

Ideonic Engineering

Some people think that this is a skill; others think that it's a celebrity-fueled scam. The truth is a lot scarier: it's a linguistic disease that fortunately currently only affects a small percentage of the population. And some of *those* people are asymptomatic carriers.

The public perception of Ideonic Engineering (IE for short) is that it is purportedly a system for 'unfolding the Primal Success Self-Actualization Impulse by reconquering the First Speech.' Most people will, of course, look at that description and decide that it's not exactly gibberish, but that it doesn't really make any sense, either. But a few people will find meaning in it - and those are the ones at risk of getting infected with IE. One dose is usually not enough to get infected, but even a correspondence course in the 'discipline' will give enough exposure to ensure eventual infection.

Once IE gets into the brain the victim will have about five years to live. Admittedly, for most of those years the victim will enjoy a slight, but measurable increase in being able to focus on tasks and do precision work, but that's because IE slowly but surely destroys the human ability to

'hear' background noise, or indeed any kind of indirect communication at all. After a certain point, IE takes over enough of the human brain to make any kind of communication impossible. And then it takes over the parts of the brain that handle sensory input. Shortly after that, IE takes over autonomic nervous functions, and the patient dies.

Mundane medical science is still clueless about even the existence of IE: it's typically misdiagnosed as a form of autism (ironically, actually having even mild autism completely protects against IE), and at any rate there's no physical way to detect the condition. Unfortunately, the groups that know most about IE are also the Dark Conspiracy groups that created the condition in the first place. IE is, in fact, a proof-of-concept project in the steaming-new field of weaponized neuro-linguistic engineering. Assuming that the first iteration works out, its creators plan to rejigger it into something that's a bit more potent, and a good deal faster...

Assuming that it works out. Be a shame if an investigation team were to stumble over this situation, huh?

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