

11.

Religion Fails

In America 74% claim to be Christian, while in Japan 2% profess to be Christian.(1,2) Yet Americans have a higher murder rate, higher rape rate, higher robbery rate, higher drug addiction rate, higher sexually transmitted disease rate, higher homeless rate, higher welfare rate, and higher divorce rate. However, not everything is higher: Americans have lower life expectancy and overall lower intelligence.

Though the Japanese are religious, American Christians see theirs as the only correct viewpoint and send missionaries to enlighten other countries. Considering the state of America, this is outrageous. So, are various religions so bad they should be eliminated completely, or would radical changes be sufficient? I address these issues, and provide observations, explanations, and solutions.

Institutionalized Cruelty

I was at the movies, watching *Slumdog Millionaire*. There was a scene of a boy running, who fell into a giant cesspool of liquid poop. The audience burst out laughing. Yet this reflects a terrible reality. In the bordering countries of India and Nepal, 80% of people are of the Hindu religion. Now the Vedas are Hindu's main religious texts. The Rig Veda's Purusha sukta contains a creation account: from "God" four social classes supposedly arose.(3) From his mouth came the highest class, from his arms another class, from his thighs another, and from his feet the lowest servile class. From this lowest class some worked the dirtiest jobs, spawning a fifth class: "Untouchables" or "Dalits".(4) Yet only one Vedic passage mentions the caste system, many deny this passage's authenticity, and untouchables aren't even mentioned there. People pick what they want from religious texts, twist them, and ignore the rest. Therefore, certain scriptures are medieval maces. Certainly they're mostly pleasant and harmless; that's the wielder's handle; victims are bashed with their far ends.

Many deny that India and Nepal still have "untouchables", which denials are monstrous lies. Others claim that untouchables are gladly fulfilling their karma to achieve a better afterlife, another monstrous lie. Due to lack of plumbing and adequate sewage systems, people relieve themselves in "dry toilets" (merely cement enclosures). Others publicly relieve themselves in spots that drain into crude sewers. Hinduism's caste system regulates "Dalits" (formerly "Untouchables") to either clean these messes or starve to death.

Emptying "dry toilets" is called manual scavenging.(5) Adequate equipment is unavailable, so workers, usually women, use brooms and scrapers to gather waste into baskets, and must carry these oozing baskets many kilometers to dumping grounds. Pay is terrible; workers make just enough to survive. They cannot afford gloves or other protective gear, let alone transportation. Therefore workers perpetually stink of human waste. Washing cannot kill the powerful stench, since it's renewed every day. Many have infected boils from the contagion; other are blinded by it.(6)

Sewage workers, usually men, also lack basic protective gear. They sometimes stand waste high in raw sewage which clings to their body, while clearing jams with sticks. Workers also encounter dead rotting animals. Broken bottles lurk in the blackened mire, tearing worker's flesh. Other sewage workers are lowered by rope into narrow holes to clear blockages. Oftentimes, workers are crippled by accidents, or die from suffocation or exposure to poison gas. Safety measures are advocated but rarely implemented; first aid is nonexistent.(7)

Eighty percent of manual scavengers and sewer workers die prematurely from work-related health problems. There is no health insurance, social security, or enough money to save up anything. These jobs being officially illegal does little; a million people still endure these worst jobs. Many are outright slaves. Even Indian farmers have it badly; many cannot survive, despite their valuable work. The "god-ordained" caste system also forces worker's children, grandchildren, and every subsequent generation into those same lives. If pious people ignore this problem, their religion is excrement. If non-religious people ignore this problem, their hum-

anism is excrement. To qualify as human, we must address iniquity. Instead, we are selfish crybabies who complain if somebody doesn't flush our toilet after urinating just once. Even some successful Indian "Christians" hypocritically flee India for America instead of staying to help their own people. But since the phenomenon of the untouchable class is only a small fraction of Hinduism, this can be eliminated. Therefore, here are some considerations:

There is no proof that people are reincarnated into low states as punishment for misdeeds in past lives. Those from other religions have strong lines of reasoning against it. And if reincarnation does happen, maybe you'll come back as a dung beetle for tolerating abuse of "Dalits". Or if you have relatives who live in India or Nepal, make sure they know about this terrible plight, so they can campaign against it. Or, competent Indian workers could be sent to create adequate plumbing and sewage systems, and teach their people to maintain these systems. Regardless, it is the Hindu people's own responsibility to help their own, as they know the language and culture, and it is their own blood. Us Whites cannot help everybody.

For American Whites hell-bent on aiding the world, aid very carefully. If you give money, that money can be stolen by corrupt governments. Even if money helps starving people become healthy, they will likely reproduce and create even more starving people. So focus on the quality of life instead of its quantity. For example, consider shipping large quantities of rubber gloves, gas masks, and other protective gear to those who work with human waste.

Also, dividing the dirty work among various classes is no solution. Now animal waste is often relatively harmless, and could even be beneficial, such as cow manure. And coming into contact with your own fresh waste is harmless since you cannot catch a disease from yourself that you do not already have. Yet human waste from others is extremely hazardous due to foreign chemical makeups and foreign bacteria. Therefore, everyone needs to clean their own shit. If nobody intends to cooperate, perhaps the oppressed should revolt against their oppressors, and threaten them with violent revolution unless they eradicate their terrible cruelty. Under coercion, radical changes could occur. Again, if you don't care about your own people, your value as a human has been flushed down the toilet. So always be mindful of others. And always keep in mind that your shit stinks like everyone else's. Regardless what, pray for all those who are considered untouchables of any type, that justice may be served.

What Else Must Change

Nastiness and self-righteousness: Some groups mistreat those who don't share their beliefs. Many pontificate hatefully, spitefully, or pride-fully. Others have the doctrine of eternal torture, and that those who have no opportunity to hear their spiel are damned.

Misplace funds: Billions of dollars are used to create expensive church buildings, temples, synagogues, and mosques instead of funding good causes. Other well-meaning people give money to poor countries. However, those in power take the money themselves, while the poor multiply, creating even more destitute and starving people.

Disrespecting animals/nature: Many people who support the Golden Rule, treating others how they would like to be treated, only apply it to Homo sapiens. See Animal Rights/Environmental Groups in XXXI.Money.

Defending cruel, unjust, contradictory, or nonsensical religious texts: No book is proven to be a perfect document authored by a supreme god. Pushing that idea causes rejection by nonbelievers and often causes harm. See XVIII.Telephoning God?

Not being proactive: Inaction because God is supposedly taking care of people, or not working to prevent bad conditions, then trying to pick up the pieces later. Part of what prevents being successfully proactive is ignorance of science, logic, and human nature.

Antisocial constructs: Religious people are much more divided than non-religious people. Besides, sense of community between religious people is usually superficial, chiefly caused by society's transience.

Unnecessary war/violence: Although the connection between religion and violence is exaggerated, and the nonreligious have been just as violent, we expect more from pious people, considering their claims.

Competing personal testimonies: Although personal testimonies are commendable, people from every religion, sect, and cult give powerful testimonies of how their lives were bettered from their beliefs. Myriads of people testify how they or someone else was healed by the power of prayer, meditation, or their spiritual leader. Atheists can also give personal testimonies as to how their lives improved through discovering a better system of thought and living. So personal testimony must be validated by a logical explanation as to why our philosophy is advantageous over someone else's.

God's Providence?

Here are general categories of supposed experiences of God's providence:

A~ Argument from devastation: If fifty to eighty percent of a certain group suffer a natural disaster or disease, "God punished them" (while arbitrarily skipping the rest). Yet we've known for centuries that climatic and biological irregularities causes these conditions.

B~ Argument from *incomplete* devastation: If a hundred people die in a fiery plane crash while one child survives, "God miraculously saved that child" (simpering naivety). Besides, the arguments from devastation and incomplete devastation contradict one another.

C~ Playing it both ways: "If things go my way, God blessed me or my guardian angel was working. But if they don't, then God moves in mysterious ways. If things don't go YOUR way, you're ungodly or lack faith. But if my religious leader fails or lacks faith, "The Devil was targeting men of God." Also, people support their positions with "It's right here in Scripture" (Old Testament). But when confronted with other Old Testament passages which they ignore and violate, they dismiss them with "We're not under the old law."

D~ God's workings: If I am healthy, have a loving spouse, good job, et cetera, "that's because God blessed me." This insults others who lack these things which "God" doesn't bless them with. Rather, it's evident that good or bad fortune usually happen by blind chance. Actually, whenever anyone declares that God did anything which can be explained by natural means, it is a form of presumption.

E~ Spiritual intuition: During brief encounters with a holy person and a sociopath, you couldn't tell which one is which if they both bit you on the nose. Saying you can easily tell is judgmental-ism. See XXV.Communication Fails.

F~ Specific cases: "I was cornered by a vicious dog about to attack. I yelled out "God, help me!" The dog immediately stopped, closed its mouth, and ran off." How about the dog was trained to respond to a commanding voice, or was scared off by someone who was five times bigger than it and shouting. Now meet a hungry lion or dangerous snake which can't hear shouting since snakes are deaf; see what happens.

"I was caught in a hail of bullets; none of them hit me. Therefore God protected me." But handguns are notoriously inaccurate at any sizable distance, unless fired by someone trained in marksmanship. And what about everyone who is shot; God overlooked them?

