

This statement is from Paul Dabkowski and not an official statement of Tolgy Wood or Mass Ren Faire:

Insofar as this matter pertained to the business, it was settled with my accusers during the week leading up to the Renaissance Faire in August. The Tolgy Wood partnership was satisfied and the faire went off without incident. After that, my accusers began personal attacks against me and my businesses for my refusal to speak words that I do not believe. Since then, those attacks and threats have spread to people around me who had nothing to do with the situation, and the original story has been exaggerated by my accusers. Lies have been added. As I was only asked for comment on this article and was not provided the opportunity to first review it, it is my assumption that it includes many or all of these lies.

The root of this story is less about who I am and more about who Owen Benjamin is, so allow me to simply pull the rotten tooth so the healing can begin:

I discovered Owen Benjamin Smith some weeks after I used simple geometry to discover that the model of the earth and solar system that is taught in school is not accurate. (I used to teach Astronomy, so I am very familiar with this model.) After learning this and considering the endless lies and distractions required to support that narrative, there were suddenly very few news sources that were useful to me. Owen's podcast was one of these few (despite some of his earlier episodes in which his fear and anger got the best of him at times, but he has greatly improved).

Coincidentally, Owen once worked at a renaissance faire as a heckler at whom people threw tomatoes and rotten things. He never stopped being that guy, except now he heckles people over the internet for their weaknesses and their sins. His content is not for people who do not wish to look at their own failings, but he is a person who is full of love, not hate, just as I am. Owen is one of many people who helped me reach that point. He is the one who convinced me of the value of giving up pornography and all such related activities, and it is astounding how much better my life is for it. He taught me the futility of fear.

I have never seen believable evidence that Owen has ever done anyone harm. I have only ever heard him promote non-violence. He is a comedian who can certainly be harsh and frequently is, but I do not believe he has created any anti-Semites. Contrarily, I have seen him use logic to turn many anti-Semites away from their fear and hatred. While I certainly do not agree with him on all issues, I believe he is a great benefit to the world. He is banned from all major platforms because he illustrates false media narratives in real-time, which controlling powers cannot abide. As only one of countless examples, Richard Spencer, publicly avowed white supremacist, is allowed to actively recruit on platforms from which Owen is banned. I did not set out to promote Owen publicly, but it was requested of me that I give my personal statement about him, so this is what it is.

I believe the people in my community who have a problem with me listening to Owen's podcast are believing one of the many narratives that are meant to divide people, but I believe they are good people that originally came to believe in it by way of compassion. I fully understand how the resigning staff members came to their present opinion of me, and I love them anyway. The faces that I see snarling at me right now do not match the souls that I know to be underneath. I look forward to the time when they can see me again for the person they know me to be. They are still and always welcomed at the Mass Ren Faire and Tolgy Wood, provided they adhere to our non-harassment policy.