and the example of an observer through the observation of the observer is called “a demonstration process”. Observation learning is a kind of demonstration behavior learning. The observer’s behaviors getting by observation is in the latent state when it is not reinforced, which is called “a latent behavior”, and it will not be displayed. The main points of this theory are as follows:

1. People’s believes, attitudes, and behaviors are all formed by learning. Good behaviors and concepts can be acquired through learning, and bad ones can be eliminated through study.

2. People can learn new behavior or abandon bad behavior either by experience or practice in person, or by observing the behavior and the behavior consequences of others. If a believer sees another believer who has been as stubborn as he/she has bravely divorced from destructive cult, has returned to society and family, and has lived a normal life, when he/she had been in recognizing the “evil”, “false”, and “deceive” essence of the cult. The observer is most likely to be indirectly strengthened, and therefore, divorced from destructive cults.

3. As long as one observes the behavior of the example, he/she will put it in mind and remain hidden in mind, that is, learning has happened. But it does not manifest itself, and it is manifested only when it is reinforced.

4. Demographic characteristics, such as age, gender, and social background has an effect on learning outcomes. The more similar they are, learning is more likely to happen. Those who are respected, highly qualified, and capable are more likely to be regarded as model.

The theory is based on his classic experiments on children’s acquisition of aggression through observation learning. The experiment divided the children into three groups: The children of the first group watched the adult example who attacked inflatable dolls received praise; the children of the second group watched the adult example who attacked inflatable dolls received criticism; and the children of the third group watched the adult example who attacked inflatable dolls received neither praise nor criticism. Then, the three groups of children were taken to a play room, where there were inflatable dolls as adult models attacked. The results showed that children in the first group (praised group) showed the most aggressive behavior, and the second group (criticized group) showed the least aggression behavior. But does this mean that the children of the second group fell to learn aggressive behavior? In order to find out about this, the experimenters offered candy to the participants and asked them to recall the behavior of the example as much as possible and put them into action. The results showed that the aggressive behaviors of the three groups’ of children were almost the same. This shows that as long as the three groups of children observe the behavior of the example, learning has occurred, and aggressive behavior has been learned and mastered by them.

Praise or punishment only affect the behavior they have learned whether to show or not but do not affect the people to put what they see or hear in their minds.

Wilde Graves Penfield, a Canadian neurosurgeon and neurophysiologist (Zhang, Jiang, & Wu, 2006), found that the memories of the past are visible when stimulating some regions of the cerebral cortex, liking a video tape including all the scene, the sound, and the mood are all in the eye. Everything that happens to us

in the course of our growth has been preserved, including even countless things that we seem to have forgotten.

### **The Application of “Latent Learning” in Psychological Treatment**

Tolman’s “Latent Learning Theory” and Bandura’s “Indirect Learning Theory” and the experiment supporting this theory tell us that this theory can be used to treat the destructive cult stubbornness that resists treatment education, through latent learning and indirect learning. The material will go into their minds as long as the rescuer repeated and instilled by explanation and broadcast, even if the stubbornness turn a deaf ear to the explanation and broadcast.

In ordinary, the wrong heads have different attitudes and behavior to the treatment. Some of them openly oppose and reject to watch and listen the materials what you broadcast and you say, some of them believe that they have mastered the Falun Dafa, the fundamental law of the universe. What the rescuers say is the psychological setting of the stupid people, so they showed a patent disregard for the rescuer’s words. Some of them show that the truth is in their hands, and everything said by the healer is regarded as a fallacy, not worth listening to, not worth thinking, and taking immediate negation, and trying to refute. When faced with all the above situations, the healer should be confident and patient. Practice has shown that the latent learning method is effective in the treatment of the particularly stubborn person who involved in the Falun Gong. When the Savior sees a couple of days of careful and patient explanation and broadcast, the above obstinacy has not changed in the slightest. It is believed that these stubborn elements are hopelessly ineffective and that the “latent learning method” is invalid and loses confidence in the treatment. But that is not the case, the stubborn ones who keep talking not willing to watch and listen, they can not keep talking. As long as he watched and listened to what the rescuer said or played during the interval, the contents had already entered his mind, and learning had already happened. The treatment workers must not be confused by the illusion of “blind light-Waste wax”. The experience of more than 10 years has proved that as long as the healer is patiently showing and explaining, the stubborn person will listen sooner or later, as long as they hearing it, it will be remembered unconsciously. This is because that it is a gradual process from quantitative change to qualitative change through the way of “latent learning” to cure the Falun Gong followers. During the accumulation of repeated viewing and hearing, the stubbornness may appear no any change in a relatively long period, but the equivalence changes to a certain degree and the change will occur. It appears to have the nature of mutagenesis.

In terms of time, some people quickly realized the “evil”, “alse”, and “cheat” of Falun Gong under the “latent learning method”, while others may take a long time, even for several months. So, in the use of this method, the rescuer should not stop explaining, broadcasting, even doubting the effectiveness of the method of psychological treatment, resulting in a failure, In particular, after seeing several times of broadcast and explanation, the stubborn person was still motionless, without any sign of acceptance or awakening. Experience has shown that the speed of the “latent learning method” to produce treatment depends not only on the depth of the victim being poisoned by destructive cult, but also on his/her personality traits, especially related to his/her temperament type. Keep in mind that after a long period of explanation, broadcast, and indoctrination, the peace of the stubborn is often a prelude to a suddenly change, the destructive cult follower is suddenly enlightened. Therefore, when using the “latent learning method” as a psychological treatment method, one must analyze and understand the personality characteristics of the stubborn; the second point is to have patience, and must not be ruined because of impatience.

### Case 1: Listening and Watching Lead to Learning and Change

Wu XX, female, 51 years old, worker of XX machinery factory, more than 20 years old married, after divorce did not remarry, no children, long endure loneliness, poor health, all the years of pain in the waist and legs, it is difficult to stand upright. She showed deep devotion to Falun Gong, she thought that she no longer felt lonely and empty and her heart had a affiliation. In order to help her to get out of the cult abyss, the rescuer showed her educational materials of the anti cult, and let her to recognize the Falun Gong's "evil", "false", and "deceive" nature through CD-ROM. But she yelled at her headache, did not look at it, or even rushed to destroy it. However, the rescue worker did not give up, because she refused to listen. They did not give up the psychological method of "latent learning method" to treat her. Instead, they asked her to watch the CD for many days, watching a dozen times a day, with the cooperation of other methods, she finally realized. After waking up, she sincerely told the rescuer that even when she was crying the most fierce, she still listened to the contents of the CD, which can be confirmed in the materials written after her treatment, both the materials can be fined in the CD she had seen.

### Case 2: The "Latent Learning Method" Treated Him

Chen, male, aged 25, is a university student. His personality is mucinous. He suffered from severe neurasthenia during college. After the practice of "Falun Gong", he felt that he was able to sleep, and felt better, so that he had a deep belief in "Falun Gong", and was obstinate to the treatment.

When a series of treatment methods are invalid, the rescuer decided to try "latent learning method". Because he had a tough attitude in the course of treatment, the rescuer show the typical materials to him through auditory and visual channels, the material involves Falun Gong's "evil", "false", and "deceived" nature, and why people is determined to break away from Falun Gong. All he saw and heard from morning to night were all the eloquent evidence of Falun Gong "evil", "alse", and "deceive". All of them were revealed the damage of beautiful life caused by Falun Gong. As time went on, he finally made up his mind to break away from Falun Gong.

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