

[DISPELLING WETIKO: BREAKING THE CURSE OF EVIL](#)

Paul Levy ought to be required reading for all world leaders, bar none. He ought to be required reading, in fact, for anyone, anywhere, with the least position of authority over the life or work of others. Why? In our depraved world, authority has become a delivery-vessel for poison. We praise authority, considering it a good thing, while in fact it exudes and spreads out poison of a kind that turns us mad. Just look at us. The greatest question facing us is why we are determined to destroy not only ourselves as a species but to take along with us compassionate old Earth herself, the aged and kindly ship that, until now, has carried us for millennia as passengers of the most elite and pampered kind imaginable. And look how we treat Earth in return: What is that if not insane?

This disease of obsessive destructiveness that we—thinking it “normal”—project onto others via our “authority,” “leadership,” and “control”—this disease is writer and thinker Paul Levy’s great subject: Why, exactly, is it that we are in fact insane, and how is it so? Why do we see disease and believe it to be health? Why do we kill life while believing ourselves commanders of it? And, far from least, what diagnosis or cure exists for so epidemic, universal, and ruinous a plague as this plague of ours?

Readers of [The Madness of George W. Bush](#) will have a certain idea of what’s in store for them in the extraordinary pages of [Dispelling Wetiko](#)—but no reader of Paul Levy, whether veteran or new-comer, will ever fail to be surprised by whatever they read *next* by this challenging and provocative master. Philosopher, seer, Jungian, etymologist, symbolist, Buddhist, aesthete, stylist, guide, analyst, story-teller (whatever else, do *not* miss “[Psychiatry Almost Drove Me Crazy](#)”), Levy weaves more nourishment, wonder, and power into one sentence, paragraph, or page than most writers do into entire books. The stakes are immeasurably high. In “[The War on Consciousness](#)” Levy wrote:

We are truly in a war. It is not the war we imagine we are in, which is the way our true adversaries want it. It is not a foreign war against a foreign enemy. It is a war on consciousness, a war on our own minds. The global war on terror that is being fought around the world is an embodied reflection in the material world of a deeper, more fundamental war that is going on in the realm of consciousness itself.

As ever, Levy puts things in their correct order, identifying where the *real* war is being fought, unseen by everyone, while its ruinous but ersatz reflection is [mis] taken as the “actual” conflict. No one else writing in America today, in whatever genre, sees into the real nature of our crushing global endgame emergency more deeply, steadily, or wholly than Paul Levy. For those willing to follow him closely, he offers a way out, away from death, a way toward life. So acknowledge the teeth of your mind, recognize the jaws of your heart, and put them to use so as to reap from this book’s words at least half as much harvest for humanity as Paul Levy has put into them.

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