

Re: DO NOT BELIEVE IN WHAT Jack Tomsky say

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- *From:* Old Mac User <chendrixstats@xxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Thu, 17 Jul 2008 09:13:36 -0700 (PDT)
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On Jul 17, 10:14 am, James216...@xxxxxxxx wrote:

On 17 Jul, 06:27, Old Mac User <chendrixst...@xxxxxxxx> wrote:

On Jul 15, 1:24 pm, Jack Tomsky <jtom...@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

For several years now, I've been trying to explain to Afonso the basics of hypothesis testing, but nothing seems to penetrate. I've concluded that nothing will ever penetrate until he takes a class in Statistics 101.

Jack (moderator)

Jack...

He's a lost cause. I, like you, don't give up easily. But this one probably would not profit from taking a real course in statistics anyhow. His mindset is frozen. Short of an intense emotional experience, he will not change.

"People do not learn from experience.
They learn from BAD experience".

OMU

OMU is correct. I used to run a mid sized business. In the month before I retired I was bored and could not start new projects as I was not going to be there to finish them. So I spent a bit of time thinking about problem employees I had that had reported to me over the years. I had roughly 200 people that had reported to me at some point. Almost all college grads. Of those 200 there were roughly 5% that were standout problems of major proportions. Of those 5% several were diagnosed as mentally ill at some point either when they were reporting to me or after they were no longer reporting to me and were at some other company. All of the rest of the problems looked to me in retrospect that they had the same types of symptoms and it was likely that mental health issues were at the base of their performance problems.

Some of those problem people had in the past been outstanding performers both on the job and in school. Yet by the time I got them they were dysfunctional. A couple were members of Mensa so native intelligence is no measure of success.

It is plain that adumbo is delusional. Talking sense to him is not going to change his behavior. The voices in his head tell him he is just fine and it the rest of the world that is nuts. If he follows the usual path he will only get worse. These people quite often do not have jobs or if they do have jobs they are janitors or some such. Today some of them buy a puter and find some niche where they can spout their nonsense. Usenet is full of examples. Most every usenet group seems to have one or two such residents.

These peoples egos feed on being able to suck smart people into arguments just like adumbo does. And they will ignore legitimate questions about holes in their whacko ideas and just keep arguing as it further feeds their ego. The only way to get rid of them never works on usenet. The way to get rid of them is to have no one respond to anything they post ever. If this happens they no longer have the ego feedback after a while and go away. It can take months and they are never ignored this long on an unmoderated group.

Adumbo was probably very, very bright at an earlier time. His teachers all told him he had a bright future and it did not happen. The chance of him ever solving his problems are next to nothing. Go read the book about the mathematician Nash for a great example of mental illness destroying a brilliant mind. In the Nash case it is probable that the early stages of his mental illness was also the factor that allowed him to make his brilliant discoveries. Then as it progressed he became non functional. His behavior in lots of respects is much like adumbos behavior. Spend a bit of time prowling usenet and you will find tons of them out there. Great places to start the prowl would be sci.med.cardiology or sci.physics or alt.running.

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Great post...!!! When working for a major chemical company I had employees who fit the pattern you described. Our company doctor told me that our "professionals" would be an excellent study... a wealth of whacked-out people who started with great promise. (I worked at a large technical center... lots of PhD.)

Your comment that some end up as janitors hit a note with me. Our foster son... we took him into our family at age 14... was about as unpromising as they come. He'd go in the front door of a school and leave by the back door and catch a bus to ride downtown to waste the day. He eventually ended up in the army (a volunteer) where some Sgt. saw his possibilities (as we did) and forced him to get a decent education. He eventually completed most of the work required for a B.S. degree, but left the army and returned to civilian life. He studies constantly, and can converse about nearly all subjects.

So what's the janitor stuff?

Well, after thrashing around for awhile he found his calling. He became a first-line supervisor for a company that cleans office buildings. Talk about troublesome employees!! Poor attendance... drugs and alcohol...stealing...generally goofing off... etc. etc. Our son was able to cope with this and get good work out of a bunch of very confused people. He was promoted to higher levels and eventually had responsibility for more than 800 people... and for bidding on contracts.

He recently told us about some of the "personalities" he's dealt with. Some have PhDs (and some Mensas in there, too). Being of a tender heart he's tried hard to counsel some of those highly educated souls. It doesn't work. If he can make it stick to them, nobody can. With his attitudes at ages 14 – 17... his terrible start in life (alcoholic mother)... getting into fights in the army... and total lack of interest in working... he's now by any measure a success. I'm convinced he can get results out of just about any collection of misfits. But even he is stumped by the psychos.

I had one PhD under my supervision who thin-skinned and would argue with me or anyone else about anything and everything. He came close to getting into a fist fight with another PhD. I called both of them (and the supervisor of the other one) to my office and conducted a formal "divorce" proceeding. "Thou shalt not be in the company of each other at any time and for any reason." My thin-skinned one soon quit and I was pleased.

I suspect that a lot of this sort of behavior (among those who are highly educated) is rooted in their parents and teachers telling them how great they are. Do that enough times and there is no hope.

OMU

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