

Since my youth, I have wanted to be a writer of stories. The point was not to be world-famous, but to find expression of ideas by creating word structures that might be meaningful to readers. I was hoping to generate feedback that would foster other ideas that would lead to even more stories. Not achieving much of that, I still enjoy “selling” books for a “Thank You!” to people I know.

Actually, I receive a tremendous amount of response. I get a call or email almost every day from someone praising my book or encouraging me to receive their marketing help. Once the initial excitement of possible opportunities wore off, I realized that these were all various forms of a scam designed to separate me from a significant amount of my money.

The key factor (or bait) that lures the scammers is an author that has very low book sales in the marketplace. They usually speak with a heavy accent of their desire to speak with me about options to increase publicity and book sales. Often the emails suggest that my book could be made into a movie – obviously they had not actually read it. I did receive one very nice letter from a person that appeared to have really understood my work, but I began to suspect that it was written by an AI program.

I came to understand that these calls are something similar to how vultures circle around a dead or dying animal looking for a meal. Only these “book vultures” circle around a dying book. For emails, I sometimes check the internet to see if there are scam complaints recorded for the listed agency – and there is a lot of such information available.

Caller ID and an answering machine help me avoid actual contact with the vultures. I just worry about the victims of these scams, though, who are attacked when they are weakened by their thirst for success.

*Wherever there is a carcass, there the vultures will gather.*

*Matthew 24:28*

1. People call or email almost every day wanting to “help” with my book; they are like vultures circling above a dying body (or book) [Q21]
2. Think of my landline phone as the “vulture-phone” as it mostly records scam artists wanting to “promote” my book or make a movie deal (book vultures, etc.) [Q23]

Matthew 24:23-28

23 At that time if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Messiah!’ or, ‘There he is!’ do not believe it. 24 For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. 25 See, I have told you ahead of time.

26 “So if anyone tells you, ‘There he is, out in the wilderness,’ do not go out; or, ‘Here he is, in the inner rooms,’ do not believe it. 27 For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. 28 **Wherever there is a carcass, there the vultures will gather.**

Luke 17:30, 37

30 “It will be just like this on the day the Son of Man is revealed. ... 37 “Where, Lord?” they asked. He replied, “Where there is a dead body, there the vultures will gather.”