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Hi Hafed

SOFT POWER (Like a detergent only you stick it somewhere else?)

It was terrific to hear from you out of the blue with such a great research website and interesting new position in the world today. You are in a box seat with Aramco in the new world order which is supposed to be healthier for people and environments. Lucky you?

In this context I comment on your very clear, logical, and concisely comprehensive global research website. **I seek mainly to ask how you came to make it and what its purpose is expected to be from the organizational perspective of Aramco. Who do you expect to attract to its use and why?**

Since I retired at sixty in 2007, I have been in the happy position of only ever having to do whatever I like. While it is lovely to hear from you and I wish you and your website well, I can't see how registering to become part of your network would benefit me, as I don't need more money and also don't want my work or entertainment driven by many others besides me.

On the other hand, if there is anything of any use to you on my site www.Carolodonnell.com.au I will let my website manager Bahram Saba at Sabweb know and give you his contact details. Feel free to use anything I've written reasonably freely with site attribution. I would welcome any further correspondence from you but not so much from few or many other strangers. How could I help them other than with giving them my money or my time or related support? You may consider me as the Devil's advocate but in my book, I am firmly on the side of the angels and have the evidence to prove it in **Power Loving**. Read this 2020 autobiography on my website until the end of chapter 3 or I will freely email you a whole copy. (Email is the central human intellectual advance that was made after writing on pictures, rather than mathematics, to me. Thus, I remain in fear of the dominant male world.)

I greatly enjoyed our regular research correspondence when I taught in the Faculty of Health Sciences at Sydney University and also found your willingness to write lots and often, very refreshing and interesting to me as a teacher whose work practice has always centred on analytical reading and writing. I remember you snail mail posted me a light memoir, written by a woman about her life under comparatively strong male social control. In spite of the fact that I've forgotten the name of both the book and author, it made a strong impression on me, and confirmed me again in the view that writing can only be good for women and kids. I passed the book on to a feminist friend long ago who worked in UTS communications and film.

Let me not for a moment rain on your parade with my comments on my potential registration on your website. However, when I think of Aramco I first think of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects and disciplines. In my experience there is nothing about the related powerful boys' clubs which bind them much with global welfare endeavours first, other than in health care. I vaguely recall you first came to me with a STEM PhD suggestion for study of tooth loss in menopausal and post-menopausal women. I said I couldn't supervise it as I had no expertise in the matters and was worried by related ethical implications of it. In general, I can't personally see why I would want to register on your site or why any matters between us should be private if we wanted to send them to others, including your bosses or family members, etc. Please feel free to show this letter to anybody across the world that you like, for example. What could or should we be hiding?

Why would people normally register on your site and why do you and Aramco want them to? Today I live my life avoiding risk generated by global contact or not, on websites which have become a global phenomenon, driven for others who remain totally unknown for financial or related reasons, which remain unknown to me as well. As a general rule I also hate passwords and try to have as few of them in my life as possible. If this sounds like an old woman's dissertation on fear and loathing of unknown crowds rather than on their wisdom, it is. In my view, something as great as Wikipedia flourished under tight global institutional control as part of the career development of academics and their IT associates as usual. At least you knew where you were in the system. Today, what may superficially appear to be a huge array of choice in online open shops may truly be multiplicities of outdated, new or closed ones, necessarily working just for themselves or favoured others. It was always thus, I guess, but now the system is global and charges gigantic fees for any realistic rights to practice. This brings us back to the reason for your research website and who it may or may not attract.

I assume your website is either to make money or to promote the business of Aramco in some way by its hosting. From my perspective, however, I wonder how my continuing liaison with a small or large bunch of strangers who are a totally unknown quantity to me, might allow me to pursue my interests better, rather than hinder their pursuit? I have found most people are intent on doing their own thing, and if not, then they are likely to be intent on making money by influencing others. Where do I fit into their financial and career plans? A globally well-connected website, a little like yours, perhaps, is that of the **Institute for New Economic Thinking**. It connects all those, following people like Joseph Stiglitz, Thomas Piketty, etc. who see themselves as economists against the dominant macro-economic and micro-economic discourses of neo-classical economics. However, I guess people see their involvement with these sites as necessarily part of their promotional and career advances, reflecting the normally dominant US interests. I am freed of all related aspirations and barriers to open communication and am realistically looking only for cheap, safe entertainment until death.

However, let me wander personally a bit, as befits my age and retired status, to assure you that as a sceptical old woman of 74 who has recently written you into **Power Loving: Everything you didn't want to know about sex and lawyers**, I was totally delighted to see that you are doing this website. I will immediately pick up Sempendorfer's **The New Silk Road: How a rising Arab world is turning away from the West and rediscovering China**. (I had dropped it for another newer topic. However, my earlier comments on your website reinforce my theme that what may look like another globally open website may really be a multiplicity of little closed shops, driven by their own interests so that if they are also

interested in you then perhaps you should be rather wary. Why? I would never have said this when I was twenty, however, back when the local was king and we knew it.)

In *Travelling Grandma*, the last chapter of **Power Loving**, written and self-published in the 2020 covid lockdown, largely for my own intellectual amusement, I referred to you among a few other students as follows:

I had a great post-graduate student who worked for Aramco in Saudi Arabia. We discussed many things in his health care project on a weekly email basis which I found most stimulating. We can easily work with these people and we should. I loathe how things are set to support the old and secretively controlling rough or smooth boys, modelling themselves on God and the parents. Put your money where your mouth is.

So, the question arises of why I wouldn't take my own advice about ventures such as yours. The answer is I have seen a lot more of how the financial system is established with lawyers and has been driven by IT since I retired in 2007. The global financial crisis arrived in 2008 led in US housing with incentives rocket fuelled by IT. I've watched the global inequality rising since. Any money I've got has been gained by primitive accumulation and I don't want to trust it to anybody I've ever seen ever again. It's a secret ignorant jungle out there. If you have others' money to invest, I'm happy to advise openly from my stupid old grandma's view on life. Developing more distrust of male world practice, however, has worked well for me in life and I've got a lot of ideas why.

I would happily post or email a copy of **Power Loving** to put my full philosophical and intellectual position to anybody who wondered about it and the rest is at www.Carolodonnell.com.au. Only the first 3 chapters of **Power Loving** are on my website, under the advice of my website manager and printers at Breakout Press, who are even more local. I tried to get an editor using Australian and international websites first but gave the practice up as too uncertain and/or open to many new financial traps and costs or delays for the generally inexperienced and unwary to face. **Do you expect people to use your site as an extra-curricular or other hobby? What is in it for them in the normally expected financial, career or personal terms?**

Basically, I think the site appears clear and sensibly constructed for regional and related research purposes but have no good reason to register on it that I can see. I always enjoyed our intellectual contact but have no reason I can see to correspond with strangers from across the world. I refer them to www.Carolodonnell.com.au for my views on healthier operations globally, regionally and locally. I attach current Australian discussions on local and regional matters in which I am currently taking an interest and wish you well, looking forward to any further contact you might make.

Hoping that you and all your family are also well and prospering. I wonder if you are among those who will be happy to have their children off their hands and away from the nest or those who relish more of them being closer to their parents and home if possible. Best wishes whatever,

Cheers

Carol

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Hi Hafed

Thanks for that further info. You say: 'I thought researchers do not have a platform to connect them together to perform research.' so you have created one.

Anybody in the world can call themselves a researcher and almost none of them will know of your website. How do you intend to make them aware of it and why bother? I guess that the small group of people you manage to attract to reply (e.g. like me) will probably be too diverse in their interests to be meaningfully connected with anyone, even if they want to be.

From the perspective of the **normal professional researcher with a big institutional connexion already**, it seems better to **search online at relevant tertiary and research institutions** in any particular global area, to find the expertise they require, I guess. Then those on the other end of the search will either ignore them as usual or will write back.

I cannot see how you will ever attract enough researchers with wide enough and yet specific enough interests to register on your site to make the exercise of the website worthwhile for any of them.

I speak as a woman who has recently attempted to find **an editor (as distinct from a researcher)** from global websites a bit like yours. It was a total -waste of my time and if I had been successful in finding one fast, who was any good in my eyes, it would have been hugely expensive. I guess I would also have been led down and held captive in terms of their own time frames, and by a related set of expenses for multiple specific but necessary editing, marketing and storage services related to different forms of IT contact with off and on-line shops and the public, that I had never even forethought.

I'm sorry to be so negative but I don't see how an individual like you can possibly promote a broad and general or specific research website like this successfully enough to make it more worthwhile for anybody to use than what is available already through major institutional websites like universities and research institutes in any particular area. Financially there appears to be nothing much in it for you and so I wonder why you are bothering with the work as I bet you have enough to do already.

However, your knowledge of technological operations and their promotional potential is infinitely greater than mine so all I can say is that I strongly doubt your website would suit global researchers' needs better than what is available out there already as normal institution specific research contact points.

I'm sorry I can't be more encouraging but wish you all the best. God knows I've no idea about how to make IT work well and you know far more about it than I do. (I'm not even on any form of social media because I find the potential comparatively uninteresting and so have no idea of how to market products either. I have a feeling that stuff for the rich bits of the world is massively and irrationally overproduced, over-shopped and wasted so like a lot of people I guess I'm trying to hide from the lot. My old-fashioned view and experience are that if you can't start with the backing of your local giant but relevant organization you appear financially stuffed from the start.

Cheers Carol

Wow Hafed, there must be a God! (I say that as a lifelong atheist bowled over by what happened to me this morning!

I attended a free writers conference and one of the women volunteers who came over to 'look after me' very officiously, quickly revealed she had breast and bowel cancer. She also revealed she was an Irish Catholic and one of eleven children. This was the morning after you had written the following:

'At one time while I was visiting USYD, to complete my PhD work, I think it was 2009, I was approached by one Dr there asking me if I knew someone in the Middle East that is interested in breast cancer and its social implications on females. Apparently, he wanted to know the type of social networks that support females in case they were diagnosed by the disease. I remember I connected him to several hospitals in the Middle East and he was happy at the end.'

I am an angry old woman so I tend to avoid human contact and find it very difficult to keep a civil tongue in my head, which was how I met the woman called Regina Marchant this morning. It turned out we got on very well as she thought her cancer was caused by stress. (This is often a private opinion of mine which is far from evidence based as far as I know so I normally shut up about it. I also think cancer is over-diagnosed and since I retired nothing would drag me into having the Medicare bowel or breast cancer or any other tests - unless I had symptoms - which I don't. **(Have you had prostate and bowel cancer tests - If not, why not?)**

I am personally going to push the line below and will cc you or anybody else you like into the big cheeses I contact who would not know me from a barge pole, except in a couple of key cases where they are trying to forget. (More on this later.)

The only great thing about my direction is that I will give anybody and their mother free advice and am prepared to write it down. (Jesus baby, how rare is that without a lawyer making it sound like expensive rubbish first, with all his other mates naturally taking their cut?)

Regina, who I met this morning, has two daughters doing international law at USyd and one of them works on Honi Soit. We will meet again. Regina was diagnosed in her early fifties with breast and bowel cancer, 4 years ago, but I am only really interested in women having fewer children so everybody can be more independent.

This is distinct from how the medical profession may be making the anxieties of old rich women into a continuing source of funds which may also put their families in difficult financial positions.

If the guys are so willing to embrace war and killing people while calling it defence, I feel that embracing my own death as early as possible is the least I can do to help younger women and kids out, starting with my daughter. If she can't remember what I'm like after all these years if she wants to, then I've failed as a mother in my book.

As I said in the attached:

This is the regional health vaccine and natural environment led recovery following the national human papilloma virus vaccine strategy, the Pope, Bush Heritage and Open University design. See attached discussion on trade to protect environments and people in which I also said the following:

'In regard to the Solidarity Day 2 Discussion on **Pandemic profits: Big pharma and vaccine nationalism**, for example, I hope you discussed further development of the Australian human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccination direction in key regions. This seems ripe to pursue now that Attorney General, Christian Porter, has been accused of an anal rape long ago, against a female teenage student peer. Particularly in poorer nations, sodomy has long been used as a way of avoiding unwanted reproduction. This was shown as one reason for the widespread problem of AIDS in heterosexual communities in Africa and South America, for example.

Christian Porter has now been moved to the Industry, Science and Technology portfolio and a team of senior women politicians are now addressing women's security from the top. *According to the Australian Department of Health website, HPV is a common virus that is spread through sexual contact. It can cause cancers, including cancer of the cervix, vulva, vagina, penis and anus, and some head and neck cancers. Types 16 and 18 cause up to 80% of the cervical cancers in women and up to 90% of HPV-related cancers in men. Types 6 and 11 cause approximately 95% of genital warts. Not all HPV infections lead to cancer but the arrival of the Australian vaccine presents a vital opportunity for broader health service provision and monitoring in Australian regions and across the world. These may be better directed with a range of related family planning and vaccination opportunities, such as those recommended by the WHO since 1946. These are recommended to be by choice in the most impoverished regions first.*

I've realized I don't value choice nearly as much as I value product and operational simplicity and reliability. (Remember when the only way to turn on most lights was a single switch in every room in the same logical place all over the world? The boys are making giant air-conditioned buildings for giant families now and everything they do stresses small business and me out. A lot of these guys in construction and manufacturing always appear to be fighting the last war.

Anyhow, keep in touch and feel free to tell me anything you like. Basically, I will be following the line

attached and will post you a copy of my autobiography by snail mail. This is my philosophy but you can follow God if you like. Zakia Hossain had cancer, as you may or may not know. But who am I to point out she had a very difficult life in my humble estimation? I guess if you want to find women who are personally familiar with cancer you might start with her.

Cheers Carol

Hi Hafed

I wish you a great holiday and am sure you deserve it. I look forward to any comments you might have about Power Loving and urge you to be as rude as you like as I often find that to do so is clear and saves a lot of time. There has been almost total disinterest in it here but we are overwhelmed with books as everybody has been writing during Covid and a lot of it is interesting.

I am also happy with blunt speech because I spent a lot of time in the Faculty of Health Sciences trying vainly to convince people that talking to people and sticking things in their bodies were qualitatively different and shouldn't be accommodated on the same scale with speech at one end and sticking things in peoples, bodies at the other. (Drugs, bullets, fists, etc. Only in America?)

I have been thinking about your website and wonder if what may be needed to proceed is three categories, namely NERDS, WONKS and MOMS. Potential researchers could then allocate themselves to the category they think best, in a non-



binary way, of course.

John Hewson, former failed Liberal PM aspirant and current Professor at the Crawford School of Public Policy at the ANU has been writing encouraging articles about Karl Popper in the newspapers recently. I may write to him about your website and send you a copy.

Have a good family vacation. If you remember, remind me what your sons are studying at Sydney Uni. when next you write.

Cheers Carol