

Speculative Realms

FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 2011

Compassion Has Its Limits

by Gary Haden

Paul Kimball makes some excellent points in his post entitled "[The Event Horizon of Alien Abduction Research](#)." They sound very familiar to me in fact. They sound like arguments Emma Woods's supporters have made.

Kimball is a filmmaker and writer who has appeared from time to time on paranormal podcasts. Emma Woods is a former client of alien-abduction researcher David Jacobs. Woods has made public charges of abuse against Jacobs. Jacobs claims she has defamed him. The rest is detailed here at [All Emma Woods Posts](#) and elsewhere as gleaned by simply Googling Emma Woods.

"The problem with your supporters," Kimball states in a comment to the above post, "is that they are simply reinforcing your own perception of events, and I think that lack of balance is detrimental both to you and your case, should you choose to pursue it in the legal realm."

There are two arguments here. Let's deal with the first one. Kimball states Emma's supporters are simply reinforcing her perception of events.

This is abundantly false. If anything, based on my experience, Emma's supporters have challenged her on many levels. Vigorously and ferociously.

With particular respect to Emma Woods's trying of the case publicly, especially where UFO Forums and the like are concerned, there are people, identifiably Pro-Woods, who have advised her repeatedly against combating the issue publicly on said forums. I've advised her against it myself.

Don't let that slip by. The advice dispensed to Woods regarding publicly arguing her case was forcibly distributed by the people involved. I don't fault Kimball for not knowing that, but I can't let him get away with the accusation that Woods is being goaded into flailing away at everything she sees by a smoke-filled room lynch mob. It is indeed not that black and white. It is also not true.

If there is a lynch mob, Kimball mislocates it. Part of the reason Emma Woods enters into battle online is the lynch mob mentality of her detractors. They've registered vicious and incendiary attacks. I believe her exposure to them is harmful but I understand the compulsion to fight.

Emma Woods is an adult. She has autonomy. At least in the real world. Not so much in the hypnosis chamber. Ultimately, it is her decision as to how she conducts herself. It is not accurate to imply that her every choice is the product of manipulation by backroom hacks. Her independence has been abundantly demonstrated time and again.

The second argument Kimball makes regarding the lack of balance is made in support of his overall point which is that David Jacobs is entitled to compassion.

David Jacobs has made no distinctive contribution to the "conversation." He has merely reiterated insufficient explanations of his conduct. He is not likely to cooperate with anyone who has given Woods a hearing. He along with Budd Hopkins had the anti-hypnosis Kimball excluded from the softball-filled Paracast show in which Jacobs was "confronted" with the Woods issue. Kimball knows better than to invoke the FOX News credo regarding fairness and balance here. He's had firsthand experience of the fairness of the alien-abduction hypnotists.

Forgive me for going over-the-top, but it seems as if the bully got the best of Paul Kimball here.

"There is plenty of blame to go around," Kimball writes. "I can't abide a number of Woods' promoters, whose over-the-top rhetoric is guaranteed to marginalize the conversation simply because it's so off-putting (they have done more damage to the public perception of her case than David Jacobs ever could), but I have also been disturbed by the failure of people I respect, like Jerry Clark on the UFO Updates List, to see that even if Woods is in need of psychological help (and I think that she is, although not for the reasons suggested by her detractors), David Jacobs is in a far more desperate need of that kind of help."

"David Jacobs is the 'bad guy' here," Kimball admits, "but he's not the kind of 'bad guy' who deserves a lynch mob. Rather, he's a troubled man who deserves understanding, and compassion, because his egregious behaviour has clearly been the result of his own failed grasp on reality. It's what in the law we would call 'mitigating circumstances' or perhaps 'diminished capacity', and it's

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THE LATEST

[Annie Jacobsen](#) [Kepler Space Telescope](#) [Libya](#) [NATO](#) [Fukushima](#) [Syria](#)

[Recommended Reads: A History of Area 51](#), Patch.com

Then along came Annie Jacobsen who managed to gain interviews with men who worked at the base. These men, now in their senior years, provided information on the site and allowed her access to military and intelligence personnel, scientists, pilots, ...

[Dubious Book: Area 51 by Annie Jacobsen](#), Left Eye On Books

Dwayne A. Day, writing at The Space Review, notes that he does not have additional sources confirming this, but: many of the elements that Annie Jacobsen's source used in her Roswell story are there in [science fiction writer James] Blish's short story ...

['Area 51' expose by investigative reporter](#), Plain Dealer

The real Area 51, as depicted in investigative journalist Annie Jacobsen's often fascinating, ultimately exasperating expose, is, on the whole, less spooky than its Hollywood persona. Ultra-secret, yes, but more "Dr. Strangelove" than "The X-Files" ...

[The United States of conspiracy: Why more](#), New York Daily News

BY Annie Jacobsen The truth, many Americans insist, is not what it seems. On the verge of the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, about 15% of your fellow citizens still believe that the attacks were the result of a clandestine "controlled demolition" ...

why no civilized society sends mentally ill people to prison for a crime that they commit.”

I confess to going over-the-top. I've done so for a very specific reason. But Kimball ought not to generalize my narrative techniques to the level of involving every defender of Emma Woods. I know it is hard for one who wishes to see nonlocal explanations for things, but no one else in Emma Woods's corner is responsible for what I write. Kimball should unbundle the “lynch mob.” Emma Woods's supporters are individually unique with specific contributions to make that are quite distinct. They are not glued together in some kind of undifferentiated mass. They don't lick Emma Woods's hand like admiring puppies. More importantly, they don't march in lockstep or carry torches and never will.

In other words, it is irresponsible to suggest that Emma's supporters merely kiss her backside. It is also irresponsible to contend that where one of her supporters says something, he or she speaks for all. That is quite frankly not the case. It is time the detractors came to understand that.

I expect to be held accountable for what I write. I also expect others to have the presence of mind to distinguish me from others who support Emma. I am not an experimenter. I am not a UFOlogist. I am not a researcher. I am not a stenographer *cum* journalist. I am also not associated with any other Woods supporter.

I work alone. There is no one else in the building. Don't be bringing people into my office who don't belong here and don't deserve the association.

There are two versions of the response to evil in moral philosophy. One is the soft response, which is the one I contend Kimball is advocating. The other is the hard response, which I advocate in this case. The soft response is appropriate where boundaries are solid and in place and violations are clearly apparent and discernible. The hard response is appropriate where there are no boundaries in place, as in the subculture of whatever this is, and violations are easily got away with. The history of this subculture is consistent with nonexistence of clear boundaries and in fact there is cultural retardation evident in that regard. This is why crooks, hoaxers, and frauds abound in the culture. There's nothing stopping them. No boundaries have been constructed.

I used to work with child molesters and sex offenders. When you examine their life histories, you see pain, torment, clear boundary violations, violence, abuse – all the necessary ingredients for making a monster. I had great compassion for them. That doesn't mean I'd allow them to scope out elementary schools or work in romper rooms. Compassion has its limits.

Just as I cannot support allowing a child molester to have access to the romper room, I cannot support allowing David Jacobs access to a roomful of abductees. I can have compassion for both but that compassion does not extend to indulging their diseases.

Addendum March 5, 2011

HARD RESPONDING

“Evil,” says Philosopher John Kekes, an advocate of the “hard response” or “hard reaction”, in his book *FACING EVIL*, “is undeserved harm. “

“Simple evil is undeserved harm that deprives people of some minimum requirement of their welfare. These requirements derive from physiological, *PSYCHOLOGICAL*, and *SOCIAL CONDITIONS* that characterize all normal members of our species. Harming people by depriving them of these requirements is undeserved if there is no acceptable moral justification for it. *AND THE ONLY ACCEPTABLE JUSTIFICATION IS THAT HUMAN WELFARE REQUIRES THAT THEY BE HARMED*. Simple evil is objective [as opposed to subjective and relative] because its status as evil is determined solely by the fact of whether undeserved simple harm has been caused.”

“[I]t is a consequence,” Kekes continues, “of the objectivity of simple evil that the mental states of the agents causing it cannot alter the fact that undeserved harm has been caused. Evil consists in undeserved harm and not in the nature of the motivation that has led to its occurrence. Whether agents choose to cause evil has a bearing on our judgments of the agents, but not on whether simple evil has been caused.” (John Kekes, *FACING EVIL*, Princeton University Press, 1990, p. 155; capitalization emphasis supplied.)

One “shibboleth maintained by the *SOFT REACTION* is the equal worth of all moral agents. We are enjoined to regard everyone as equally deserving, and equal desert translates into the protection of rights everyone is said to have to freedom and well-being. These rights are supposed not to vary with the moral standing of the agents. . . . However, the *TRAGIC VIEW* reminds us of the naiveté of this picture. We are not moved only in morally praiseworthy directions. We are also moved in deplorable ones because contingency, indifference, and destructiveness are part of our motivation. In some people, they become the dominant part. Such people are evil, and they cause evil regularly, predictably, over a long period of time. To insist on regarding people as equally deserving, as the soft reaction does, is to ignore a substantial segment of our common moral experience. The dangerous consequence of this self-inflicted blindness is that the spread of evil is fostered by the prescription of choice-morality that we should guarantee to evil agents the *OPPORTUNITY TO ACT ON THEIR VICIES*.”

(John Kekes, *FACING EVIL*, Princeton University Press, 1990, p. 147-148; capitalization

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emphasis supplied.)

The demonstrable indifference of the Kimball contingent is the only “enabling” influence evident in this most recent iteration of the Woods controversy. I contend that, because of Kimball’s affiliations with the so-called extraterrestrial hypothesis, his analyses are internally corrupted by a conflict of interest. The ETH is his true concern, not the welfare of Woods and certainly not the welfare of experiencers. Kimball is reasserting, I maintain, the hegemony of researcher over experiencer and this constitutes the chief source of his conflict with Mr. Ritzmann, who is, what I would deem, a leader in the Experiencer Movement – and certainly abundantly qualified both professionally and experientially to investigate experiences.

This indifference is a sign of the complicity (if not codependency) of the “Community” in the behavior of David Jacobs. It is an attempt here to reanimate the Jacobsonian project, that of proving the ETH, which flatters exponents, by submissively providing him with a resurrected *OPPORTUNITY TO ACT ON HIS VICIES*.

This indifference requires a “hard reaction.”

Follow Ups

John Kekes. [FACING EVIL](#).

[Saucer Switcheroo: Confusing Perpetrator and Victim](#); see especially the Comments thereto.

Posted by Gary Haden at 7:09 AM



Labels: [alien abduction church](#), [David Jacobs](#), [Emma Woods](#), [Hypnosis](#)

8 comments:



Brownie said...

I think that Kimball simply wet his finger, put it up in the air and saw which way the wind was blowing, so he hedged his bets. He knows that Jacobs and Hopkins are going down - key parts of their ‘work’ and books are being looked at again, with a critical eye. And, past criticisms are being read (perhaps for the first time) by newbies in the world of ufology/abductionlogy.

One example that is being given renewed attention (much to the consternation of Jerome Clarke no doubt) - <http://www.tricksterbook.com/ArticlesOnline/LindaCortileCase>.

Kimball’s description of the supporters of Emma Woods is ridiculously unfair and appears to come from a very personal place of anger.

When one actually reads the Jacobs-Woods topic (whether on Paracast or UFO Updates etc.) the Jacobs devotees are far and beyond the vicious, ad hominem throwing (and often woefully misinformed) supporters. Kimball, of course, knows this, but he’s trying to soothe the egos of the likes of UFO Updates bully Jerome Clarke (who is no doubt angry at Kimball now..lol).

About your addendum to your essay regarding evil, Gary. Coincidentally, just this past week, I began to re-read two of M. Scott Peck’s books: *The Road Less Traveled* and *People of the Lie*.

p.s. - Carol Rainey has an excellent rough cut up of the Linda Cortile case on Youtube. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4hQrcDbUpWMM>

~ Susan

March 6, 2011 10:35 PM

Gary Haden said...

THE CATHOLIC PRIEST DEFENSE AND PAYING INDULGENCES IN WASTED TIME

Mr. Kimball wrote in a comment to the above post:

“Haden, Vaeni, Ritzmann and the rest have given you support and friendship, and as far as it goes, that’s a useful thing, and you have clearly derived some benefit from that. But it doesn’t solve your INITIAL PROBLEM, the one that brought you to Jacobs in the first place, and they aren’t going to be able to do that. You need to seek the assistance of TRAINED PROFESSIONALS in your own country.”

What is the initial problem? The initial problem of being abducted by extraterrestrials? Who are trained professionals or experts in extraterrestrials? The existence of extraterrestrials has never been conclusively proven. How can the existence of an expert or a “trained professional” be asserted? No one has presented us with an alien being. No one has presented us with DNA test results. No one has presented us with a flying saucer, allowed us inside it, allowed us to check under the hood.

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What trained professionals, then, is Mr. Kimball referring to? Miss Woods has a therapist. She has referrals to legal resources. I know. I've provided her with some. Others have as well. If the trained professional referred to is a "professional" paranormal investigator, then Mr. Kimball's is a version of the Catholic Priest Defense.

Mr. Kimball wants to rebirth the spookiness of Miss Woods's experiences, thereby validating the notion she gave consent for the treatment she received. Whether Kimball intends it or not, this is the same as imploring the choir boy to Come to Jesus and be nice to Father John, the man who molested him. The little boy believes in the same God ergo he implicitly consented to his molestation. Imploring Woods to reassert her faith in the ETH by consulting a "trained professional" is merely helping David Jacobs justify his use of the MPD Diagnosis and reanimates the self-same paranoid-schizoid universe Kimball himself says OTHER PEOPLE are wasting their lives on.

And that is therapeutic?

No, it is irresponsible.

Apparently it is okay for other people to have their lives decimated by faith in extraterrestrials whereas the enlightened Kimball gets to poke fun at the same, being above it all, immune to the waste, while at the same time poisoning the well yet again with his own theological treatise, BEST EVIDENCE. And he has a collection plate on his website to top off the church analogy.

Not to invoke Hansen analytics regarding the disparity in statuses evident between researcher and experiencer, but the world-travelling Kimball is hardly in need of economic assistance from experiencers, many of whom are not even close to membership in his socioeconomic class.

Kimball supposedly knows Marx. Apparently, not very well. To paraphrase Bono from RATTLE AND HUM, the E.T. I believe in isn't short of cash, Mster.

Kimball's commitments are to his career and the ETH. He doesn't care whose lives get wasted chasing the carrots he dangles. And he doesn't care who he charges for wasted time.

March 7, 2011 6:28 AM

Gary Haden said...

Thanks for the URLs, Susan.

Gary

March 7, 2011 6:29 AM



Brownie said...

Gary wrote: "Mr. Kimball wants to rebirth the spookiness of Miss Woods's experiences, thereby validating the notion she gave consent for the treatment she received. Whether Kimball intends it or not, this is the same as imploring the choir boy to Come to Jesus and be nice to Father John, the man who molested him. The little boy believes in the same God ergo he implicitly consented to his molestation." - - -

Yes! The inference is something like - you're nutso for even considering that you were tinkered with by aliens! You and Jacobs are likeminded anyhow, so you see you're both nutso and deserving of each other. And do show him compassion, which you would like to have, because it's the right thing to do.

This is also likely a reason why Kimball hides under Kevin Randle's pants - Randle does not believe in the abduction phenomena. Kimball doesn't either. It's a win-win for Kimball.

Oh, I also noticed Kimball's money-begging blog page! He has up the credit cards that he'll accept and paypal. It almost reminds me of the front page of eBay or a Home Shopping Channel site! If the guy needs money that bad, he should get a job! ;-)

~ Susan

March 7, 2011 7:41 PM

Gary Haden said...

Mr. Kimball's most recent post is extremely interesting.

Has he re-evaluated who the lynch mob is?

URL: <http://redstarfilms.blogspot.com/2011/03/paracast.html>

March 8, 2011 7:16 AM

JR said...

Gary-do the math. He's watched in silence for weeks, the one-way nonsense of the Paracast forums and did nothing. Now, on his blog again we have him making another revelation about this?

C'mon. It's another bid to garner attention, and as brownie said, to hedge his bet and come out rosy. Half of me believes he just likes to play both sides of the coin to try and be a trendy

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controversialist.

Sad.

March 9, 2011 11:02 AM



Brownie said..

^ Yes, I read Kimball's latest blog entry and the comments to it. If there's to be a re-evaluation of the "lynch mob" on his part, that would likely be spurred-on by how he's received now from the 'biggies' in ufology who've supported Jacobs and were chummie with him(Kimball).

~Susan

March 9, 2011 9:01 PM



Gary Haden said..

It is a swift turnaround, there is no denying that. Too swift?

Did Kimball spend enough time in the gauntlet to earn his spurs? That was one week. Is that all the time you have to put in?

March 10, 2011 7:24 AM

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- MPD (3)
- Multiple Personality Disorder (4)
- Munchausen Syndrome By Proxy (1)

- Music (1)
- Nazi Super Race Fantasy (1)
- New Normal (1)
- Night Terror (2)
- Nora D'Amico (1)
- Paracast (3)
- Paranoid Pomo (1)
- Paratopia (2)
- Perspectivalism (1)
- Psychosocial Hypothesis (1)
- Ray Kurzweil (1)
- Regan Lee (1)
- Reptilians (1)
- Repto-Religionists (1)
- Satan Shrinks of Texas (2)
- Satanic Ritual Abuse (2)
- Saucers of Mass Destruction (1)
- Science Fiction (1)
- scientific egomania (2)
- Scopes Trial (1)
- Second Skin (1)
- Self-Injury (1)
- Sideways Worlds (2)
- Singularity (1)
- skepticism (1)
- skeptics (3)
- Sleep Disorders (1)
- Source A (1)
- Special Compartment in Hell (4)
- Spooky Chronister (1)
- Spring Shadows Glen (1)
- SRA (1)
- Starlost (1)
- Super Bowl Predictions (1)
- Survival of the Fittest (1)
- T-Rex Reptilians (1)
- The Final Solution (1)
- The Pickerings (1)
- Thugs of the Universe (1)
- Toxic Slop (1)
- Transhumans (2)
- TV Horror Hosts (1)
- UFO Papacy (1)
- UFO Religion (1)
- Ufology (1)
- UFOOlogy (2)
- Virginia Creepers (1)
- World War III (1)

