

Re: Epistemology 201: The Science of Science

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>>*From Osher Doctorow*

Great Scott, Bob Kolker has returned to regular non-insulting language except for pointing out that he is intolerant of stupidity and fools. The exception, however, is of great interest to me, since nonconformists are very interested in exceptions. Let's go back to the Nazi era and remember that Nazis thought that Jews were stupid and fools, not to mention gypsies and others. So they exterminated them. Or let's go back to the Stalin era and ditto. Or let's go back to the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia and ditto. Or bin Laden, much more recent – the "Americans are stupid" and "let's exterminate them" – if that is not a quote, isn't it his reasoning? Aren't we all supposed to be fools from bin Laden's and Saddams viewpoints?

Let me ask why one has to be intolerant of stupidity and/or fools. Is that what you're most frightened of – that a stupid person or a fool will make a statement on a physics forum that will destroy the world, more than say an atom or hydrogen bomb or anthrax or terrorists cutting off heads randomly? From what I have seen of your postings on sci.physics and elsewhere, your obsession with stupidity and fools is part of a standard "no competition" attitude that is far more dangerous than being stupid, since "no competition" viewpoint has characterized most of the worst genocides and most destructive wars of history.
Osher Doctorow