## Pre-emptive Absolution

An essay by

Cecil Harold McManus

September 2011

April 2022

It starts with a barrage of empathetic, erratic, and emotional-laden e-mails. Each of these e-treatises is copied up and down a chain of command with one purpose in mind--*PRE-EMPTIVE ABSOLUTION*—pandemonium resulting from temporally-challenged, unimaginative explanations for overt gross incompetence.

If a project is due in six months and the pre-emptive knows that they have neither the skill nor aptitude to complete it, they start sending out explanations early in the game. The only purpose is to say later...here; *look at this anticipatory collection of emails and phone calls that I have collected for some reason that absolves me of any accountability for screwing up something that I had neither the imagination, preparation, anticipation, or education to carry out. I don't know what I am doing, so, by way of compensation, I am attacking people because I am ill-equipped to address or attack any problems.* 

These administrators are the personification of the *Peter Principle* and are, in fact, active participants in the *Imposter Syndrome*. You know someone like this, and you work with them. Whatever they touch is a mundane, pedestrian exercise in mediocrity and futility. Whatever systems or projects they lead are unpredictable, random, and devoid of anything resembling common sense or vision.

People without vision are in real trouble. *Lost*...it ain't just a weird TV show...it is the guaranteed product-state of the Pre-emptive Absolver. I have seen and had enough. Have You?



## Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International (CC BY-NC-ND 4.0)

© 2011/2022 C. Harold McManus, Ph.D., PROBE Consulting Company, LLC. All rights reserved.

