

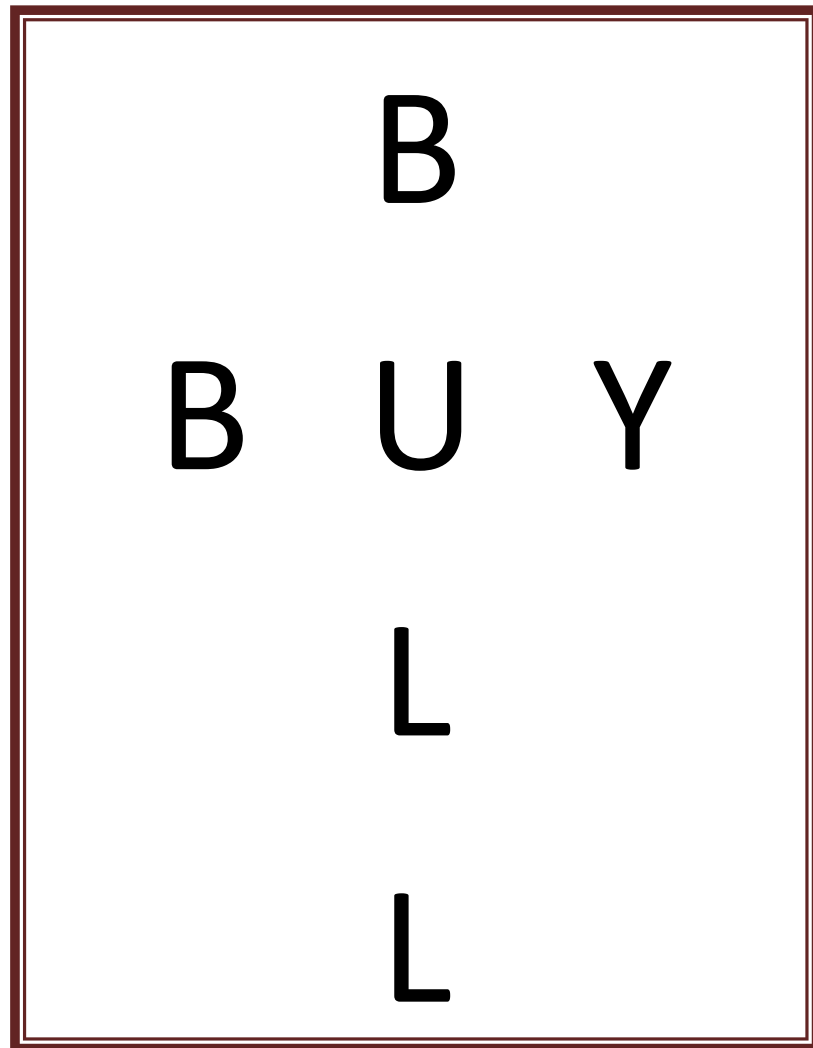
A Logical Critique hypothesizing about the nature of religion.

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The



A Logical Critique of (a) Religion

By

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THE NEED FOR THIS BOOK

Perhaps one of the strongest justifications for critiquing the Bible was expressed by a person I knew who was raised Christian. He expressed the sentiment "Christianity is the most insidious form of child abuse." Millions of people at the most vulnerable and defenseless period of their life, early childhood, are assailed with a rash of assertions that if they don't do what many Christians interpret as the 'right' thing, they will be eternally punished. Now it is one thing to attempt to mold a child's behavior and quite another to coerce that behavior using terrorism. It is also one thing to mold a child's behavior using the threat of hell if you're walking and water and quite another to do it when you can't walk on water.

It's hard to imagine all the human pain that has been endured by students due to misguided teachers and bad textbooks. But that is nothing compared to the pain endured by people, indoctrinated at a young age, who spend their whole life wrestling with the inconsistencies of their first-century metaphysics book. It's one thing to not understand the intricacies of the physical universe. It's quite another thing to be perpetually insecure about the foundation in which one lives their lives. Christianity teaches its adherents that they are like the tallest thing in a thunderstorm. People go through their whole life fearful of a lightning bolt from Zeus. What a way to live!

The heinous aspect of this practice, the Christian indoctrination of children, is that it is really psychological warfare perpetrated on children. Brainwashing, if you will. Now it may sound like an exaggeration to call it terrorism but in all fairness, threatening a child with hell, even if you could prove the threat was valid, is unconscionable. It would be like allowing a small child to see a decapitated body or senseless brutality. A better example is when a child molester molests a child and tells them that they will kill their parents if they say anything. There are probably fewer things sadder or more tortuous for a child than for them to have the threat of their parents being killed hanging over their heads. There are some things that are best to not expose a child to until they are old enough to handle it mentally.

Another aspect of Christianity and some other religions that makes this book necessary is their prohibitionist hegemony over so many people. Pseudo moralistic simpletons get up on the pulpit and declare that homosexuality is a 'sin' and proceed to make life miserable to a fairly large number of people just because they are simple and actually think their simplistic acceptance of someone else's dribble gives them the right to persecute people they can't understand. As long as someone can get up and declare that they talk to God (as in knowing for a fact that their belief of what God said is uncontested fact) without any substantiation and proceed to dictate laws accordingly, there needs to be someone pointing out that there is no credible foundation to think that anyone's 'gospel' is of divine origin. Even if everyone in the whole world is willing to believe God dictated some text, the lack of anyone walking on water and the laws of probability suggest that any such claims are suspect at best. There certainly isn't sufficient substantiation upon which to base laws prohibiting individual freedom. We're just lucky one of the nuts who contributed to the Bible didn't declare colored people as 'unholy'.

In addition to the moralistic authoritarianism, religion fosters in people a sort of co-dependent personality disorder. When people see their whole reality as being about Jesus, they live as if they are in a co-dependent relationship with someone whose approval/disapproval is all that matters. It is especially bad in that their emotional well being is tied entirely to what they imagine Jesus is thinking. It's not that their entire reality is based on the whim of another party. It's worse than that. It's that their happiness is tied to what they imagine this other party might think of them. It is this institutionalized devotion indoctrination that adds to the need for a serious critique of this practice.

THE IMPETUS BEHIND THIS BOOK

Before I begin the logical debate, it needs to be mentioned why this book came about. I was indoctrinated with Christian fantasies as a child and have wrestled with them from day one... plus. Worse yet, I was actually willing to give them some credibility and tried to implement them in my life. But let me be clear. It's not that I don't still believe in some form, many of the tenets espoused in the Bible, I simply didn't understand that they need to be taken with several hundred grains of salt. The problem with taking Biblical platitudes at face value is that it is just plain nonsense.

My own personal experience is an excellent example of what I want to say. In the Bible, it says things like, "Love thy neighbor as yourself" and "If a man asks for your shirt, give him your coat too" blah blah, yada yada yada, etc. So I go through life thinking that these are the tenets I should try to abide by. Then the natural dynamics of reality take their course.

The way this came about for myself was that I inadvertently came into contact with a group of people who are the present day equivalent of first century untouchables, except that they are untouchables because of lifestyle rather than disease. Mind you, I really didn't seek these people out as I never had any conscious inclination to play missionary but rather I came into their sphere as a result of ill-considered decisions on my part. However, once in these people's reality, I became a target of their manipulative survival dynamics. In the beginning, I was operating from the perspective that if a person asks for your coat, give them your shirt and that one should do good to their oppressors. What I found out is that people who ask for your coat will then steal your shirt. When it was all said and done, there was no doubt in my mind that my indoctrination of such platitudes was the greatest disservice ever perpetrated on me personally. I had no doubt whatsoever that that way of thinking was pathologically retarded and from that point on, I never looked back. Finally, I was able to assess what I was taught but only by the process described in this book.

An explanation of how I was conned is in order because the con job I am going to describe probably had a lot to do with my wholesale rejection of Christian delusion. One of the more common techniques which worked so well on me is a two part dynamic. First, a person acts extremely amicable to another and feigns genuine admiration regarding this other individual. They will play this act for a time to allow time for this illusion of friendship to develop. Usually they will do some kind deed or extend some gesture to support a future "I did this for you so you owe me" ploy. Then the second act of the con follows. They will relay some story of how they are innocent victims of misfortune through no fault of their own. Then they will tell you how you are their friend and the only one good enough to care and help them out.

I later realized the similarity this con scheme has to Christianity. We're told Jesus did us this big, no, immeasurable favor and now he deserves our undaunted adoration.

So I go through this phase of really trying to live the 'good' word. What does it mean to tell yourself you believe this stuff if you're not really willing to pick up the robber victim and put him up in a motel? Ultimately, I attract only those people willing to let you do for them. It was like a sheep walking into a wolves den. The next thing you know I run into this series of acquaintances, one after another, who all, ultimately, take their bite of flesh and leave. It was this sordid experience that finally allowed me to perform a self induced **cranalectomy**. That is, I pulled my head (CRANIum) out of my rear (ANAL). I was finally able to see why much of what I had been taught in the Bible was clearly hogwash. I could see that one Biblical quote in particular that goes "If a man asks for your shirt, give him your coat" had to be just plain wrong. In my experience, it appeared to reinforce reprehensible behavior. Giving to those that ask will attract all those willing to take and reinforce that dysfunctional behavior. People who accept their personal responsibility to provide for themselves will do without or earn their needs.

Now of course there are, on few occasions, responsible people who find themselves in need, such as someone who saved their money but got wiped out by medical bills. These are cases where giving can be

helpful and does not reinforce dysfunctional behavior, but as a rule, this blanket “give to those that ask” is clearly BS, hence the word Bull in the title of this book.

Basically, in subscribing to the ‘be a doormat’ gist of the Bible, I attracted people looking for a sucker. They asked for my coat and then stole my shirt. In retrospect, I note how the world is actually arranged and why the things that happened to me occurred.

If you look at what people are all about, this is what it seems to me. Everyone starts out as a child. They are at the bottom of the pyramid. In order to get what they want, they have to figure out what manipulation tools they can use to get their parents to give them what they want. So at the earliest ages, they are learning the art of con-artistry. Unfortunately, many people never realize that they are enacting this dynamic and continue this behavior their entire lifetime. So what we have is a world full of two types of people. There are those who realize their own responsibilities to carry their own weight and the inappropriateness of imposing on others, and then there are those who think it’s all about grifting others.

Now for this second group of individuals, they may not consciously realize that their behavior is manipulative. They are simply suffering from a case of arrested development and are continuing to act like children where they fulfill their needs by getting other people to supply them. Unfortunately, ‘give all your money to the poor and follow me’ provides an inappropriate feedback to this latter group of individuals and reinforces their dysfunctional behavior.

Over the years, I have learned to recognize many of these manipulation techniques. One of the most obvious but not so obvious is the anger con. This is where someone tries to get you to change your mind about a choice of personal action by disapproving with extreme prejudice. It’s hard to believe it took so long for me to realize that I hadn’t even asked for that person’s opinion, much less that I should subjugate my own personal decisions in favor of their opinion.

Following this awakening, I began to review more and more of my Biblical indoctrination. Now that I was mentally free to question these teachings, I was able to critique these teachings with the thoughts I’ve always had. Thoughts that made it impossible for me to understand the teachings in the first place. This book is the result of this questioning.

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