

# Wife of abducted Malaysian pastor wins landmark lawsuit against state

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Asia Digital Reporter, in Kuala Lumpur

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Family of Raymond Koh

THE DEFINITIVE RANKING OF THE RICHEST PEOPLE IN AMERICA

SPECIAL EDITION

# Forbes



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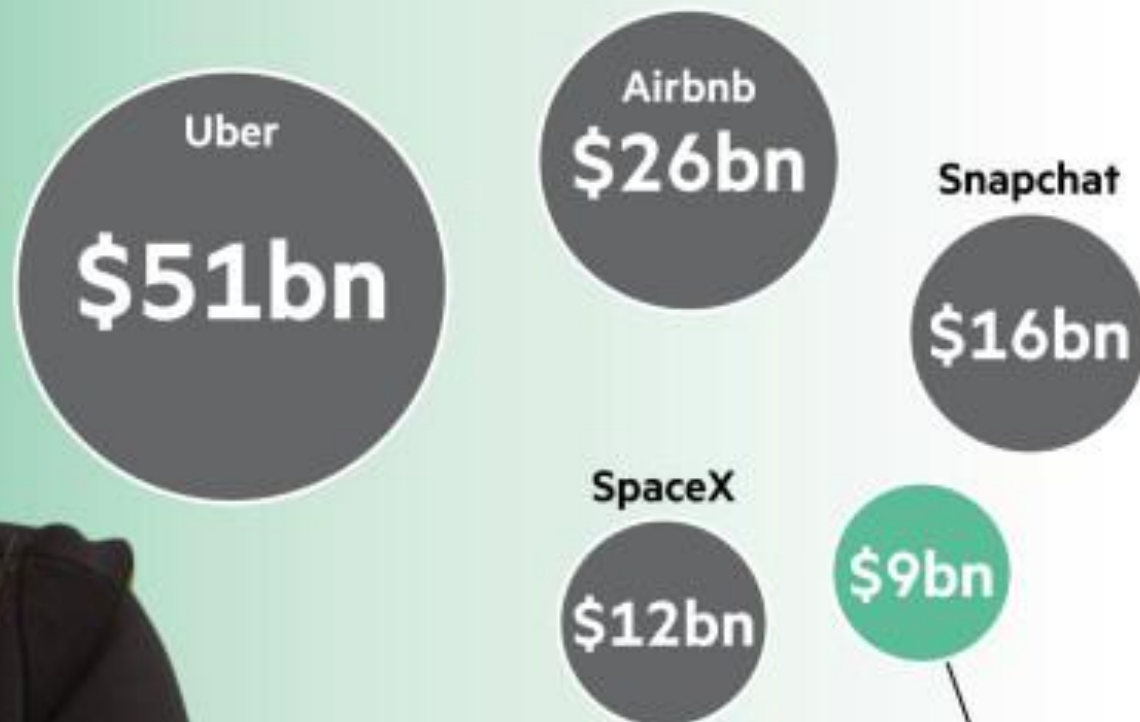
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## Nestled amid the unicorns

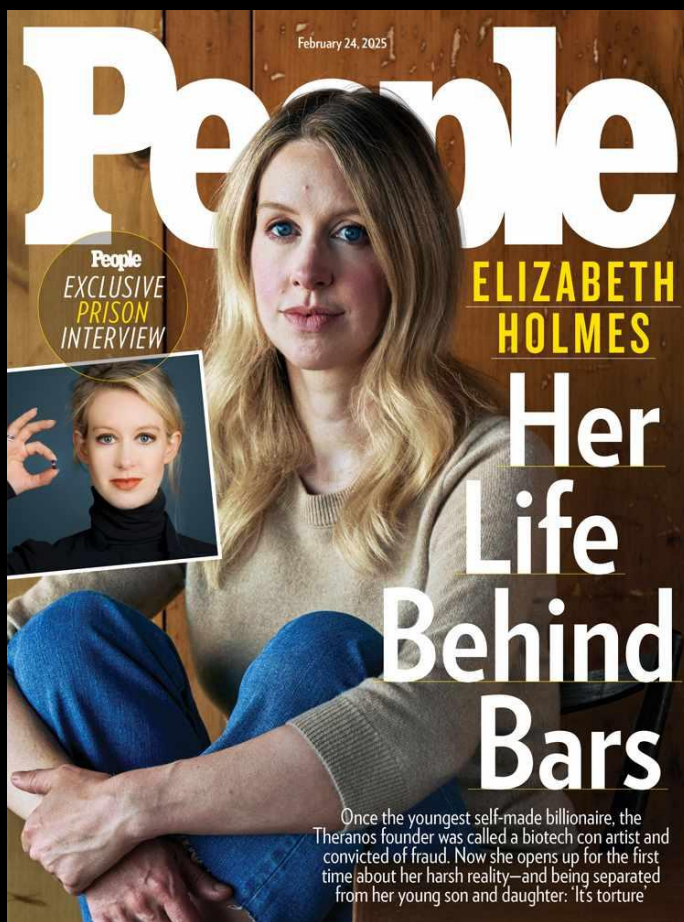
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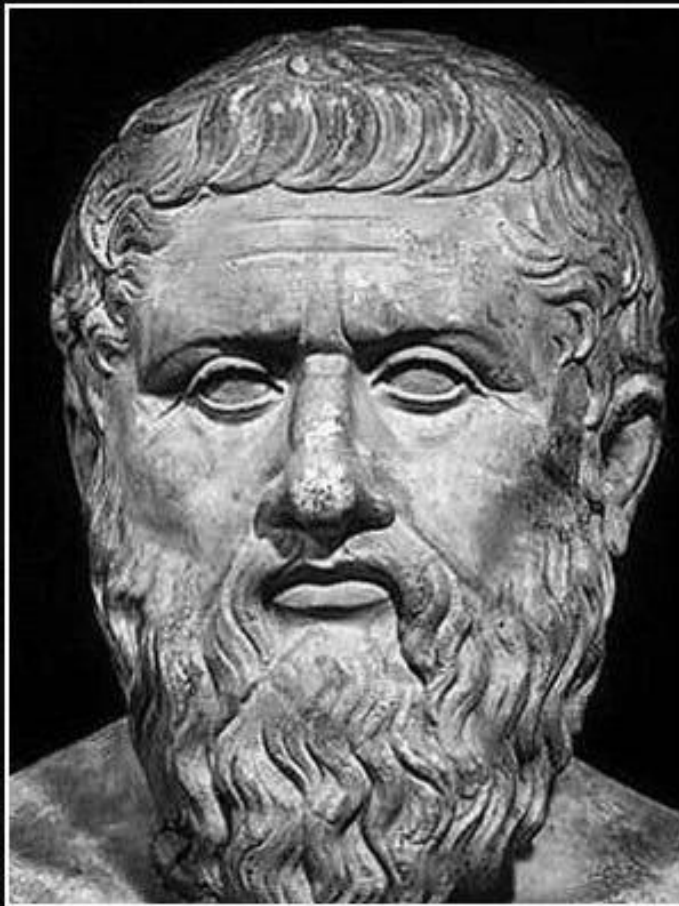


theranos

Source: Dow Jones VentureSource







The worst of all deceptions is  
self-deception.

— *Plato* —

AZ QUOTES

# Self deception

- **Oxford Dictionary definition:** The action or practice of allowing oneself to believe that a false or unvalidated feeling, idea or situation is true
- **Bible's definition:** The action or practice of allowing oneself to believe that *partial obedience* to God is acceptable

# Saul's Self Deception

1 Samuel 15

<sup>7</sup> Then Saul attacked the Amalekites all the way from Havilah to Shur, near the eastern border of Egypt. <sup>8</sup> He took Agag king of the Amalekites alive, and all his people he totally destroyed with the sword. <sup>9</sup> But Saul and the army spared Agag and the best of the sheep and cattle, the fat calves and lambs—everything that was good. These they were unwilling to destroy completely, but everything that was despised and weak they totally destroyed. <sup>10</sup> Then the word of the LORD came to Samuel: <sup>11</sup> “I regret that I have made Saul king, because he has turned away from me and has not carried out my instructions.” Samuel was angry, and he cried out to the LORD all that night.

<sup>12</sup> Early in the morning Samuel got up and went to meet Saul, but he was told, “Saul has gone to Carmel. There he has set up a monument in his own honour and has turned and gone on down to Gilgal.”

<sup>13</sup> When Samuel reached him, Saul said, “The LORD bless you! I have carried out the LORD’s instructions.”

<sup>14</sup> But Samuel said, “What then is this bleating of sheep in my ears? What is this lowing of cattle that I hear?”

<sup>15</sup> Saul answered, “The soldiers brought them from the Amalekites; they spared the best of the sheep and cattle to sacrifice to the LORD your God, but we totally destroyed the rest.”



<sup>16</sup> “Enough!” Samuel said to Saul. “Let me tell you what the LORD said to me last night.”  
“Tell me,” Saul replied.

<sup>17</sup> Samuel said, “Although you were once small in your own eyes, did you not become the head of the tribes of Israel? The LORD anointed you king over Israel. <sup>18</sup> And he sent you on a mission, saying, ‘Go and completely destroy those wicked people, the Amalekites; wage war against them until you have wiped them out.’ <sup>19</sup> Why did you not obey the LORD? Why did you pounce on the plunder and do evil in the eyes of the LORD?”

<sup>20</sup> “But I did obey the LORD,” Saul said. “I went on the mission the LORD assigned me. I completely destroyed the Amalekites and brought back Agag their king. <sup>21</sup> The soldiers took sheep and cattle from the plunder, the best of what was devoted to God, in order to sacrifice them to the LORD your God at Gilgal.”

<sup>22</sup> But Samuel replied:

“Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices  
as much as in obeying the LORD?

**To obey is better than sacrifice,**  
and to heed is better than the fat of rams.

<sup>23</sup> For rebellion is like the sin of divination,  
and arrogance like the evil of idolatry.

Because you have rejected the word of the LORD,  
he has rejected you as king.”

<sup>24</sup> Then Saul said to Samuel, “I have sinned. I violated the LORD’s command and your instructions. I was afraid of the men and so I gave in to them. <sup>25</sup> Now I beg you, forgive my sin and come back with me, so that I may worship the LORD.”

- The mechanism for self deception
- The symptoms of self deception
- The root of self deception
- The remedy for self deception

# The mechanism for self deception

<sup>12</sup> Early in the morning Samuel got up and went to meet Saul, but he was told, “Saul has gone to Carmel. There he has set up a monument in his own honour and has turned and gone on down to Gilgal.”

<sup>13</sup> When Samuel reached him, Saul said, “The LORD bless you! I have carried out the LORD’s instructions.”

**Saul knows:** “Now go, attack the Amalekites and totally destroy all that belongs to them. Do not spare them; put to death men and women, children and infants, cattle and sheep, camels and donkeys” (verse 3)

**But Saul *chooses* not to know:** But Saul and the army spared Agag and the best of the sheep and cattle, the fat calves and lambs—everything that was good (verse 9)

**Therefore Saul *conditions* himself not to know:** “I have carried out the LORD’s instructions.” (verse 13 and also 20-21)

**But *deep down inside*...Saul knows:** <sup>24</sup> Then Saul said to Samuel, “I have sinned. I violated the LORD’s command and your instructions. I *was afraid of the men* and so I gave in to them.



# How the mechanism for self deception operates

- ...when you have a nagging pain in your body but refuse to see a doctor
- .....when staff that quit repeatedly accuse you of a certain managerial weakness
- .....when you did not get the promotion you felt you deserved and claim the company is racist

# ....is the same mechanism when...

- your son is accused of stealing in school and you accuse the headmaster of targeting him. Yet at home you make sure he doesn't know where you keep money
- Someone who you feel threatened your position in the company was forced to resign and your actions contributed to it but you say he deserved it

....and is the same for this level of self deception



# Buchenwald concentration camp



11 APRIL ★ WWII 80

“we didn’t know”





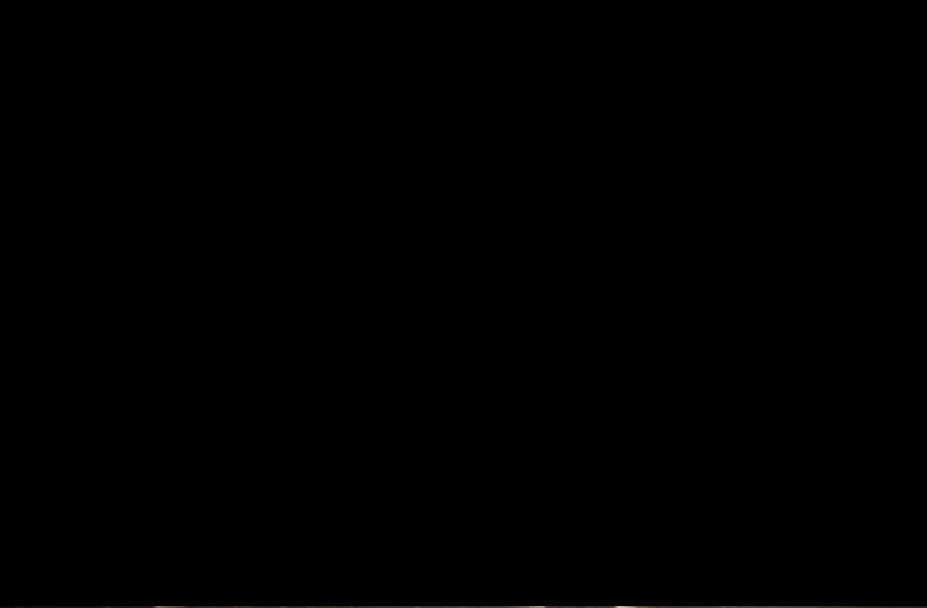


**“But deep down inside.....we knew”**

# Ever wondered why decent people can do the most wicked acts imaginable

“Self deception is not the biggest sin. It is *the means* by which man can do the most horrific acts imaginable. “

Tim Keller



- I know.
- But I *choose* not to know.
- Therefore I *condition* myself not to know.
- But *deep down inside*...I know.

- The mechanism for self deception
- The symptoms of self deception



# 1. The need to boost your ego

<sup>8</sup> He took **Agag king of the Amalekites alive**, and all his people he totally destroyed with the sword.

<sup>12</sup> Early in the morning Samuel got up and went to meet Saul, but he was told, “Saul has gone to Carmel. **There he has set up a monument in his own honor** and has turned and gone on down to Gilgal.”





1. The need to boost your ego
2. Manipulation

## 2a. Blame shifting

<sup>13</sup> When Samuel reached him, Saul said, “The LORD bless you! I have carried out the LORD’s instructions.”

<sup>14</sup> But Samuel said, “What then is this bleating of sheep in my ears? What is this lowing of cattle that I hear?”

<sup>15</sup> Saul answered, “**The soldiers brought them** from the Amalekites; they spared the best of the sheep and cattle to sacrifice to the LORD your God, but we totally destroyed the rest.”



## 2b. Downplaying your wrongful actions

<sup>13</sup> When Samuel reached him, Saul said, “The LORD bless you! I have carried out the LORD’s instructions.”

<sup>14</sup> But Samuel said, “What then is this bleating of sheep in my ears? What is this lowing of cattle that I hear?”

<sup>15</sup> Saul answered, “The soldiers brought them from the Amalekites; they spared the best of the sheep and cattle to sacrifice to the LORD your God, but **we totally destroyed the rest.**”

1. The need to boost your ego
2. Manipulation
3. Using God's name or morality to justify sinful behaviour



<sup>13</sup> When Samuel reached him, Saul said, “The LORD bless you! I have carried out the LORD’s instructions.”

<sup>14</sup> But Samuel said, “What then is this bleating of sheep in my ears? What is this lowing of cattle that I hear?”

<sup>15</sup> Saul answered, “The soldiers brought them from the Amalekites; they spared the best of the sheep and cattle **to sacrifice to the LORD your God**, but we totally destroyed the rest.”



1. The need to boost your ego
2. Manipulation
3. Using God's name or morality to justify sinful behaviour
4. When what you desire or what you fear is more important than obeying God

<sup>18</sup> And he sent you on a mission, saying, ‘Go and completely destroy those wicked people, the Amalekites; wage war against them until you have wiped them out.’ <sup>19</sup> Why did you not obey the LORD? **Why did you pounce on the plunder** and do evil in the eyes of the LORD?”

<sup>24</sup> Then Saul said to Samuel, “I have sinned. I violated the LORD’s command and your instructions. **I was afraid of the men and so I gave in to them.** <sup>25</sup> Now I beg you, forgive my sin and come back with me, so that I may worship the LORD.”

1. The need to boost your ego
2. Manipulation
3. Using God's name or morality to justify sinful behaviour
4. When what you desire or what you fear is more important than obeying God
5. **Always have an answer for everything**

<sup>13</sup> When Samuel reached him, Saul said, “The LORD bless you! I have carried out the LORD’s instructions.”

<sup>14</sup> But Samuel said, “What then is this bleating of sheep in my ears? What is this lowing of cattle that I hear?”

<sup>15</sup> Saul answered, “The soldiers brought them from the Amalekites; they spared the best of the sheep and cattle to sacrifice to the LORD your God, but we totally destroyed the rest.” (See also verse 20-21)

<sup>11</sup> “What have you done?” asked Samuel.

Saul replied, “When I saw that the men were scattering, and that you did not come at the set time, and that the Philistines were assembling at Mikmash, <sup>12</sup> I thought, ‘Now the Philistines will come down against me at Gilgal, and I have not sought the LORD’s favor.’ So I felt compelled to offer the burnt offering.”

<sup>13</sup> “You have done a foolish thing,” Samuel said. “You have not kept the command the LORD your God gave you; if you had, he would have established your kingdom over Israel for all time.

1 Samuel 13:11-12

Romans  
learned  
shipbuilding  
from  
Malays??



<sup>30</sup> Saul replied, “**I have sinned**. But **please honour me before the elders of my people and before Israel**; come back with me, so that I may worship the LORD your God.”



# Symptoms of self deception

1. The need to boost your ego
2. Manipulation
3. Using God's name or morality to justify sinful behaviour
4. When what you desire or what you fear is more important than obeying God
5. Always have an answer for everything
6. Rarely able to admit wrongdoing genuinely

- The mechanism for self deception
- The symptoms of self deception
- The root of self deception

<sup>22</sup> But Samuel replied:

“Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices

as much as in obeying the LORD?

**To obey is better than sacrifice,  
and to heed is better than the fat of  
rams.**

<sup>23</sup> **For rebellion is like the sin of divination,  
and arrogance like the evil of idolatry.**

Because you have rejected the word of  
the LORD,

he has rejected you as king.”

- The mechanism for self deception
- The symptoms of self deception
- The root of self deception
- **The remedy for self deception**

# 1. Ask yourself what is your heart really hearing

<sup>13</sup> When Samuel reached him, Saul said, “The LORD bless you! I have carried out the LORD’s instructions.” *(I heard the Lord)*

<sup>14</sup> But Samuel said, “What then is this bleating of sheep in my ears? What is this lowing of cattle that I hear?” *(Actually you only heard the sound of sheep)*

To obey is better than sacrifice,  
and to **heed** is better than the fat of rams (v22b).

- **What you heard from your wife:** “Is there anything wrong with the car? There is always this strange noise”
- **What your heart is really hearing:** “why can’t you fix the car like most men?”
- **Your reply:** “*There is nothing wrong with the car, dear*”

- **What you heard from your son's teacher:** "Your son was involved in a fight with another boy"
- **What your heart is really hearing:** "are you saying I am a bad mother???"
- **Your reply:** "*The other boy started the fight*"



- **What you heard from your girlfriend:** “I think we should have someone walk with us through our relationship issues”
- **What your heart is really hearing:** “I agree but only if I still get what I want”
- **Your reply:** “*Sure. I think it is a good idea*”

- **What you heard from your son's teacher:** "There was a suicide in school and we understand it was due to bullying from some other kids"
- **What your heart is really hearing:** "I know my son was involved as I have seen him picking on this poor boy before. But I can't destroy my son's future and I will resolve now to be a better father"
- **Your reply:** "*That's terrible. Is there anything we can do to help?*"

## 2. Realize that God has already anointed you King

<sup>17</sup> Samuel said, “Although you were once small in your own eyes, did you not become the head of the tribes of Israel? The LORD anointed you king over Israel.

“Worthy are you to take the scroll  
and to open its seals,  
for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God  
from every tribe and language and people and nation,  
<sup>10</sup> and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God,  
and they shall **reign on the earth.**”

Revelations 5:10

<sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen race, a **royal** priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. <sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

1 Peter 2:9

# Strive to live like how the King of Kings lived when he walked on earth

- Saul was the type of King who didn't accept consequences of his action.
- Jesus was the King of Kings that took upon himself the consequences of all the sins of fallen humanity.
- Saul avoided dealing with his dark side which eventually consumed him.
- Jesus faced the dark side of humanity with love because he knew that God's power could overcome our evil and create something new.
- **Like Saul, we all need new hearts and minds that don't need to defend themselves or justify failure and selfishness.**

### 3. Recognize the monuments in your life you have to tear down

<sup>12</sup> Early in the morning Samuel got up and went to meet Saul, but he was told, “Saul has gone to Carmel. **There he has set up a monument in his own honour** and has turned and gone on down to Gilgal.”

# The most dangerous monument in your life is the monument of yourself

- Saul's idol was his reputation as king and the respect he craved from people



- **Self** deception
- **Self** ignorance
- **Self** centeredness
- **Self** exaltation

# The remedy to self deception

- Ask yourself what is your heart really hearing
- Realize that God has already anointed you King
- Recognize the monuments in your life you have to tear down
- Have the humility to know you need **community** to overcome self deception

# What kind of community?

<sup>10</sup> Then the word of the LORD came to Samuel: <sup>11</sup> “I regret that I have made Saul king, because he has turned away from me and has not carried out my instructions.” **Samuel was angry, and he cried out to the LORD all that night.**

# Saul is a story of a king who started off well but ends up badly

<sup>20</sup> Then Samuel brought all the tribes of Israel near, and the tribe of Benjamin was taken by lot. <sup>21</sup> He brought the tribe of Benjamin near by its clans, and the clan of the Matrites was taken by lot; and Saul the son of Kish was taken by lot. But when they sought him, he could not be found. <sup>22</sup> So they inquired again of the LORD, “Is there a man still to come?” and the LORD said, “**Behold, he has hidden himself among the baggage.**” <sup>23</sup> Then they ran and took him from there. And when he stood among the people, he was taller than any of the people from his shoulders upward. <sup>24</sup> And Samuel said to all the people, “Do you see him whom the LORD has chosen? There is none like him among all the people.” And all the people shouted, “Long live the king!”

1 Samuel 9:20-24

# Saul is a story of a king who started off well but ends up badly

<sup>26</sup> Saul also went to his home at Gibeah, and with him went men of valor whose hearts God had touched. <sup>27</sup> But some worthless fellows said, “How can this man save us?” And they despised him and brought him no present. **But he held his peace.**

1 Samuel 9:26-27

Both started well





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