

□ The Cynical Fossil

Used to innovate.

Now he just mocks.

This neurosurgeon was once a thinker — maybe even a pioneer. But somewhere along the way, curiosity curdled into contempt. Now, every new technique is a gimmick. Every new paper is “nonsense.” Every new generation is “soft.”

He doesn't ask “Is this better?” He asks “Who do they think they are?”

He no longer grows — he guards. Guards his legacy. His methods. His myths. He stopped learning the day he started laughing at those who still try.

He mistakes bitterness for wisdom. And fatigue for authority.

Where does it come from? Burnout. Betrayal. A sense that the field moved on without him. Instead of grieving that shift, he hardened against it — weaponizing his seniority to silence what challenges him. The less he's respected for what he does, the more he clings to what he once was.

What are the consequences? He poisons the culture for young surgeons. He blocks innovation, not with logic — but with sarcasm. He calls it “standards,” but it's really resentment. Adept trainees leave. Conformists stay. Progress stalls.

Dishonesty type: □ Cognitively flawed

Defends outdated practice not because it works — but because it's his. Rejects the future as a threat to the past.

Bottom line:

He's not wrong because he's old. He's wrong because he stopped updating.

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