

Charlatans

Συντάχθηκε απο τον/την Χρήστος Μπούμπουλης (Christos Boumpoulis)

Δευτέρα, 27 Νοέμβριος 2017 14:19 - Τελευταία Ενημέρωση Δευτέρα, 27 Νοέμβριος 2017 14:30



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One of the saddest lessons of history is this: If we've been bamboozled long enough, we tend to reject any evidence of the bamboozle. We're no longer interested in finding out the truth. The bamboozle has captured us. It's simply too painful to acknowledge, even to ourselves, that we've been taken. Once you give a charlatan power over you, you almost never get it back.

Carl Sagan

There are two kinds of charlatan: the man who is called a charlatan, and the man who really is one. The first is the quack who cures you; the second is the highly qualified person who doesn't.

Gilbert K. Chesterton

By failing to read or listen to poets, society dooms itself to inferior modes of articulation, those of the politician, the salesman, or the charlatan. In other words, it forfeits its own evolutionary potential. For what distinguishes us from the rest of the animal kingdom is precisely the gift of speech. Poetry is not a form of entertainment and in a certain sense not even a form of art, but it is our anthropological, genetic goal. Our evolutionary, linguistic beacon.

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Joseph Brodsky

The greater the mental charlatan, the more definite his insistence on the wickedness and weaknesses of human nature. Yet how can anyone speak of it today, with every soul in a prison, with every heart fettered, wounded, and maimed?... With human nature caged in a narrow space, whipped daily into submission, how can we speak of its potentialities?

Emma Goldman

A charlatan makes obscure what is clear; a thinker makes clear what is obscure.

Hugh Kingsmill

The man who craves disciples and wants followers is always more or less of a charlatan. The man of genuine worth and insight wants to be himself; and he wants others to be themselves, also.

Elbert Hubbard

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The demand for certainty is one which is natural to man, but is nevertheless an intellectual vice. So long as men are not trained to withhold judgment in the absence of evidence, they will be led astray by cocksure prophets, and it is likely that their leaders will be either ignorant fanatics or dishonest charlatans. To endure uncertainty is difficult, but so are most of the other virtues.

Bertrand Russell

The universe is a strange and wondrous place. The truth is quite odd enough to need no help from pseudoscientific charlatans.

Richard Dawkins

And so it must be with the energy you muster for your own work. Get out there and convert the unconverted. Save them all from the charlatans and the nearly-men.

Chris Murray

Finding the occasional straw of truth awash in a great ocean of confusion and bamboozle requires intelligence, vigilance, dedication, and courage. But if we don't practice these tough habits of thought, we cannot hope to solve the truly serious problems that face us --- and we

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risk becoming a nation of suckers, up for grabs by the next charlatan who comes along.

Carl Sagan

The charlatan takes very different shapes according to circumstances; but at bottom he is a man who cares nothing about knowledge for its own sake, and only strives to gain the semblance of

it that he may use it for his own personal ends, which are always selfish and material.

Arthur Schopenhauer

If we try to engineer outcomes, if we overturn tradition to make everyone the same, we ruin society. If we upset tradition to allow for an equal shot at the starting gate, everyone wins, except for the charlatans and would be dictators.

Ben Stein

No psychologist should pretend to understand what he does not understand... Only fools and charlatans know everything and understand nothing.

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Anton Chekhov

In the military, if we don't know something, we say we don't know and proceed to shut up until we do. Some highly paid charlatans in the media think it's absolutely fine to take a wild guess at the truth and then tell a couple of million people it's cast-iron fact, just in case they might be right...I hope they're proud of themselves, because they nearly broke my mom's heart....

Marcus Luttrell

If we are not able to ask skeptical questions, to interrogate those who tell us that something is true, to be skeptical of those in authority, then, we are up for grabs for the next charlatan (political or religious) who comes rambling along.

Carl Sagan

There is hardly any mental misery worse than that of having our own serious phrases, our own rooted beliefs, caricatured by a charlatan or a hireling.

George Eliot

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I realized early on that the academy and the literary world alike - and I don't think there really is a distinction between the two - are always dominated by fools, knaves, charlatans and bureaucrats. And that being the case, any human being, male or female, of whatever status, who has a voice of her or his own, is not going to be liked.

Harold Bloom

What we won't do is pretend that the work of lunatic charlatans is the equivalent of "true scientific discourse." It isn't.

Jimmy Wales

To be a person who sees a political ad on television and takes the statements in it as fact, how can you exist in this world? How is it you're not robbed daily by charlatans who knock at your door?

Curtis Sittenfeld

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Poor human nature, what horrible crimes have been committed in thy name! Every fool, from king to policeman, from the flatheaded parson to the visionless dabbler in science, presumes to speak authoritatively of human nature. The greater the mental charlatan, the more definite his insistence on the wickedness and weaknesses of human nature.

Emma Goldman

“A silver-tongued charlatan and a half-wit society are made for each other! When these two come together in an election, a great disaster happens: Charlatan comes to power!”

□ Mehmet Murat ildan

Since the lethal slandering of the ancient Greek philosopher, and moral hero, Socrates, our human kind, from what it seems, has gained no (zero, 0) wisdom as to the crucial and vital need of, promptly and accurately, discriminating, morality from charlatanism. What a pity...

Cheers,

Christos Boumpoulis

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economist

The photo was found here, https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/c/c0/Pietro_Longhi_015.jpg/819px-Pietro_Longhi_015.jpg.

Appendix

A **charlatan** (also called **swindler** or **mountebank**) is a person practicing [quackery](#) or some similar [co](#)

[confidence trick](#)

or deception in order to obtain money, fame or other advantages via some form of

[pretense](#)

or

[deception](#)

.

[Synonyms](#)

for "charlatan" include "

[shyster](#)

", "quack", or "faker". "Mountebank" comes from the

[Italian](#)

montambanco

or

montimbanco

based on the phrase

monta in banco

- literally referring to the action of a seller of dubious medicines getting up on a bench to

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address his audience of potential customers. "Quack" is a reference to "

[quackery](#)

" or the practice of dubious medicine or a person who does not have actual medical training who purports to provide medical services.

[<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charlatan>]