

# TOPIC OF THE WEEK

## VARIATIONS ON THE THEME OF ETHICS

### **A dalliance between an inquisitive mind and Aria.**

#### **TOPIC 13**

Is unethical behaviour linked to narcissism?

#### **Aria replies!**

There is a significant link between unethical behaviour and narcissism! Research indicates that individuals with narcissistic traits are more likely to engage in unethical actions. Here are some key points that highlight this connection:

1. **Exploitation of Others:** Narcissists often tend to exploit others for personal gain. Their lack of empathy makes it easier for them to disregard the ethical implications of their actions.
2. **Grandiose vs. Vulnerable Narcissism:** Both grandiose (overtly self-important) and vulnerable (more insecure) forms of narcissism have been associated with unethical decision-making. Grandiose narcissists may feel entitled to bend the rules, while vulnerable narcissists might justify unethical behaviour to protect their self-image.
3. **Pro-Organisational Behaviour:** Interestingly, some studies suggest that narcissistic traits can lead to unethical behaviour that is framed as pro-organisational. This means that narcissists might engage in unethical practices if they believe it benefits their organisation or enhances their status within it.
4. **Lack of Accountability:** Narcissists often struggle with taking responsibility for their actions. They may rationalise unethical behaviour or blame others, which can perpetuate a cycle of misconduct.
5. **Emotional Responses to Ethics:** Research has shown that narcissists can react negatively to ethical leadership, often feeling anger or resentment. This emotional response can lead to withdrawal or even retaliatory, unethical behaviour.

