

Self-abnegation: Religion's Malevolent gift! **alexis dolgorukii © 2002**

The subject I wish to address herein is the derogation and abnegation of individuality which would appear to be a very urgent part of the agenda of all the world's religions.

As whoever wrote Shakespeare's plays so wisely said: "To thine own self be true, thou canst not then be false to any man". To be true to one's self absolutely requires self-esteem, and yet religion would have us abnegate the self. When the self is negated, one cannot be true to anything! But one CAN be subservient to the religion or political system which taught the principle.

You will have noticed I included "political systems". I do so due to the clear fact that all of the governmental systems on this planet are inextricably entwined with the religions of the people, therefore because of religion's almost universal emphasis on this subject, the same abnegation of the individual has transferred into the agenda of most if not all current political systems and groups.

The effects of this attack on the individual have been the development of Communitarianism, relativism, and worst of all egalitarianism, which are wholly retrogressive in their effect on the evolution of intelligence. People have equal rights under the law, this is unalienable. BUT, they are not "equal" to one another in the sense of being the "same" as one another. Individual humans are anything but alike, and they are NOT of equal value in their contributions to the societies in which they dwell!

In every religion, and in those political systems which serve as religions, one of the principle common attributes is the inculcation of self-denial and self-abnegation on the part of their congregations. In all religions and in political systems such as Communism and even in Democracies ("Ask not what your country can do for you but what you can do for your country"); individuals are expected to abase themselves. We see this most clearly demonstrated in the act of Roman Catholics kneeling and kissing the ring of their Bishops, in Hindus making puja to their multiplicity of deities, and in the Muslim practice of prostrations several times a day. . It is my strongest belief that no one should kneel to anyone or anything for any reason whatsoever!

I most definitely include bowing the knee to that hypotheticality called "God".

While this is the most obvious and flagrant example, a slightly more subtle kind of self-abasement is practiced towards political leaders and the ministers of other religions as well. In the case of religions, the individual is made to believe that the abasement is to their "God" by way of "respect" paid to "his" minions. Where politics is concerned the pretense is that the respect paid to political figures is actually symbolic only and is actually respect paid to the nation-state! The President of the United States is surrounded by Pomp and circumstances (and protection) more than any King or

Emperor in History!

But “statism” is the very worst aspect of this phenomenon!

Self-abasement of any kind, no matter the excuse, to another Human Being or to a Human-based institution, is degrading, but self-abasement to a thing that possesses only a hypothetical existence is not simply degrading it is truly harmful to the intellectual development of the individual.

If human existence is anything other than absolutely purposeless; then it must serve two goals. The most important of it is these goals is the advancement and increase of intelligence and awareness. The other goal serves the first; it is the perfection of individuality.

The fully independent liberated individual is the most important factor in the evolution and infinitization of the gestalt intelligence field that is the “life force” which is the universe as we know it.

Now that would seem to be a contradictory statement, would it not? How can a gestalt be made up of perfectly independent individuals? Actually, it can be nothing less. A true Gestalt cannot be homogeneous, it must be composed of completely independent individuals who, by way of their individuality, and through the symphony created by that vast number of independent “notes”, become, like a piece of music, a whole made up of independent notes being played in harmony. In point of fact, “harmony” is not absolutely necessary either in music or life, sometimes dissonance is more productive! It certainly can be more interesting!

But let me start by trying to explain my understanding as to why religion and certain Governments try so hard to make a crime out of individualism.

Well, I think it’s perfectly obvious that the fully independent and fully liberated individual is very hard to control. Control, I believe, is the primary motivation of the Religious leadership and, of course, of the Governments as well. With control comes power, and the attainment of power is the primary motivation of religion and government.

When the assertion of self and of one’s rights is viewed as “sinful” or “criminal” then the individuals so controlled will passively permit those who make up the power structures of religion and government to make decisions for them and to control even most minor factors of their lives. That’s the primary reason both religion and government make such tremendous efforts to control sexual expression. Control that, and you control everything!

To demonstrate the extent to which both religion and governments regard individualism as a threat to their power, all we need to do is look at their definition of “Satan”.

Satan is the inculcator of individuality, the preacher of independent individualism, the

primary libertarian.

Satan is the “tempter”. But what is it that he “tempts” people to do. Satan tempts humans to attain self-knowledge and the full understanding of the difference between good and evil. Not intrinsic good and evil, for those are total myths, but of actual good and evil which are merely the perceived results of human actions. We can easily see this as true because in the biblical myth of Eden, “God” forbids Adam and Eve to eat of the fruit of two trees, one is the tree of eternal life, and the other is the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. They ate of the tree of knowledge and enraged their so-called “creator”.

Satan is portrayed as “The Adversary” and religions pretend that Satan is the adversary of mankind, but that is completely untrue. As the Native Americans so wisely know, their “trickster” (and that is all any Satanic figure is) is humanity’s friend and mentor. The mythological Satan is actually the adversary of the mythological God. The “God figure” seeks control and power, the Satan figure seeks absolute liberty. If Satan were to have a motto, it would surely be that **“No one can ever be too free”**.

Now, I think I have made it clear that both “Satan” and “God” are myths just as “absolute good” and “absolute evil” are myths. But the creation of the Satan myth shows the extent to which religion and governments are willing to go to discourage individualism.

One of the most insidious ways that has been used in this effort is the identification of individualism as “self-love”.

There is a clear and distinct difference between the assertion of individuality and self-absorption! Independent individuality is a positive thing while self-absorption is not! Oddly enough, in my experience, the religious true believer is more frequently self-absorbed than is the independent individual.

The implication upon which religion and government insist is that the individualist is not simply self-absorbed, but is irresponsible, selfish and a very poor citizen. This is the same argument they use against the agnostic and the atheist. They claim that a person cannot be a good person unless they “believe in God”. In other words, people are only “good” because they are terrified of the images of post-mortem retribution fostered by religion.

This is not true. A good person is a good person no matter what their beliefs. But I will state categorically that both political systems and religions can easily turn a good person into something entirely different and opposite! This is clearly demonstrated by the activities of fundamentalists of *all* stripes and beliefs. Anyone who is more than willing to force their beliefs on others is not a good person no matter what they claim!

Christianity was forced upon Europe at the point of a Roman sword, then by Charlemagne’s Knights, then by the Teutonic Knights. Mohammad and his General Omar swept out of the Arabian Desert and converted the Middle East, North Africa, and Spain at the point of a scimitar, his descendants today, the Islamists, would convert the world to

their oppressive beliefs with bombs and machine guns. Only the Buddhists and Hindus are free of the guilt of forcing conversion, but they are the most guilty of preaching self-abasement! No religion is free of it.

One of the worst effects of this phenomenon is that the ideal of self-negation makes it possible for people to be willing to die for their religion's goals and agendas. Think of how much less bloodshed and misery there would be in the world without these pernicious belief systems!