

The Psychological Causes and Identification of the Destructive Cult Belief

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It is a worldwide problem to let the destructive cult believers detached from the destructive cult. The most difficult point is that it is difficult to change the destructive cult belief. The reason why the destructive cult faith is difficult to change is because that the destructive cults embezzled the basic concepts and doctrines of many legitimate religions in the construction of the destructive cult faith, which make the destructive cults and religious beliefs have many similarities in psychology, including the tenacity and stability of faith. The believers tend to believe it as a orthodox legitimate religion. The article points out the similarity that makes destructive cult beliefs hard to change and lists the ways to identify heretical beliefs.

Keywords: religious belief, destructive cult belief, religious emotion, religious experience, ultimate concern

Part 1. The Steadiness of the Destructive Cult Belief Makes It Difficult for the Followers of the Destructive Cults to Be Treated

1.1 The Faith of the Destructive Cult Has the Tenacity of Religious Belief

Religious belief is a kind of belief and belongs to the advanced psychological activity of human beings. It can give people a sacred goal, provide consolation for life, express the desire for the ultimate concern, embody a person's yearning and pursuit, and are the inner strength of shaping the psycho and personality of the believers. Religious belief, like all beliefs, is a powerful spiritual pillar, guide and source of strength for human existence and activities. Gustav Bon, a French social psychologist, believes that the power of faith is the most amazing power of all forces that human beings can control. It can arouse the power that can not be destroyed in the individual's soul, making one become the dream slave of his own (Bon, 2000). Once religious belief is formed, it will show tenacious and unyielding tenacity, which is extremely stable and difficult to change. Just imagine, can you convince an old lady who burns incense and worship Buddha to make her believe in atheism instead of reverently believing in the mud Buddha in those temples? Can you convince Tibetans not to go on their knees or to go on pilgrimage to the ground? This is because religious belief enables believers to have a willpower to fulfill their religious aspirations. This irrational force can let people for decades, one day, persist without changing their

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heart to persist in and to achieve their own beliefs and strive to forget life. A India believer holds a fist for more than ten years, and the nails are embedded in the palm for a few centimeters; the other is locked in the stone column with a chain for ten years. The reason why the followers of all kinds of destructive cults are difficult to be cured should be attributed to the destructive cult beliefs they hold, and the reason why the destructive cult belief is difficult to change is that the destructive cult belief and the religious belief have many psychological similarities, and therefore, like religious beliefs, have strong tenacity and stability.

1.2 The Exploration of the Stability of the Destructive Cult Belief in Psychology

Because of the functions and characteristics of the religious belief, all the destructive cults have stolen the Christian and Buddhist doctrines in succession and tamper with them at any time. By advocating divine miracles, deification of the leader, the imaginary kingdom of heaven, the deification of God, the treatment of stunt, intimidation and so on, it will spare no effort to build its belief. The destructive cult belief is used to bind believers' minds, control them and make them lost.

However, it is inexplicable that since the destructive cult belief is distorted, harmful, absurd and is not worth refuting. As Li Hongzhi, the founder of Falun Gong, said, "one time I checked carefully and found that the human being was in a state of destruction for 81 times and each time only a few people survived" Li Hongzhi's (Li Hongzhi "turn Falun", 1994, p. 8) words are hard to deceive even three-year old children. But his followers are still fully convinced and respected in reverence, and devout faith in his self-praise. What is the psychological reason behind this?

According to psychology, unlike the legitimate religion, which has long been a long time, destructive cults do not have their own systematic doctrines and rules, and lack of a complete set of idealist theory systems to support them. The destructive cults embezzled the basic concepts and doctrines of many legitimate religions in the construction of the destructive cult faith, which make the destructive cults and religious beliefs have many similarities in psychology, including the tenacity and stability of faith. The believers tend to believe it as a legitimate religion. So once people believe in destructive cults, they will be addicted to it and difficult to change. As one of the people who participated the job of treating the Almighty God's believer said "To help the believers is too difficult for those who do not participate personally."

Part 2. Similarities in Psychology Between Destructive Cults and the Legitimate Religious Beliefs lead to Difficult Treatment.

2.1 Cognitive Similarity

(1) Both of the heresy and legitimate religion believe the theory of theism

The believers of the destructive cults and the legitimate religion hold the mentalism world view. All of them are objective idealists, who believe that the universe is dominated by a supernatural moral power, the operation of the universe, the birth and death of the world, the fate of everything, the misfortune of the human world are dominated by the God. Man can only be a servant of God, and can only exist as a servant of God. In a word, heresy and legitimate religion advocate God.

(2) Both of the heresy and legitimate religion believe the theory of soul

Both of the evil legitimate religion and the legitimate religion proclaim the ghost view of the soul, which all think that the soul is not dead, the body is only the body of the soul, the body is dead, but the soul will leave the

body immediately after the death of the body and become a ghost, the soul can transborn to other forms in the hell or any other place. The body is not important because it's only the carrier of the soul for a short time. What is the most important is to train the soul which is dominated by the God.

Both legitimate religions and destructive cults can promote the souls of believers to heaven through their own respective gods. People who believe that the soul does not die and who want to live forever should believe in destructive cults or legitimate religions.

(3) Both of the heresy and legitimate religion believe the exist of heaven built by the hierarch

Both of the destructive cults and the religious believers believe that there is a kingdom named "heaven", where the God is living. The Heaven is a fairyland ,the people there are living a peaceful and quiet, wealthy and happy, prosperity and political life, and they will never be threatened by death and will always be free from reincarnation.

(4) Both of the heresy and legitimate religion have sacred worship

Believers of destructive cults and religious are sacred worshippers. All legitimate religions have the sacred objects of their own worship. They are not only personified beings, such as gods, things that exist naturally, or some animals, some real or virtual dead or surviving people, that is, the sun, fire, God, Allah, Buddha, Lao Tzu, Jim Jones, Li Hongzhi and so on.

(5) Both of the heresy and legitimate religion hold a view of anti science

Believers of destructive cults and religious are all anti science in their understanding of the laws about the world, nature and social development. Science has always been fundamentally opposed to legitimate religion and destructive cults, Bruno, the great scientist, died of this antagonism. Darwin pushed this opposition to the summit. However, this confrontation and struggle will never end.

This is because science is a sharp weapon against legitimate religion and heresy, and its power is enormous, but science is not omnipotent. In the process of studying the laws of the universe and the mysteries of nature, some natural or social phenomena can not be explained by contemporary science are used as a tool for the legitimate religion, especially the destructive cults to get followers. Historical experience proves that no matter how advanced science is, it is impossible to reveal all mysteries in nature. Science and technology is a process of continuous development. science and technology step forward and cause more problems, The richer the scientific knowledge is, the wider the unknown world we are facing and the deeper the problem will be. People's cognitive ability is limited at any time, and there are many mysteries that can not be solved. However, no matter what natural mystery, legitimate religion and heresy can be explained in one sentence, "this is created by omnipotent God." So, in a sense, where there is an unknown area, where the legitimate religion and the destructive cult spread their views to catch the believers and expand influence. legitimate religion and heresy are bound to hold an anti science and technology view of knowledge for their own existence and for preserving their own territory. Although modern legitimate religions and destructive cults have a tendency to concession to science, even to embezzle scientific and technological achievements for their own service and integrate with science, they will not change because of their fundamental concepts such as theism, creationism and undeath of the soul.

(6) Both of the heresy and legitimate religion hold a view of divine salvation

The heresy and legitimate religion hold a view of divine salvation, As a lucky dog is all because of god's protection. for example, serious disease was cured, a disaster was spared, a profit was made in business, the son

was admitted to the university. One Christian told me very seriously that his eight year old son fell off the balcony of the two floor and had no serious damage to his body except a little skin on his head, all of which was the result of the protection of the God. Imagine that if Li Hongzhi told the devout Christian, “there was a Falun Gong student in Changchun, whose house was near a building under construction. One time, the Cadet passed by, an iron pipe fell down from the building, hit his head and then fell into the ground, but he was uninjured. All the people who saw that were shocked.”

When he was asked the reason, the Falun Gong Cadet said that “I had felt something hit my head, and when I looked back to see it, I saw a big wheel on my head and were turning there. Let’s think about how dangerous it is for a heavy iron pipe to be inserted into the human body and wear it to the end” (Li, 1994). This believer is not doubted about these words at all, maybe Li Hongzhi will be another God he believes in. The idea of salvation is so strong in every destructive cult and religious believers’ belief.

2.2 Similarity in Religious Emotion

Both destructive cults and legitimate religions attach great importance to religious emotions because they play a great role in establishing and consolidating in legitimate religion or destructive cult beliefs. Religious emotion is a form of expression of religious consciousness. It is the reflection of religious consciousness in emotion. It is the inner feeling and direct experience of the believers in the sacred things. The main forms of religious emotion or religious experience include awe, mystique, dependence, guilt, shame, sense of peace and satisfaction. These religious emotions play a core and fundamental role in forming, consolidating and deepening religious belief. It is the most important psychological foundation of religious belief that the religious believers take their faith and worship as supernatural and supernatural, and the kind of respect, admiration, admiration, fear and feelings come naturally.

In the book of [sacred], Otto said that any legitimate religion is the meeting of man and God. This personal experience is not only mysterious, but also produces all kinds of emotions, such as fear, trembling, joy and reverence, which are interwoven together to form the core of legitimate religion (Otto, 1995). Vacha, a contemporary famous religious scientist, claims in his book “sociology of legitimate religion”, that the determinants of legitimate religion are not the thought, etiquette and system in which they are constantly changing, but “religious experiences of the combination of man and God”. Therefore, he believes that “religious experience” is the basis, core and starting point of all religious (Liu, 2005, p. 2). The destructive cult masters are all well versed in the role of religious emotions. The followers attached to the leader of the destructive cults through their crazy beliefs, the religious believers have a strong religious feeling or religious experience of psychological reverence, mystery and dependence. Because such feelings can allow believers’ mental and behavior to enter a state of fanaticism and to dedicate their entire money, family and even life in this state. From the emotional power, the religious feelings obtained by the destructive cult believers are similar to those of the traditional legitimate religion, except for the more fanaticism.

(1) reverence, admiration and awe

Destructive cult believers and legitimate religion believers hold reverence for their masters, thus giving them a sense of reverence, admiration and respect. Why the believers give them a sense of admiration that’s because they believe that the creators of the religious and destructive cults can not only falls bewitching of demon

bend over, but also creates the law of the world; Why the believers give them a sense of reverence that's because they believe that the creators of the destructive cults and legitimate religion are kindhearted and compassionate, and they have some hard work for the sake of all living beings. Some to save the world and die on the cross, the believers have a deep love for them; on the basis of admiration and respect, the dignity of the creators of the destructive cults and legitimate religion, the holy of ideals, the pursuit of the sacred, and the great mission of bringing believers to the other side of light and happiness, the believers hold their lives on them, and they are sacred in the minds of the believers, so that the believers will have a strong sense of awe of the sacred.

(2) sense of fear

The believers of destructive cults and legitimate religion has a strong sense of fear in the privacy of their thoughts. In their mind. In their psychology, they believe that the idol is God, with the great power of God, not only to cure the disease, but to eliminate the disaster, to eliminate all kinds of tangible and intangible hardships and disasters, and to feel safe and carefree only under the shelter of God. If you do not receive the blessing, fear of betraying God will bring bad luck to you, so the object of worship will become the object of their fear.

(3) sense of dependency

Sense of dependence is the feeling and consciousness of having to depend on other people or other object. People have the sense of fear because of their inability, insignificance and inflexibility in the face of the incompatible nature and society, people have created a sense of dependence on superhuman and supernatural dissident forces. "Besides the sense of dependence, we can not find other more appropriate and broader religious psychological roots." "Only the sense of dependence is the only correct and universal name and concept to show and explain the source of religious psychology and subjective causes" (Ludwig Andrens Feuerbach, Selected readings on feuerbach's philosophy. Beijing, people's press, 1982, p. 237, 533). Both destructive cults and legitimate religions have a strong sense of dependency among believers. The difference lies in the fact that gods they dependent are different.

(4) mysterious experience

Legal legitimate religion and destructive cult belief is different from scientific belief, they are non-rationality. The thinking of the two does not conform to the formal logic or the dialectical logic rules. For example, destructive cults and legal religious believers believe that the transmigration of souls is immortal. That is to say, the number of souls in the world should be fixed, but the world's population has grown from 1 billion 700 million in 1910 to 2 billion 500 million in 1950, and further increased to 77 billion in 2014, and the soul does not know how many times if the population has been dead in history. Who made so many new souls? If the soul does not die, can the world hold it? We can also ask the destructive cults and religious believers. If we really have God and the Buddha, they are kind and compassionate, and more omnipotent, then there should be no misfortune and misery in the world. For example, Li Hongzhi said that he was the greatest Buddha and the greatest God, with the unparalleled magic, with great special functions such as remote sight and through-wall, but he could not fly or go through the Pacific to the United States;

he said that the practice of Falun Gong could "eliminate the sin" and could clean up the "atrument" in the body. Li Guodong still died of liver cancer, Lili died of pancreatic cancer, and Li Hongzhi's brother-in-law was also died in New York. This shows that the theory of gods and miracles advocated by religious and destructive cult leaders is not only absurd but also self contradictory. Nevertheless, destructive cults and religious believers

still believe in their mistakes. Why? Because the destructive cults and religious beliefs are non-rationality. Just like the European Godfather theologian Del Tuanyaung said, “because of absurdity, I believe” (Liu, 1999). legitimate religion and destructive cult belief are embodied and maintained by fanatical worship and religious rites. The believers get the mysterious experience of transcendence through practice, worship, or other ways, once they have a mysterious religious experience, they will be more unswervingly and clinging to legitimate religion or destructive cult, and they will negate any rational argument and persuasion. For example, when you use scientific facts to refute Falun Gong fallacy, they will say that you are the ordinary science, the Falun Gong is the “supernatural science” to deny you, because he firmly believes that what he feels and experience is the most authentic. People who have religious mystical experiences in evil destructive cults are often the most difficult to cure. At the time of the mystical experience, they will enter the state of high excitement, even to the unity of the heart and things, and the mysterious realm of what I forget two. Many believers who believe that the mysterious experience can produce a strong sense of the universe and life. The religious feelings and mystical experiences of the believers are mutually causal. The mysterious experience should be based on the religious emotion, and with the mysterious experience, the religious feelings will be further strengthened. Many foreign worship groups, such as Falun Gong in China, all focus on pursuing mysterious experiences, all aimed at enhancing the religious feelings of believers.

2.3 The Consistency of Ultimate Care

A very important reason why destructive cults and legitimate religions can have so many believers is that they can provide ultimate concern to believers. The ultimate concern is the exploration of the origin and the value of death of the litigants. It is the thinking of the parties to the existence and death, limited and infinite, and reflects his spiritual desire to transcend the limited pursuit of infinite pursuit to achieve eternity. The destructive cults and legitimate religions can provide ultimate concern for the believers in their own way, thus resolving the tense state of the sharp opposition between the existence and death of the believer, overcoming their confusion and anxiety about life and death, and realizing their transcendent pursuit of value. All men are afraid of death. It is the nature of all human beings to be happy, avoid suffering and avoid death. But some people who hold irrational thoughts in the sense of bitterness and outlook on life and death will develop from pursuing happiness to avoiding hardships to pursuing only. Happiness is not bitter, from fear of death to development to escape death, and pray for eternal life. When such pursuit cannot be realized, some of them suffer from psychosocial diseases such as hypochondria, depression, anxiety and other psychological diseases; others will put into the arms of destructive cults and legitimate religions, because the destructive cults and legitimate religions promise them that they believe in legitimate religion, especially the destructive cults, to be made into gold. The immortal body is not only sick, but also escapes from death. It is no secret that some of these people are suffering from another mental disorder, like those who are in the same category. This disease is different from the psychological diseases such as hypochondria. Its pathogenesis is the ultimate concern of legitimate religion and heresy. These people regard the ultimate concern of conversion to legitimate religion and destructive cult as the ultimate spiritual sustenance.

Using the imaginary world of the Catholic and imaginary kingdom of heaven to devour the real world to eliminate life and death, the contradiction between the finite and the infinite, curled up in the shadow of the outer space under the shadow of the destructive cults and legitimate religions, and completely committed the life and

death to the legitimate religion and the destructive cult, and the limited and humble individual could be with the teacher in the heavenly world. Infinite and eternal life for the disciples and servants of the leader. Although there are many psychological similarities between the destructive cults and religious beliefs, the destructive cult, after all, is a destructive cult, and its religious believers are more fanatical and bigoted, more dependence and fear on the on the founders of the legitimate religions. The belief of them have great difference in faith. Mastering this difference helps to identify what is destructive cult belief.

Part 3. The Identification of Destructive Cult Belief (the Difference Between Destructive Cult Belief and Religious Belief).

(1) The goal of the pursuit is different

Legitimate religion focuses on the ownership of people after their death. The followers are devoted to the pursuit of heaven after death, or at least not to hell. Through the assiduous practice of this life to exchange for the happiness of the next life. Heresy allows believers to pursue happiness in this life and pursue direct access to heaven. Falun Gong is to let the followers in the real world pursuit the “success of heaven”, so that many followers suicide in the illusion of burn themselves. But it’s a satisfactory result in Li Hongzhi’s opinion. The same thing happened in the destructive cult of “gate of heaven” including the founder of the destructive cult 39 person, which are divided into three groups suicide for the happy life in the haven. In general, the legal legitimate religions need people to build their lives, and the destructive cults need to be repaired today. The result is that people who practice legitimate religions are easy to have a long life and those who practice the destructive cults burn themselves and commit suicide in order to go to the Heaven .

(2) the different sources of information and the way of obtaining information

People who believe the legitimate religions obtained information from Christ Jesus, Buddha, Allah, Laozi Li Dan, or abstract gods, or the speech, ideas and theories of those who have gone and the legendary people, as well as to record them. The way of obtaining the information of belief is indirect and is obtained by missionaries. But the destructive cult’s founder is the living people. Believers worshipped the hierarch as God, Lord and Almighty God, the faith information was obtained directly from the opinions and theories of the master. The faiths of Falun Gong believers originate directly from Li Hongzhi’s various “Qigong classes”, “work report”, “turn Falun” and “scripture”; the faith information of the disciples of the Disciples came from Ji Sanbao, and the faith information of the followers of the “Dave denomination” came from the chief Christian, who was alive. People can strengthen the transmission of the destructive cult information through the body language, facial expression and eyes, and improve the effect of the transmission of the destructive cult information with the help of the opportunity of ear to face. This may be one of the reasons why the spread of the destructive cult is much more fast than the legitimate religion, and a large number of believers can be obtained in a region only a few years.

(3) the psychological channels of spreading belief are different

The legitimate religion allows believers to acquire belief information in various ways to practice their beliefs. In some legitimate religions, although believers can go into monasteries, Taoism and monasteries to practice, most believers do their own practice at home; the destructive cults are not, and most of them emphasize collective life. This is the case of the people’s temple teaching, the gate of heaven, the Sun Temple and the Aum truth. Although the Falun Gong does not emphasize the collective life, it emphasizes the collective practice and

collectives, because in these collective activities, the believers can not only infect each other and imitate each other, but also produce the effect of “the emperor’s new clothes”

(4) the difference of religious experience between the destructive cults and the traditional legitimate religions

It can be seen that the religious experience of destructive cults is different from that of traditional legitimate religions by comparing common legitimate religions and destructive cults from the process of religious experience. Generally speaking, there are roughly four ways of obtaining religious experience from the traditional religious believers: the first is the argument of theory; the second is the purification of morality; the third is the practice of legitimate religion; and the fourth is the stimulant of the medicine. And the destructive cult organizations often use the means of reducing sleep, blocking information, feeling deprived, giving hints, collective training and learning, bad diet, excessive work, prohibiting sexual life and other deceit and violating human nature to make the believers’ psychosomatic hallucinations in the form of hint and extreme exhaustion, resulting in mystery. Religious experience finally achieves the purpose of controlling the believers. That is, by means of increasing the body and mental pressure of the believers, by means of compulsory psychological transformation and deprivation manipulation, the believers have a psychological experience of awe and dependence on the destructive cult. The course of the so-called religious experience caused by the destructive cult is hypocritical and anti human. By studying the psychologists, this kind of religious experience is essentially a comprehensive phenomenon of physiological metamorphosis and psychological metamorphosis.

(5) differences of the personality of the believers

The psychological investigation showed that the people who were easy to choose the destructive cult organizations had at least one or two of the following personality traits: first was paranoid and compulsive personality. This kind of personality tends to be narrow minded, paranoid, without reverse thinking and easy to be controlled by destructive cult organizations. second is a split personality tendency. This kind of personality tendency is sensitive to some strange psychological experience, and the habit of thinking is arbitrary. It is easy to be attracted by miracles advocated by evil destructive cult organizations. The third is the personality tendency of hysteria. This kind of personality tendency is easy to be hinted, eager to get attention and appreciation, good fantasy, not used to rational logic thinking, easy to use imagination to replace reality to meet psychological needs. The fourth is an impulsive personality tendency. This kind of personality tendency is easy to burst out negative passion, easy to be angry, do things recklessly, and behave unpredictability. The fifth is a neurotic personality tendency. This personality tendency does not believe that he can control life, lack of self-confidence, blindly beg for help from others, and voluntarily subordinate himself to others. The sixth is the tendency to be abused. This kind of personality tendency is easy to yield to external forces, self-abasement, even give up their own personal dignity, sacrifice the feelings of relatives and friends and even life to exchange power, wealth and social recognition. Easy to become a tool for destructive cults to attack society (Iron, 2009). In contrast, the vast majority of people of orthodox faith have normal personalities. People who believe in legitimate religion will also have different levels of personality disorder, but that is in line with the overall proportion of the population with personality disorder.

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