

The Arrogance, Bigotry, Irresponsibility, Immorality, and Dangers of Religion

by Thomas Edward Ulatowski

It is no wonder that believers often claim to be proud of their faith because faith entails an attitude of amazing arrogance. Christians and Muslims tell their children that they already know everything that matters. They have confidence that a perfect God cares about what they do and wants their company in Heaven--a stupendously magnificent reward that they will enjoy forever--immortally...while foolish non-believers go to hell or get eaten by worms.

Preachers and suicide bombers actually believe that they are assisting the Almighty by helping to get his message across!

Palestine has never been Christian. Ask any Christian why most of those who witnessed Jesus's miracles were unconvinced and they will commonly tell you that the Jews and Arabs in that area were either too closed minded or too evil to appreciate Jesus. Ask them why Jesus stayed in that area--with those people--for his whole life and they will probably think that you are the one who just can't appreciate the obvious--you are the one with the problem.

This is the world's greatest problem. Religious people are so conditioned from swallowing obvious lies that their individual self-control, their common sense, and their concern for the fate of humanity is D-E-A-D, dead.

Since there is no worldwide religious consensus, the belief in divine revelation produces this devastating dichotomy: Either God is not almighty because He was incapable of making Himself clear regarding the existence of one true religion, or the Almighty created mostly defective people who can't recognize His clear message. Consequently, faiths based on a revelation by a god who claims to be both

all-powerful and all-good must either inculcate a prejudice against nonbelievers or an aversion to impartial consideration, or both!

Another demographic fact corroborates this conclusion. Most countries have traditional religions; and even in the United States, there still is a correlation between an individual's faith and his or her parents' religion. If most people are simply inheriting their faith then they are not choosing it; therefore, they are not choosing it responsibly. Why would a good god reward someone who selfishly embraces a religion without bothering to determine that it is a morally correct decision? If the opportunity for immortal bliss is determined mostly by the inadvertent circumstances of birth, then no existing religion could be the product of a just god.

Discrepancies destroy the credibility of an allegation, and a mysterious god shouldn't expect to be believed. Nevertheless, the religious are so concerned with their selfish pursuit of an unjust eternal reward that they don't care whether their religious beliefs are just or even reasonable. For instance, if you ask Catholics why their Church was once a terrorist organization that started religious wars, tortured infidels, and brutally murdered heretics, the true believers might quietly assume that you are in league with the devil and hope that God strikes you dead "to show that you are wrong." Moreover, in order to maintain their status as moral authorities, religious professionals encourage their followers to endorse unjustified beliefs on faith. This outright denial of the importance of rational self-control is the most poisonous idea ever proposed because without the concern for responsible reasoning there is no restraint to propaganda or prejudice.

Responsible reasoning is so important that a halfway decent god would not have failed to emphasize it. Responsible behavior shows love; therefore, it is the key to morality. But, responsibility requires reacting to reality; so responsible reasoning requires the courage to face disturbing facts, the concern, and the patience to learn about important issues, and the humility and discipline to avoid pleasing presumptions. Concern, patience, courage, humility, and discipline are virtues. In absolute contrast, immorality is produced by thoughtlessness and presumption; and every selfish prejudice is sustained by a lack of regard for responsible reasoning. Consequently, even the greatest

moral principles are often meaningless when they are not implemented with responsible reasoning. For example, religions that proclaimed the golden rule still actively supported monarchy, feudalism, colonialism, slavery, and chauvinism; and religions that condemn killing still show little concern over unnecessary war. The religious disregard for responsible reasoning explains crusades, jihads, and inquisitions. In addition, it explains how the Christianconditioned Nazis assumed their arrogant, supremacist and aggressive beliefs without concern for objective justification. And, it even explains how the Christianconditioned Bolsheviks embraced communism, atheism, and totalitarianism without sound reason or evidence. Tyrants like Hitler and Stalin will continue to attract extremist mobs so long as religions condition their adherents to embrace beliefs, like greedy children, with no concern for responsible reasoning.

When serious thought is required all relevant facts must be honestly acknowledged. The All-Perfect Almighty God's religion should stand out; instead, any semi-powerful and just god must be hiding from us. Only a devil could be behind our current ball of delusion and confusion. Can anyone prove that their faith wasn't inspired by a tricky devil who enjoys seeing fools pretend that they know how to live? It is only blind faith that keeps people from seeing this obvious problem.

Whatever is right is right, so imagine this. If you trust in faith, the willful suspension of critical thinking, what if when you die there is an actual ALL-GOOD and Almighty God, and HE or SHE asks you why (instead of standing for responsibility, truth, and understanding) you stood for superstitious irresponsibility, provincial flimflam, and liars everywhere? How do you answer? Worse yet, suppose God tells you that you are insulting by implying that God is geographically-challenged and that the Almighty needs help from your religion's apologists, ministers, preachers, missionaries and theologians because God botched the communication!

To eliminate tyranny, we must accept our adult responsibilities. We must take personal responsibility for our choices, and we must accept the need for responsible reasoning. If we truly take control of our lives and demand responsive, effective, efficient, and honest political representation, then responsible governments will adopt sensible policies, and an era of peace could finally result.

In the Thirty Years' War (1618-1648) Protestants and Catholics tried to exterminate each other, and many millions of civilians were brutally murdered. This bloodbath convinced the Framers of our Constitution to value the love of reason as a safeguard against the evils of faith. The following quotes clearly show the Framers valued responsible reasoning over faith.

"We have abundant reason to rejoice, that, in this land, the light of truth and reason has triumphed over the power of bigotry and superstition..."

"Of all the animosities which have existed among mankind, those which are caused by difference of sentiments in religion appear to be the most inveterate and distressing, and ought most to be deprecated."

George Washington

"Such people as can be prevailed upon to believe, that their reason is depraved, may easily be led by the nose, and duped into superstition at the pleasure of those in whom they confide, and there remain from generation to generation: for when they throw by the law of reason the only one which God gave them to direct them in their speculations and duty, they are exposed to ignorant or insidious teachers, and also to their own irregular passions, and to the folly and enthusiasm of those about them, which nothing but reason can prevent or restrain..."

"Undoubtedly it is our duty, and for our best good, that we occupy and improve the faculties, with which our creator has endowed us, but so far as prejudice, or prepossession of opinion prevails over our minds, in the same proportion, reason is excluded from our theory or practice. Therefore if we would acquire useful knowledge, we must first divest ourselves of those impediments and sincerely endeavor to search out the truth: and draw our conclusions from reason and just argument, which will never conform to our inclination, interest or fancy but we must conform to that if we would judge rightly."

Ethan Allen

"Religious bondage shackles and debilitates the mind and unfits it for every noble enterprise, every expanded prospect."

James Madison

"I repeat, you must lay aside all prejudice on both sides, and neither believe nor reject anything, because any other persons, or description of persons, have rejected or believed it. Your own reason is the only oracle given you by heaven, and you are answerable, not for the rightness, but uprightness of the decision."

"The clergy believe that any power confided in me will be exerted in opposition to their schemes. And, they believe rightly."

"Reason and free inquiry are the only effectual agents against error."

Thomas Jefferson

"Let the human mind loose. It must be loose. It will be loose. Superstition and dogmatism cannot confine it."

"God is an essence we know nothing of. Until this awful blasphemy is gotten rid of there will never be any liberal science in the world."

John Adams

"The Government of the United States of America is not, in any sense, founded on the Christian religion."

The Tripoli Treaty of 1797 which was unanimously approved by the US Senate.

"As to Jesus of Nazareth, my Opinion of whom you particularly desire, I think the System of Morals and his Religion, as he left them to us, the best the world ever saw or is likely to see; but I apprehend it has received various corrupt changes, and I have, with most of the present Dissenters in England, some Doubts as to his divinity"

Benjamin Franklin

"The word of God is the creation we behold and it is in this word, which no human invention can counterfeit or alter, that God

speakeeth universally to man..."

"That which is now called natural philosophy, embracing the whole circle of science...is the study of the works of God, and of the power and wisdom of God in his works, and is the true theology."

Tom Paine

Two hundred and fifty years after the circumnavigation of the Earth, a new reality was emerging: no just god has provided any clear revelation to the majority of humanity. Today this fact is more apparent, clear, and undeniably true than all the hearsay versions of revelation. How can it not be insulting to a Creator to ignore the clearest facts? Only the smallest or the most selfcentered minds regard provincial traditions as factual.

"To suppose that God Almighty has confined his goodness to this world, to the exclusion of all others, is much similar to the idle fancies of some individuals in this world, that they, and those of their communion or faith, are the favorites of heaven exclusively; but these are narrow and bigoted conceptions, which are degrading to a rational nature, and utterly unworthy of God, of whom we should form the most exalted ideas."

"The representation of a God, who (as we are told by certain divines) from all eternity elected an inconsiderable part of mankind to eternal life, and reprobated the rest to eternal damnation ...is a selfish and inferior notion of a God void of justice, goodness, and truth, ...which, if admitted to be true, overturns all religion, ...resolving the whole into the sovereign disposal of a tyrannical and unjust being, which is offensive to reason and common sense, and subversive of moral rectitude in general."
Ethan Allen

In commerce, "very reasonable" always means "fair." This shows how reason unites us. We are rational by nature, and everyone claims to value responsible reasoning. When we give up the concern for responsible reasoning we surrender self-control. This requires self-deception that takes the form of a stupendous arrogance that belittles reason. This

perverted attitude explains how faith produces extremism: suicide bombings, beheadings, witch burnings, stonings, crusades, jihads, and disregard for prevention of future wars.

Religious apologists will often say that everyone relies on faith. They say that scientist have "faith in reason," or "faith that the universe is knowable," or "faith that the future will resemble the past." This dodge is ridiculous. Reason is constantly proven to be worthwhile. Reason works. No proposition has ever been more corroborated than the proposition that the universe is knowable. And we have justified confidence that the future will resemble the past because we know that things only change when something causes the change, and not merely because time has passed. If reason wasn't reliable there would be no difference between sanity and insanity!

Religious apologists sometimes argue that atheists have no morality, or that morality can only be supported by religious belief. Get real. Why is it in all the religious stories about gods, the first thing a god always says is that he is "All GOOD;" but no god ever said, "I am going to teach you something new, what it means to be good?" The Bible says that you should kill your neighbor when you see him working on the Sabbath. All sane believers ignore this instruction from God. This proves that most religious followers derive their morality from common sense and not from the Bible. This means that apologists are hypocrites whenever they say otherwise. Discovering what is right always requires the concern for responsible reasoning.

Religion is a lot like hypnosis or a drug. Like a powerful drug, religion is an escape from reality. Religion helps people to feel better. It helps people to cope with depressing events. And, sometimes it even helps people to function better. Unfortunately, like a dangerous narcotic, religion has deadly side effects.

A bad side effect is that religion provides believers with an excuse not to try to solve our most serious problems: like how to achieve world peace, or how to become a just civilization. Religious adherents actually think that praying can solve these problems. They think that praying is really DOING. Most believers have faith that praying is doing enough! In this regard, religion is really a mental derangement. Believers have been conditioned to ignore any fact that doesn't fit with their preconceptions. How can it

not be insulting to a Creator to ignore the clearest facts?

[Ultimately, peace is] "about attitudes; about a sense of EMPATHY; about breaking down the divisions that we create for ourselves in our own minds and our own hearts that don't exist in any objective reality, but that we carry with us generation after generation." "Learning to stand in somebody else's shoes, to see through their eyes, that's how peace begins. Empathy is a quality of character that can change the world."

Barack Obama

If empathy is an important virtue, then religious indifference is a deadly vice. Both Christians and Muslims callously believe that suffering in this life is insignificant compared to the eternal damnation justly earned by disbelievers. In addition, the faithful, apathetic adherents don't worry about preventing World War III--they just pray to their respective gods.