

Union of Saints

On the Practice of Lowering Individuals to Justify Harm

Foundational Principle

The act of lowering an individual is a strategic attempt to erode credibility, justify harm, and avoid accountability. It functions as a method of control rather than a reflection of truth.

I. Mechanisms of Lowering

The intentional diminishing of a person, socially, morally, or intellectually, serves as a precursor to harm. This pattern operates through identifiable mechanisms:

1. Dehumanization

Reducing an individual to something less than human, irrational, unworthy, or disposable removes natural moral restraint.

When dignity is stripped, harm becomes easier to justify.

2. Power and Control

Lowering another person shifts the balance of power.

By weakening perceived credibility or status, the aggressor gains advantage socially, emotionally, and at times legally.

3. Preemptive Discrediting

Credibility is attacked in advance to control perception.

- Future statements are more easily dismissed
- Truth becomes obscured before it is fully presented

4. Projection

An individual displaces personal flaws, fears, or insecurities onto another.

Lowering others becomes a means of avoiding internal confrontation.

5. Group Dynamics and Justification

Within groups, lowering serves as a unifying mechanism:

- Establishes us versus them divisions

- Grants implicit permission for collective harm or silence

6. Avoidance of Accountability

By reframing the target as the problem, responsibility is deflected. Scrutiny is redirected away from the actor's conduct.

II. Behavioral Archetypes

Those who engage in lowering behaviors often reflect recurring patterns of motive and conduct:

1. The Dominance Seeker

Seeks control, status, or victory through hierarchy and suppression.
Core driver: power

2. The Insecure Projector

Acts from perceived threat or inadequacy, displacing internal instability outward.
Core driver: fear

3. The Narrative Controller

Shapes perception by discrediting others early and strategically.
Core driver: control of narrative

4. The Accountability Avoidant

Deflects responsibility by reframing others as the source of conflict.
Core driver: avoidance

5. The Group Aligned Enforcer

Prioritizes group cohesion over truth and reinforces collective bias.
Core driver: belonging

6. The Instrumental Aggressor

Applies degradation deliberately as a tool for advantage, silencing, or removal.
Core driver: strategic gain

III. Articulating Foundational Truth

Lowering reflects a deliberate tactic used to influence perception and shape outcomes.

It commonly emerges in conditions where:

- arguments lack substantive support
- accountability is resisted
- control is prioritized over truth

Recognition of this pattern strengthens discernment and response.

IV. Guiding Statement

Individuals who diminish others often operate from motives rooted in control, insecurity, or the avoidance of accountability. The act of lowering another person distorts truth, influences perception, and serves to justify harm while maintaining dominance.
