

# AI-00148 Hero Syndrome

👤 Owner	© Rigel Arcayan
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## Hero syndrome

Hero syndrome, also known as the "savior complex," is a term used to describe a pattern of behavior where an individual feels a strong need to rescue or save others. People with hero syndrome may see themselves as a hero or savior, and they may go to great lengths to help others, often at their own expense.

While the desire to help others is generally a positive trait, people with hero syndrome may have an excessive need to be needed and may put themselves in danger or take on too much responsibility for the well-being of others. They may also struggle with boundaries and may have difficulty saying no to others, leading to burnout or feelings of resentment.

Hero syndrome is not a recognized mental health disorder, but it can be a symptom of other underlying issues such as codependency, low self-esteem, or unresolved trauma. Therapy or counseling can be helpful for individuals who struggle with hero syndrome, as it can help them develop healthier coping strategies and learn to set appropriate boundaries with others.

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Hero syndrome can manifest in a variety of ways. Some common signs or behaviors associated with hero syndrome may include:

1. A constant need to help others, often at the expense of their own needs or well-being.
2. Feeling a strong need to be needed, or to be seen as a hero or savior.

3. Taking on too much responsibility for the well-being of others, even when it is not necessary or appropriate.
4. Struggling with boundaries and saying no to others, which can lead to burnout or feelings of resentment.
5. Feeling anxious or restless when they are not able to help others or be in a position of service.
6. Believing that their value as a person is tied to their ability to help or save others.
7. Feeling uncomfortable when others express gratitude or admiration for their efforts, as it does not match their internal view of themselves.
8. Struggling with low self-esteem or feelings of inadequacy, and using the act of helping others as a way to feel better about themselves.

It is important to note that having a desire to help others is a positive trait, and many people who engage in acts of service or volunteer work may share some of the traits associated with hero syndrome. However, when these behaviors become excessive or interfere with an individual's well-being, it may be helpful to seek professional help.

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While hero syndrome is not a recognized mental health disorder, it can be a symptom of underlying mental health issues. For example, people with hero syndrome may struggle with codependency, which is a pattern of behavior where an individual puts the needs of others before their own, often to the point of sacrificing their own well-being.

People with hero syndrome may also struggle with low self-esteem or feelings of inadequacy, and may use helping others as a way to feel better about themselves. They may feel a sense of validation or worth when they are able to make a positive difference in someone else's life, and may struggle with their own sense of identity or purpose when they are not in a position to help others.

Therapy or counseling can be helpful for individuals who struggle with hero syndrome, as it can help them develop healthier coping strategies and learn to set appropriate boundaries with others. A therapist can also help the individual address any underlying

mental health issues, such as codependency or low self-esteem, that may be contributing to their hero syndrome.

It is important to note that hero syndrome can also have negative consequences for the people that the individual is trying to help. When someone is overly involved in another person's life, it can lead to a loss of autonomy and independence for the other person. It is important to strike a balance between helping and empowering others to take care of themselves.

#### Elaborate on the hero syndrome got started

The origins of hero syndrome are not entirely clear, but it may be related to certain personality traits or life experiences. For example, individuals who have experienced trauma or abuse may feel a strong need to help others as a way of reclaiming a sense of control or agency in their lives.

Similarly, people who have grown up in households where they were responsible for taking care of others may develop a pattern of behavior where they feel a strong need to be needed, or where they struggle to set appropriate boundaries with others.

In some cases, hero syndrome may also be related to societal or cultural factors. In cultures that place a high value on self-sacrifice and service to others, individuals may feel pressure to live up to these expectations and may develop a strong need to help others as a way of meeting these cultural norms.

In other cases, hero syndrome may be related to mental health issues, such as codependency or low self-esteem. People with codependency may feel a strong need to take care of others, often to the point of sacrificing their own well-being, while individuals with low self-esteem may use helping others as a way to feel better about themselves or to gain a sense of validation or worth.

It is important to note that hero syndrome can have both positive and negative consequences. While helping others can be a positive and meaningful experience, it is important to strike a balance between helping and empowering others to take care of themselves. Additionally, people with hero syndrome may put themselves at risk or experience burnout if they take on too much responsibility for the well-being of others.