

a book by



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Human Education: The Voyage Of Discovery

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HUMAN EDUCATION: THE VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY

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Also By Mduuzi Mbiza

For my mom,

Thoko Judith Ntuli

Author's Note

In 2012, I registered my first company with a friend, and one of the very first things you want to do (to look professional as we believed) is getting a logo for your company. We had someone do a logo for us. We liked it – I believe this was because we had no knowledge about logos, so, any design would have been okay.

As time went by I realised that when I changed the size of the logo, it would lose quality – whether I enlarged it or shrunk it. That was not good, because what if we wanted to use it on a billboard?

I decided to search for answers. I went online and did some research – I discovered that a logo has to be designed using a vector based computer program, not a pixel based one. If you use computer programs such as Photoshop, which are pixel based, your logo will lose quality when you try to scale it.

From that moment I decided to educate myself about graphics design – I also went and designed our new logo the right way.

I never believed in self-learning until the day I visited YouTube.

This discovery gave me an idea to study education, to understand what it is exactly and how it works.

Using stories and different life events, this book explores how education was used and for what reason. This exploration reveals how great education systems were built and how teachers influenced change just by following a certain culture.

Introduction

follower /'fɒləʊə/ noun

1: *A person who supports and admires a particular person or set of ideas.*

Example; *'followers of Charles Manson'*

Charles Manson was an American criminal who led a murderous campaign with his followers, the *Manson Family cult*, that made him one of the most infamous figures in criminal history. He is also connected to the brutal slayings of actress Sharon Tate and other Hollywood residents.

"The Family," as they became known, was a group of around 100 followers of Charles Manson who shared his passion for an unconventional lifestyle and habitual use of hallucinogenic drugs, such as LSD and magic mushrooms. After Manson was released from prison for petty crimes in 1967, the Manson Family moved to San Francisco and later to a deserted ranch in the San Fernando Valley. Manson's followers also included a small, hard-core unit of impressionable young girls. They began to believe, without question, Manson's claims that he was Jesus and his prophecies of a race war.¹

Many of Charles Manson's beliefs include creating a better society by reducing the size of the government and preserving the role of an individual in society. This explains why Manson refused counsel at his trial. He represented himself until the judge found many of his motions ludicrous and appointed him an attorney. Manson preached that only he could represent himself, because no one could preserve his individuality.²

Manson believed that the African-American members were troublesome Therefore, Manson began to prepare for helter Skelter by informing his family. Instead of waiting for helter Skelter, Manson wanted to prevent it by creating a utopian society that excluded the African-American race. Above and beyond individuality, Manson felt that four important things needed

preserved: air, water, trees, and animals. Mr. Manson commonly refers to these things as AWTAs, and claims that his family gave their lives to unite the brothers and sisters of the world with these standards. The use of euphoric by Manson and his followers provided an enhanced sense of individuality in an environment interacting with nature. Manson commonly used music to get his message out to other people and generally, he would end a session with songs prophesizing helter Skelter orchestrated by his guitar.²

Who were his followers?

Manson began his ascent into power and assembling of his "family" during 1967's "Summer of Love" in San Francisco. He taught his followers that they were the incarnation of the original Christians; he said the "establishment" was made up of Romans. Five of Manson's "family" were also sentenced to death following their murder convictions. During the seven-month trial, Manson continued to hold sway over his cult members, both in the courtroom and outside the building. Some of the young defendants giggled and sang during the proceedings. At one point, Manson arrived in court with that "x" carved in his forehead. His "family" followed suit the next day.³

education /ɛdjʊˈkeɪʃ(ə)n/ noun

1: *A series of steps taken to acquire or to provide facts, information, descriptions or skills from a particular start and delivering them, making them known to a particular end.*

For far too long, even today, many people have always regarded education as a medium to achieve *only* what is good, a way to only build wise men and as Martin Luther King Jr put it “... *to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character – that is the goal of true education.*”

What happens when education doesn't *teach one to think intensively and to think critically*? What happens when education builds men who kill? Or men who manipulate other people. What happens when learners learn according to a certain system but fail to think critically? – does it cease to be education?

Manson had followers, people who supported him, people who admired him. People who believed in his ideas, people who understood and practiced his ideas. The big question here is how did it come about? – how did they end up

believing and practicing his ideas? The answer to this is very simple – he used a series of steps to provide some information that triggered the minds of these people, information that made them abandon what they believed in and follow his ideas.

He simply used education to turn them into murderers.

Manson used the same process used in education to turn ordinary people into murderers.

Human education or *menducation* is an idea that talks about the interaction humans have with education. It articulates that human beings use education for different reasons and in different ways; for instance, the use of tools by early humans. Researchers suggest that early hominins were under evolutionary pressure to increase their capacity to survive – one form of their survival was the use of tools.

They had to learn to create these tools, learn to use them and they did all that without a YouTube tutorial. Early humans had to learn the skills of survival, but what is learning without teaching? Through learning they taught themselves survival skills – they increased their chances of surviving.

In 1997, on February 28, the North Hollywood shootout took place. It was between two heavily armed bank robbers and members of the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD). It is one of the most tragic shootouts in America.

What's so interesting about this shootout is what investigators found in the apartment of the bank robbers. Inside a video player was a tape about the 1995 movie '*Heat*' – a movie about a group of professional bank robbers. The North Hollywood robbers were watching the movie to learn about robbery.

Just like early humans, the two Hollywood robbers saw the need to learn certain skills from a movie for a successful bank robbery. Through learning they taught themselves some skills about robbery.

Prior to both experiences, these two groups (early humans and the Hollywood robbers) had in their space some information and skills that they wanted to acquire. Each of them had their own way of doing this and each of them had their own reasons – for early humans, breaking and carving stones led to the

creation of tools that later made life easier. As for the Hollywood robbers, watching that movie, pausing, rewinding over and over gave them the skills and information they saw adequate to rob a bank.