

Iconoclast Community

Open Source Iconoclasm Is What We Do!

Greetings to a New Generation of Iconoclasts!

John F. Kennedy declared:

“Most people look at the way the world **is** and ask “**Why?**”

But **I** look at things that have **never** been and ask “**Why Not?**”

Do **you** ever feel that way???

Do **you** sometimes find yourself catching a glimpse of a great insight that **would** really make the World a better place . . .

If only someone could help you convince people to just try it?

That makes **you** a very *rare* and valuable individual; **you** have the makings of an Iconoclast!

The word iconoclast literally means “One who tears down images.” **Why must you “tear down images???”**

An Iconoclast sees a new possibility of how the World could be better; however, he soon finds that his entirely reasonable idea is being rejected *automatically*, by almost **everyone!** This can be very perplexing; what is going on? The problem is that false images dominate most people’s minds. These false images form a mindset that is incompatible with the new idea. Therefore, the iconoclast starts clawing at those false images in a vain attempt to promote his idea. Does this sound familiar? Do you find yourself battling an invisible mindset that repels your new ideas???

Historically, successful iconoclasts have found it *critical* to enlist the help of a significant number of fellow iconoclasts to aid in tearing down the images that are **choking** the **life** out of **their precious ideas!** Yet unfortunately, iconoclasts are few and far between; few of us knows enough true **iconoclasts** to give our ideas enough **critical mass** in enough minds to finally *explode* onto the World scene; frustratingly, most of the *would-be* iconoclasts we **do** find are too discouraged to be of any use; or worse, they are too busy, *futilely* self-promoting their **own** paradigm changes to consider helping anybody else!

The purpose of this community is to encourage disheartened *would-be iconoclasts* that they *can* succeed if they are just willing to seek the help of others and/or to *offer* help to others! It is our contention that **iconoclasm** is a group endeavor. **All** who purposefully participate in that group endeavor are worthy of the high title of **Iconoclast**. ***It is just as important to join the battle and come to the aid of other people's new paradigms as it is to originate a new idea of your own. None of us can get the job done alone!!!***

So what about you???

Do you get excited by the new ideas of others? Just by accepting a new idea based on the **merits** of the **idea itself** and **not** simply because someone you **already** know believes it, this **also** makes you **a very special person;** you are doing something that the vast majority of people are **utterly** incapable of!!! By simply sharing that idea with others you are completing a **vital** step in *tearing down the old image* and helping a new idea find its way in the

World and **this** makes **you** an iconoclast whether or not you **ever** originate a novel idea of your own!

If *you* sometimes find that the ideas you prize are subverted by a prevalent mindset that keeps other people from recognizing the value of what is **so obvious to you?** If so, you are in good company; you are facing what **every** iconoclast faces! If you can't seem to get your very best ideas (or the very best ideas of others) to really go anywhere, *then join the club!* **Literally!!!** **Join our Open Source Iconoclasm Project;** we are working together to recognize, develop, disseminate and effectively implement new paradigms, the way iconoclasts have *always* done!

Open Source Iconoclasm

We call our project **Open Source** Iconoclasm, both after the extraordinary public service that has been given by the Open Source Computer **Software** Movement, with its countless participants freely giving of their time and talents for no other reward than the joy of serving humanity! The term Open Source Iconoclasm **also** seems very apt, on the one hand, because **aberrant** social imagery infects individuals and societies in much the same way that viruses infect computers; a false image, like malicious code, takes control of the programming inside the image-bearer; these aberrant images then hijack the routine decisions of countless individuals and exert undue *influence* on the course of human events; on the other hand positive images propel society forward in entirely new ways!!!

This is why **you** need a group of people to help promote your favorite paradigm changes. Most people are highly resistant to being reprogrammed; they aren't even comfortable about reprogramming their **own** minds! Most do not feel secure changing their minds in very deep ways until *after* they become familiar with the new paradigm and start to perceive the new idea as "normal" and accepted by others; in other words, they will not adopt until they have the comfort of blindly following a crowd.

Picture Power

Effective imagery is *very* powerful. From drawings on cave walls to modern advertising and modern political campaigns, the same human machinery has controlled both the choices of individuals as well as the destiny of Nations. From the dawn of human history religious and political leaders have devised images to capture the imaginations of the people. **Secret** societies have been successfully using imagery to refashion society for thousands of years. We **also** want to re-engineer society but **without** all the mumbo-jumbo, secrecy, blood-oaths, hidden agendas and dark manipulations; we do not need to fear the secret rulers because we can **easily** beat them at their own game! We are uncovering and openly **sharing** the secrets of **how** to tear down the entrenched-habits-of-thought that exist in the minds of the average person!!! We are transforming the ancient alchemy of overcoming society's natural inertia, it's resistance to change, into a proper, modern engineering discipline! So how does it work?

Wonderers and Sheeple

The overwhelming majority of people are best characterized by the herd instinct of sheep, so we will affectionately call them Sheeple! (No matter how great a new idea really is, they only say baaaahd, baaaaahd!) They literally do not possess the **autonomy** to respond to unfamiliar ideas based **on the merits of those ideas!!!** They **only** know how to follow the other Sheeple. The only way to start a **movement** of Sheeple is to find a small crowd for them to follow; fortunately,

even if you can't afford "Rent a Mob" there *is* second variety of people who *do* respond to ideas based on the merits of those ideas!

I call the second, much **smaller** group of people **Wonderers**. In contrast to the Sheeple who only follow other Sheeple, a **Wonderer** is driven by an *independent* sense of **wonder!** Only a vanishingly small number of people have the capacity to take completely novel ideas seriously. Only a **Wonderer** possesses the **capacity** to respond to ideas based *solely on the actual merits of the idea*. To this noble breed, the prevailing opinions of others, tradition, and even their own previous thinking don't stop them from changing their minds if they are presented with compelling rational arguments! (It is unlikely that you already have such a rare creature in your immediate circle of associates.

But . . . you ask, if only a few people accept new ideas, **how** do *new* ideas **ever** gain **general** acceptance?

A sheep herder knows that he only needs to get **just a few** sheep heading out in the right direction and soon the whole herd will start following **them!** (This is exactly why sheep herders and Sheeple herders take such draconian measures against any individual that tries to step out of line. They know how quickly a few strays can start to gain a following and create a major problem for them!) Therefore, to launch a new paradigm, the first stage is to search far and wide, to find just a **vanishingly small** number of Wonderers that will *respond* to the new idea enthusiastically enough to form a nucleus of moving bodies for the Sheeple to follow!

This is not as easy as it sounds! Even if someone champions a new idea very persistently, he will surely fail if he works **too hard** trying to convince **too few** people. It is far better to invest far **less** effort, but on far **more** people. A very simple screening pitch can help one narrow down large numbers of **initial contacts** to a manageable, smaller number of worthwhile prospects on whom he can focus a little more attention; one is looking for the people that are not hard to persuade; they **should** ask tough questions but they are *not* unreasonable; they are fundamentally willing to be persuaded whereas others are only looking for excuses to shoot down another baaahd idea.

We must be forewarned!!! In the end, we will succeed in recruiting only a vanishingly small number of *Wonderers*; At this point, success **looks** like **failure** because it **appears** to be **far** too much work for **far** too **little** result; but *really*, the **hard part is finally over!!!** With just a little organization, a small group of Wonderers can start looking and sounding like a much larger group; at last, the Sheeple can start doing the Sheeple-Shuffle because they **finally** have a small moving crowd to *follow!!!* Soon, the small crowd will turn into a large crowd and things *will* start *snowballing!!!*

Viewed another way, as the early responders start discussing an idea they start paving the road for the second wave adopters; second wave adopters don't wait until **"everyone"** is doing something but they need to hear at least a few other people discussing an idea before they will take it seriously. Once **they** start talking about the idea a much broader audience is reached. At this point, even vehement opposition can be a good thing because your detractors are giving your idea exposure and making it more familiar to people and familiarity is the most important ingredient if an idea is to enjoy broad acceptance. Detractors or not, at this point, things should start snowballing.

Casting Down Icons of Defeat!

To function successfully as iconoclast we must first do a little housekeeping to throw down the images that may be holding **us** down. Many icons are *designed* to create a hopeless view of the World; they engender a defeatist mentality that discourages us, giving us the feeling that we have no power to determine how **our** World is going to be. It is as though we have been conditioned to believe that things can only go wrong, that everything is ***inevitably getting worse and worse!*** ***Our first task is to cast down the images of a defeatist mentality that tells us that our efforts are all in vain.***

A Conspirator's Best Friend!!!

Some cultural icons try to tell the people that **other** people in the World control **their** lives and that **they** themselves are powerless to change the World! (I **hate** that lie!) On the one hand, I **completely** agree that there really **are** some **very influential** secret rulers who pull a lot of strings behind the scenes, but I **strongly** disagree with any assessment that makes them all-knowing, all-powerful and unbeatable. Fear of them may very well be running **your** life, but I most **emphatically** assure you that these people are **not** running **my** life (and you should **not** let them run **your** life, either!!!)

The epidemic contagion of fear spread by most **anti**-conspiracists is **far worse** than anything the conspirators **themselves** could *possibly* be doing; the fear is **worse**, because it is **paralyzing** the minds and hearts of some of the most **imaginative** people in our society (I am saying this in all earnestness, with sincere respect and admiration!) These precious conspiracists, (unlike **most** people,) actually *possess* the *requisite imagination* to make **themselves** a **positive** force in the world, to tear down the images by which the secret rulers rule.

(Incidentally, while we are on the subject of fear, the Secret Rulers fear us; (and they should!) because they know that we will eventually beat them at their own game!!! Iconoclasts-working-together is their Armageddon Scenario; it is a slow-motion, unstoppable, unfolding nightmare of a colossal train wreck where their carefully crafted World completely unravels and comes to an end, while the rest of us rejoice!!!)

The Myth of Ideological Spontaneous Combustion!

The watered-down history we learn in school perpetuates a **certain Cultural Icon**, the Myth of Ideological Spontaneous Combustion! They say:

“There is nothing as powerful as an idea whose time has come!”

This insidious lie tickles our ears, it feels so smooth to the lips and sweet to the tongue but it brings *bitter gall* to the *soul*! What this poisonous barb is **really** saying to your **heart** is that your ideas aren't going anywhere, because it *just* isn't **“their time!”** (***But here's a fool's errand just to keep you busy:***) “Keep up the good work; just keep daydreaming and thinking up new ideas until a “timely” idea **finally** pops out of your head and **spontaneously** ignites a firestorm of instant recognition and appreciation! Your, day is coming!!!” If you believe that, I can get you a **really** good deal on a “slightly used” bridge in Brooklyn. My point is this; the time for a good idea is when it is first needed and when enough people do the hard work of **promoting** the idea!!!

The history books fraudulently perpetuate the lie of *Ideological Spontaneous Combustion*; **creative** individuals are **alleged** to have been *solitary* iconoclasts who supposedly, **single-handedly** tore down old systems of thoughts and replaced them with new systems, **merely by thinking and expressing great thoughts!** Make no mistake! These men did *indeed* have *exquisite*, novel and *rare* ideas, *but that was by no means sufficient to explain exactly how those ideas gained currency!!!* **There is no such thing as an intrinsically Revolutionary Idea;** Ideas, by themselves, **cannot** be revolutionary *because they only have power over the people who already think them!* Ideas almost *never* automatically gain traction and enter society without a lot of conscious effort by a small but dedicated circle of supporters.

Here is another variation of the same icon! Great changes in society can only be effected by Great Men. The implication is that you are not a great man so *your* ideas will have to die with you!!! It is certainly true that there have always been great ideas and great thinkers, and it is also true that not many of us are in that category; nonetheless, on the one hand, nothing **intrinsic to great** ideas guarantees that **anyone** will **ever** embrace an idea, no matter **how** great it is **unless** some sort of *organization* **champions** it. On the other hand, there is no law, (at least in **most** countries!) that keeps even less-than-great ideas from catching on if they have at least a small group of reasonably diligent people who consistently invest at least a few hours a week to spreading those ideas, **especially in this Information Age!** Some of today's secret societies were **originally** founded to defeat the Inquisition, and to promote freedom of expression; **my point is this, many**, if not **all** of the **ideas** of iconoclastic figures from 1500 onward to the end of the Inquisition, were advanced by **networks** of like-minded individuals who were **forced** into **extreme** secrecy **by** the Inquisition.

The original American Revolution was another coup of **worldwide** proportions, one whose goal was to wrest power from the Aristocracy. It was fostered by a large network of correspondents who worked behind the scenes to push American Society into Revolution; again, they were **forced** to operate secretly, by the Crown!!! So a lot of monumental historical events **seem** to spontaneously appear out of the mists of history complete with a small number of heroic figureheads when in fact there were **many** unsung heroes who were acting behind the scenes. (For the most part, those heroes **wanted** others to take the credit because there was simply no need for *everybody* to risk public exposure and **death!!!**)

I will kick things off with a fun little idea that I just recently started playing with! The Founding Fathers faced far less Tyranny from the Crown than we face from our own overgrown Federal Government. I have a practical method for all but eliminating abuse of power, the power of special interests, and the demagoguery that sways people to elect the most persuasive rather than the best suited to represent *their* interests!. Let's have a new (*lawful*, **non**-violent) American Revolution! (Did I mention, *lawful*, and **non**-violent?)