



## *A Clear and Present Danger: Narcissism in the Era of Donald Trump*

Narcissism is epidemic and there is scarcely a domain that is immune to its effects. *A Clear and Present Danger: Narcissism in the Era of Donald Trump* brings together bestselling authors, university professors, and practicing clinicians to explore this vital topic. “Every country has the government it deserves,” said Alexis de Tocqueville, author of *Democracy in America*. Whatever history eventually records about the 2016 presidential election, this frank and thoughtful exploration of narcissism will prove to be a timely and timeless study.

Narcissism demands to be mirrored and refuses to be challenged. It demands acclaim, obedience, and accommodation, while disregarding others. Whether narcissism overtakes the home, the workplace, or the national stage, everyone who comes under Narcissus’s spell, both the narcissist and their subjects, suffer.

Pundits insist that politics has seldom been as polarized as it became during the 2016 election in the United States. This was a coincidence of opposites, a *coincidentia oppositorum*. While Donald Trump galvanized vast numbers of angry, disaffected voters, Senator Bernie Sanders mobilized enormous crowds of young voters who seemed passionately committed to revolutionizing American politics. Regardless of the winner of the contest between Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton, it is vital to recognize what is happening on this global stage of politics. *A Clear and Present Danger: Narcissism in the Era of Donald Trump* explores the phenomenon of Trump as well as the vast landscape of narcissism in general.

The contributors share a hope that these essays will become a mirror for the reader and for a nation called to examine itself. Dr. Estés reminds us in the closing pages, “We were made for times like these.”

### Early Media Attention:

- **Bill Moyers** - *If Donald Trump Had a Selfie Stick, We’d All Be in the Picture*  
– posts a condensed version of a key chapter in the book (Chapter Author - Thomas Singer, MD)  
<http://billmoyers.com/story/donald-trump-selfie-americas-worst-side/> or [www.goo.gl/Tt3AVB](http://www.goo.gl/Tt3AVB)
- **New York Times** - *Is It Fair to Analyze Donald Trump From Afar?*  
-Mentions the book while quoting from a New York Times interview with co-editor, Dr. Buser  
- New York Times; Benedict Carey, August 16, 2016 or online at: [www.goo.gl/JcwDwB](http://www.goo.gl/JcwDwB) or  
- [http://www.nytimes.com/2016/08/16/health/analyzing-donald-trump-psychology.html?\\_r=2](http://www.nytimes.com/2016/08/16/health/analyzing-donald-trump-psychology.html?_r=2)
- **Shrink Rap Radio** – Extensive Interview with Co-Editor, *Leonard Cruz, MD*  
- <http://shrinkrapradio.com/521-narcissism-in-the-era-of-donald-trump-with-psychiatrist-lenonard-cruz-md/>  
- or at [www.goo.gl/EmhCo4](http://www.goo.gl/EmhCo4)

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## **Overview:**

More than any other in recent history, this presidential election has raised intense scrutiny of both candidates' character to be President of the United States. Donald Trump has had repeated allegations against him of narcissism and whether his temperament is suitable for the presidency.

**Chiron Publications has gathered 17 leading clinical psychiatrist and psychologist to examine this issue in their new release, *A Clear and Present Danger: Narcissism in the Era of Donald Trump*.**

*A Clear and Present Danger: Narcissism in the Era of Donald Trump* looks at a number of these vital questions:

- What is Mr. Trump's temperament and is it fair to label it as narcissistic?
- What is the difference between *healthy presidential narcissism* and *malignant presidential narcissism*?
- What are the unconscious factors drawing the U.S. electorate towards a candidate as untraditional as Donald Trump?
- What deep fears and hidden thoughts in the U.S. have been activated by the campaigns?

**Chiron Publications** is a 33-year old book publisher that maintains more than 150 titles in print on subjects of depth psychology, mythology, and culture.

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## **Selected Key Concepts:**

**1. There is an important difference between “Healthy Presidential Narcissism” and “Malignant Presidential Narcissism.”**

Perhaps every president and world leader needs a certain degree of narcissism in order to seek high office. Occasionally powerful leaders ignite the imagination of their followers by showing

them a glimpse of something profound, transcendent and archetypal. These leaders mobilize the masses. In “Healthy Presidential Narcissism” the leader shows the people the transcendent archetype, but does not personally identify with it. In “Malignant Presidential Narcissism” the leader becomes inflated by identifying with the transcendent archetype. This may foster tyrannical leadership.

## **2. A “Trump Complex” is currently possessing the unconscious, collective mind of the United States.**

According to Craig Chalquist, “a complex is a cluster of emotionally charged associations, usually unconscious and gathered around an archetypal center. [...] Complexes were first noticed by Aristotle, who in his *Psyche* called them part-souls, and behave like little personalities. Examples of personal complexes include: “an inferiority complex,” “a Peter Pan complex,” “a mother complex,” “a warrior complex,” etc. A less familiar idea is that entire nations can develop unconscious national complexes. A collective trauma in the United States has arisen over the last 15 years from the 9/11 attacks, the 2008 financial collapse, decades of war, and the persistent fears of terrorist attacks. This collective national wound fostered deep-seated anxiety, a sense of loss of control, and a loss of dominance on the world stage. This national unconscious complex, “the Trump complex”, may be drawing large segments of the US population towards an archetypal image of strength and nostalgia, that in America was epitomized by John Wayne. Donald Trump has skillfully unconsciously embodied this image, thereby drawing voters towards him subliminally.

## **3. The Trump campaign is a study in succinct, masterfully crafted core messages that tap unconscious fears and unspoken thoughts of the American electorate.**

Donald Trump has successfully utilized a number of “core messages” that tap into deep-seated national fears and hidden thoughts. For example, “Get ‘em out of here!” was blurted out in response to hecklers at a Trump rally but it quickly became a rallying cry associated with Trump’s proposals to deport millions of undocumented immigrants, bar entry to Muslims, and erect a wall on the US southern border. Another core message became a slogan emblazoned on a baseball cap, “Make America Great Again!” This nostalgic message promises to restore America’s preeminent position in business, defense, and world affairs. “America First”, another Trump campaign slogan, implies that all other nations will be second to the US.

## **Q&A:**

### **What is the origin of the word narcissism?**

The term traces its roots to Greek mythology and one of the more familiar accounts of Narcissus reached us through Ovid’s *Metamorphoses*. Narcissus was known for his beauty and was disdainful of those who were enchanted by him. Nemesis, the goddess who ruled over divine retribution, lured Narcissus to a reflecting pool where he became so enthralled by the beauty of his own image that he lost his will to live. There he stayed, gazing upon himself, static and transfixed until he died. So the term has become associated with that quality that involves an

excessive preoccupation with one's self or one's appearance. Here of course the idea of appearance encompasses much more than just physical appearance; it includes how one is perceived in the eyes of others.

### **How does clinical narcissism develop?**

Narcissism, or self-absorption is a normal part of psychological development. The infant child initially must determine where it ends and the outer world begins. Soon thereafter, we all enter a phase of psychological development that will give rise the sense of "I" or ego as different from the rest of the world and different from other people. At that point, a child will be called upon to figure out how and to what extent their will can impose itself on the world around them. We might say that at an early age, everyone passes through a stage that resembles a small tyrant. Gradually, we learn that *My Will Be Done* is not a governing principle of the universe. The qualities of narcissism evolve and in the best of circumstances a child will preserve a healthy self-esteem but also be able to temper their will out of respect of others and society at large.

When this process takes an unhealthy turn the child may persist in treating others like one would an inanimate object. A useful object is treated with regard but a damaged or useless object is discarded or treated with scorn and derision. Individuals with narcissistic personality disorder often value other people (and things) based upon whether the other person inflates his or her esteem or diminishes the esteem they enjoy in other people's eyes. This is the axis upon which things turn psychologically.

The wounds a child receives may foster the development of a narcissistic personality.

### **What is meant by "healthy presidential narcissism?"**

"Healthy presidential narcissism" refers to a style of leadership that may be founded on the leaders somewhat inflated sense of self but tends to encourage others to glimpse the inspiring, transcendent, archetypal realm. A healthy presidential leader inspires the people by showing them glimpses of the transcendent, archetypal realm. "Unhealthy presidential narcissism" occurs when a powerful leader over-identifies himself (or herself) with the transcendent and becomes inflated by it. Instead of pointing others to this transcendent, archetypal realm, the unhealthy leader that becomes identified with this energy makes no distinction between the archetypal energies and his or her own energies. In this situation, the unhealthy narcissistic leader resorts to an attitude of *My Will Be Done*. This is the domain of despots, demagogues, and tyrants.

### **Are you diagnosing Donald Trump with Narcissistic Personality Disorder?**

Absolutely not! The American Psychiatric Association developed ethical guidelines discouraging mental health providers from making a diagnosis of a public figure who has not been examined in person. None of the contributors presume to diagnose any public figures mentioned with Narcissistic Personality Disorder. The book is an exploration of narcissism with particular emphasis on its potential for influencing current politics in the United States. Some of the contributors address Mr. Trump directly or indirectly and the book leads off with a series of quotes from the candidate himself.

### **Isn't the title of your book taken from a 1989 Tom Clancy novel?**

No. The title has its roots in a defining 1919 Supreme Court case, *Schenck v the United States*. Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes wrote that Charles Schenck's attempt to disrupt military conscription during World War I represented "a clear and present danger" to the interests of the United States. The Court addressed the circumstances under which a citizen's right to free speech could be abridged. Many people may be familiar with the idea that one does not have the right to shout "FIRE" in a crowded theater. The idea captured in the title is that there may be some speech and behavior that warrants being limited when it presents a clear and present danger to the security of the nation. Tom Clancy's novel took its title from the same source.

### **Why has the American public been so attracted to Donald Trump as a potential president?**

This is one of the issues examined in the book. But the book goes far beyond this moment in time where such a prominent figure as Donald Trump has garnered so much attention. The contributors who address this fascinating issue offer different ideas. Among other things, there are many Americans who have seen their power, privilege, and preeminent position as a nation eroded in the last several decades. Whether that process began in the aftermath of Vietnam or following the terrorist attack on September 11<sup>th</sup>, it may be the deep wounds inflicted on the nation at the collective (unconscious) level have played a role in Donald Trump's allure. One author suggests that narcissism is compensation for feelings of inferiority that remain unconscious. When a leader resonates with a nation's fears of inferiority and promises to extinguish the threats that cause those fears, they will be intensely attractive. The book examines some of the core messages emerging from Mr. Trump's campaign and how these messages resonate with the unconscious thoughts of many Americans.

### **What is the "Barry Goldwater Rule?"**

In 1964 *Fact* magazine sent 12,000 questionnaires to US psychiatrists asking their opinion on whether or not presidential candidate Senator Goldwater was psychologically fit to be the president. Over 1000 psychiatrists sent in responses saying he was unfit psychologically and some went so far as to diagnose Senator Goldwater as impulsive, unstable, paranoid, neurotic, psychotic or even a "dangerous lunatic." This caused a strong backlash that eventually led to the American Psychiatric Association declaring it unethical to diagnose public figures without conducting a personal examination. This rule has been questioned vigorously during the 2016 election season.

### **Your book has an entire chapter on fascism. Are you saying that Donald Trump is a fascist?**

Not at all. George Santayana said, "Those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it." The book does discuss past world leaders including Benito Mussolini and Adolf Hitler. The chapter on Italian Fascism was written by a professor at the University of North Carolina-Asheville. He paints a picture of Mussolini as an educated man who showed masterful

skills in statecraft and propaganda. The fact that this Italian leader pioneered some of the techniques other charismatic leaders used, including Adolf Hitler, is a matter of historical interest. The reader is left to draw his or her own conclusions about whether or not this chapter pertains to any current candidates. An interesting and perhaps little known detail involves the origin of the term fascist and this is explained in Dr. McClain's essay.

### **What does Bluebeard have to do with a book on narcissism?**

One of the principles within the book is how mythological stories can reveal deep truths about the individual psyche and the psyche of a nation. The chapter on Bluebeard is written by one of many best-selling authors who contributed chapters to this book. Clarissa Pinkola Estés is the author of *Women Who Run With the Wolves*. She makes a table that compares the themes embedded in the story of Bluebeard with the prominent features of Adolf Hitler's rise to power. The story of Bluebeard carries psychological representations of some of the predatory and dark aspects of narcissism.

### **Some of the chapters have nothing to do with Donald Trump, don't they?**

That's true. We've noticed that in comments posted to Facebook and other social media sites few people have noticed that the title actually reads "...in the Era of Donald Trump." That was a very intentional choice that can easily be overshadowed by Mr. Trump's image on the cover. While it may be fair to say that Mr. Trump has served as a lightning rod on the subject of narcissism, clearly there are others in political life who demonstrate unbridled narcissism. When a Congressman chooses to post a selfie of his phallus on a social media site, we might be able to agree with a basic premise of the book that narcissism is epidemic. With certain constraints, we gave the contributors a great deal of latitude in choosing what they would address. Some revised the topic they were assigned. For example, one author wrote about narcissism in Fyodor Dostoyevsky's *Notes From the Underground*. Another contributor is a very accomplished artist and retired Jungian analyst. He was asked to write about narcissism and the male phallus, instead he wrote about how men and women are portrayed differently in art when the subject is gazing into a mirror.

### **Does the book discuss how narcissism affects life outside of politics or is it just about narcissism and American politics?**

Absolutely. Much of the book looks at narcissism apart from politics. There is a chapter written by a Jungian analyst who shares her ordeal of being married to a narcissist. Another chapter explores the phenomenon of selfies, then there is a chapter on celebrity, and even a chapter examining Shakespeare's *Macbeth*.

### **What evidence is there of the epidemic of narcissism?**

The selfie is a blatant example of how epidemic narcissism has become. The rise of the investment banker, stock traders, and corporate raiders in movies like *Wall Street* and *Wolf of Wall Street* may be another manifestation. And then there is reality television where even the broadcasting of ordinary life takes on a celebrity status when millions of viewers tune in.

H. L. Menken said, “People deserve the government they get, and they deserve to get it good and hard.” If this year has witnessed the rise of narcissistic candidates, perhaps it reflects the citizenry.

### **There is always a story behind the birth of a book like this; what is this book’s story?**

On April 15<sup>th</sup> of 2016, the two editors had a conversation about an edited volume on the subject of narcissism. A list of potential contributors quickly coalesced and an email went out inviting about two dozen individuals to contribute a chapter. The invitation asked the impossible. “Compose a chapter that is readable, thoughtful but not excessively scholarly, that refrains from libel of any candidate, and do all this in one month.” Not surprising some people declined because they had other commitments. But many of those initial refusals reconsidered and stepped up to the challenge. Chiron has never before produced a book on such a tight timeline. The editors sought to strike a balance between timely and timeless treatment of the subject. Who knows what will be remembered about *A Clear and Present Danger* in a decade. For many of the contributors it was a labor of love.

## **Selected Excerpts**

### **Thomas Singer, MD:**

*There was simply too much free-floating anger and frustration in the national psyche about the current state of affairs in the United States to be activated and exploited by a figure like Trump who appears to have an uncanny knack for pricking sacred cows. His early attacks on “political correctness” scored a direct hit on a hugely vulnerable spot in the national psyche...*

*Trump’s foundational cries of “Get ’em outta here!!!” and “Make American Great again!” are perfectly attuned to the hatreds and longings at the group level of the psyche of many Americans. No one has been able to avert their gaze or turn their cash registers away from Trump. He has managed to capture and dominate our national discourse and imagination. He has been able to mesmerize or stun nearly everyone who crosses his path, including his fellow candidates running for the Republican nomination. ..*

*What a relief for so many to hear a politician speak their unspoken resentments and express their rage, which they could only mutter privately. Trump apparently tapped into the dirty little (or not so little) secret of our loathing of various minorities (even though we may all be minorities now) and especially of recent immigrants.*

### **Jean Shinoda Bolen, MD:**

*I begin with a metaphor of the wounded healer. Chiron was a Greek Centaur, an immortal who suffered a wound to his knee that would never heal. How synchronistic that the very publisher of this book, Chiron Publications is named after him. The metaphor of the wounded healer, often unfolds toward two possibilities. When we become conscious of our wounds and our pain, we develop compassion and are equipped to guide others into those dark and painful places. Our vulnerabilities, our imperfections, and our suffering help us to bridge, mirror, accept, and be present to the suffering of the people we see, but only if we are conscious*



*of our emotions and what has happened to us. The problem with being a wounded healer lies in the potential for identification with the aggressor or the victim. If, as therapists, we do either of those, we end up wounding the people who turn to us for help.*

*The wounded shadow of a wounded leader imposes itself upon all who are subject to the leader's authority. This process parallels the wounding shadow of the wounded healer. I wrote of this in Ring of Power.*

*"When people become obsessed by their quest for power as control, security, or recognition, and when they have power over others, then what they do affects those around them [...] A tyrannical parent or an employer with a narcissistic need to control others has a much smaller sphere of destructive influence but can nonetheless be devastating psychologically to individuals." (P 10-11)*

*The wounding shadow in the leader may take on the appearance of an authoritarian father. When narcissistic leaders become identified with this archetype, they will be insensitive to the feelings, thoughts, and needs of those they lead. Such leaders do not permit their authority to be questioned. In their self-inflation, they do not seek out the opinions of others. The wounded leader is cut off from parts of himself or herself, which gives rise to their wounding shadow. Such leaders establish relationships with their constituencies that bear a striking resemblance to the relationships between parent and child in dysfunctional families. The wounding shadow of the leader equips them to inflict enormous harm. Too often their constituents, like children in a dysfunctional family, provide for the leader's needs to be mirrored and praised.*

*When the shadow of identifying with power appears, we risk fostering dependency. The projection of parental authority that is part of the transference allows us the power to heal. If we react differently from the original authorities in that person's life, change is possible. If, however, we react in the same way as the original authorities by insisting that we are the authority and that we know what their dreams and behaviors mean, or if we foster our clients' dependency, we are wounding them.*

### **Leonard Cruz, MD:**

*Feelings of inferiority are fundamental and part of normal development. They provide the impetus for a compensatory drive to improve oneself in order to avoid inferiority feelings in the future. Alfred Adler's notion of a superiority complex was rooted in universal feelings of inferiority. This superiority complex reveals itself in an excessive, relentless degree of striving to overcome others, and this bears a striking similarity to narcissistic personality disorder.*

*Adler's notion of a superiority complex is a compensation for what might otherwise develop into an inferiority complex. The inferiority complex tends to paralyze an individual, mostly obstructing his or her effort toward self-improvement and superiority. By contrast, the superiority complex becomes a style of living that is insensitive to others, does not promote collaboration or cooperation, and is focused upon disproving and disavowing feelings of inferiority. The superiority complex, like narcissistic personality disorder, exists in opposition to community.*

*Adler described a [normal] trajectory that moved toward greater degrees of collaboration and cooperation with others along with a movement toward equality and justice. According to Adler, the well-adjusted human being is capable of living in harmony and cooperation with others and acts on behalf of the greater good of society. This is called social interest and consists of an individual's personal interest in furthering the welfare of others. Viewed through an Adlerian lens, the narcissist has gone awry and cannot consider others,*

*cooperate with others, or strive for the welfare of others. The veneer applied to the narcissist consists of superiority, avarice, and incessant need to prove himself or herself better than the rest. This is the person who acts as if My Will Be Done.*

*Narcissists can prove to be very attuned to other people, not because they are moved by social interest, but because the other person has something they want. Once a person crosses the narcissist or once a person loses value for the narcissist, that person becomes like a thing that has no more usefulness. An individual entering the gravitational field surrounding a narcissist, especially a seemingly successful narcissist, has trouble getting away. Perhaps the same is true for a nation ensnared in the gravitational field of a charismatic, narcissistic leader.*

*The universal struggle with feelings of inferiority and an apparent deficiency of social interest on the part of Donald Trump resonated with a segment of the American public. Possibly, Donald Trump's tactics allowed viewers who have been bullied and struggled with their own feelings of inferiority to relate to being the bully. Donald Trump seems to have shrewdly singled out one group after another—undocumented Mexicans, people with disabilities, Native Americans, and of course Muslims—and made them targets.*

### **Clarissa Pinkola Estés, PhD:**

*My father's family fought to stay alive during an era of world dictators who were besotted with malignant narcissism and ambitions to divide, damage and murder countless souls they found to be "life not worthy of life." Bluebeard was a folktale the family knew well, but Hitler and Stalin became their horrific Bluebeardian realities. I was their young witness. Born mestizo Latino, I was adopted as an older child into a fragmented Eastern European refugee/immigrant family who survived WWII...*

*Folktales evolve over time, such as when persons previously unknown to each other are abruptly thrown together. During and after WWII, those marched to slave labor camps often came from different language groups. Some knew or were able to learn quickly the languages of others. In stolen moments, stories told and folktales shared, took loan passages from one another's tales. These were sometimes shared in each teller's home language after. Our family's Bluebeard tale accordingly, held him as vámpír, cutthroat drainer of others' blood, for he could not sustain his own energy without living off others' energies. Thus, he sought acclaim and dominance...*

*Hitler attempts to draw to himself those who feel 'righteously wronged,' disenfranchised --those who often remember a day when they were able to sit in the sun, had ideas and dreams. He promises a better life, but many will be taken to their deaths*

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*...There will always be times in the midst of "success right around the corner, but as yet still unseen" when you feel discouraged. I too have felt despair many times in my life, but I do not keep a chair for it; I will not entertain it. It is not allowed to eat from my plate.*

*The reason is this: In my uttermost bones I know something, as do you. It is that there can be no despair when you remember why you came to Earth, who you serve, and who sent you here. The good words we say and the good deeds we do are not ours: They are the words and deeds of the One who brought us here.*

*In that spirit, I hope you will write this on your wall: When a great ship is in harbor and moored, it is safe, there can be no doubt. But ... that is not what great ships are built for.*

*...This comes with much love and prayer that you remember who you came from, and why you came to this beautiful, needful Earth.*

**Steven Buser, MD:**

*Just as wounds create unconscious complexes within an individual, collective wounds sustained by a nation may cause cultural complexes within the nation's unconscious. The cumulative wounds suffered by the U.S. and other Western nations that once enjoyed a sort of world dominance have now led to a sense of powerlessness. Incessant wars, financial strains, and a frustrating inability to remove the terrorist threat has left nations feeling isolated and helpless. We are left to wonder if the soil has been tilled for a charismatic, self-promoting leader to tap into the deep complexes that formed around this sense of powerlessness experienced by a nation. Perhaps the United States is under the influence of a powerful complex. If so, we might call this the Trump Complex...*

*This Trump Complex unleashes anger in the growing crowds while powerfully yet unconsciously compelling them toward a perceived solution of strength and nostalgia. [...] The Trump Complex compels many Americans to align with a leader embodying this image of strength and nostalgia.*

**James Hollis, PhD:**

*The pitiful truth of narcissism is that the narcissist stares in the mirror and no one stares back. This is why he or she must use others for reflecting surfaces. If that person is the parent, the child is used to bring positive regard to the parent. One has to think only of the stage-door mother, or the little league father for cultural stereotypes of this pattern. If the narcissist is the employer, the employees do the hard work and the boss takes the credit. If the partner is insecure, he or she depends on the other to make one feel good about one's self. In each of these relational deficits the heroic task is fled, the task which asks: "what am I asking of that other that I need to address for myself?" ...*

*Narcissus is judged in our emotionally distanced place because he is captured by, possessed by his self-image, but are we not all captives to some extent? Is that not the problem for all of us? Is not the central task of psychotherapy to examine, identify, what stories, what concepts, what self-images have captivated us, led us to our current impasse, our suffering, and to bring them to the surface, challenge them, and perhaps replace them with something larger, more capacious?...*

*I imagine that when we stare into the pool we experience what, ultimately, Narcissus experienced to his dismay. He wasn't just entranced by his beauty; he was stunned by his complexity, his infinite number of selves, his compelling regression into the black hole of the timeless Unus Mundi.\**

**Robert Moore, PhD**

*There is no such thing as a person who has completely transformed his or her own narcissism. There are only people who acknowledge the existence of their grandiose energies and try to learn how to relate to them consciously and regulate and optimize their contacts with them intelligently. We don't want to eliminate archetypal energies, but neither do we want them to destroy us. We want and need these energies to fuel and enrich life. That is the true meaning*

*of human spirituality on the psychological level, to facilitate productive and creative contact with these sacred energies...*

*Narcissistic pathology is more like sin, a condition common to all. If we didn't have the Soviet Union, Reagan's "Evil Empire," it would be harder for Americans to deal with their own personal grandiosity. We wouldn't have such a demonic enemy to be superior to. If they (Russia, China, or an Enemy of America) stopped being difficult, we couldn't project the evil shadow upon them quite so easily, and that would force us to start dealing with our own emotional problems and shadows. America would face a psychological crisis. That is how it works. When someone refuses to carry your projections, it creates a psychological crisis for you. Your displacement mechanisms no longer help you regulate your own grandiosity, so your ego must look for another way to avoid the truth.*

### **Thomas Patrick Lavin, PhD:**

*As the song says, "When I fool the people I fool, I fool myself as well." A trickster tries to give the impression that the meaningless can be transformed into the meaningful. He doesn't tell people specifics, doesn't tell people how he will make this "deal" happen. He is not selling "how to" deals, but the trickster is rather selling illusions of wellness and greatness. He tells a depressed culture that miracles can happen and that "great things" are waiting just around the corner.*

## **Biographies of Contributors:**

**Jean Shinoda Bolen, M.D.**, is a psychiatrist, Jungian analyst, author of 13 influential books in over 20 foreign translations. She is a Distinguished Life Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association, former clinical professor of psychiatry at UCSF.

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