

Holy Wars

By

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The Simple Humanist

A view of holy wars as seen by a simple, regular guy and Humanist who considers both the terms “holy” and “war” to be insane concepts. This article examines the origins of holy wars from mythology and the emergence of religion and mind control by shamans, priests, imams, and ministers. The simple Humanist solution to this insanity can only be found by turning away from the lies of supernatural belief systems to the truths of Reason, Science and Humanism.

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The Simple Humanist is an average person and does not consider himself a philosopher or a scholar of Humanist thought and writing. He is just a regular guy who thinks about things with a Humanist outlook, probably like most of the invisible Humanists who live and think quietly in most towns and cities of the world. We are, perhaps, a very large—yet unknown and unheard—portion of the humans alive today.

It seems that the terms “war” and “holy” are both descriptions of insanity. But, the insanity ratchets up to *absolute* insanity when the terms are combined into “holy war.”

Holy wars are prevalent in all of our cultures and histories, regardless of ethnicity, geography, or time. They have been with us since humans evolved and began living in societies. The phenomena of Nature, being unknown and frightening, gave rise to supernatural explanations—almost always attributed to a god or super being—and we, as a species, were off to the races.

Holy

While there are exceptions, most of the fallacies stemming from the term “holy” are created by men. With few exceptions, those who wage ideological wars have been men, not women. This is a particularly interesting reality; one can almost conclude that this is a “my god is bigger than your god” form of insanity, little different from half-dressed, fist-pumping, male football fanatics with painted faces enraged by enormous amounts of alcohol, testosterone and savagery.

The earliest charlatans, however, discovered that their supernatural myths, if sufficiently bold and frightening, would induce fear and offer the opportunity to control other humans. If you create sufficient fear, you control those who fear. And so, history saw the rise of the shamans, the mystics, and the priests: the myth, fear, belief, and mind controllers. Power over humans was born into Nature.

Here is where the power becomes corrupt, however. In order to sustain the power over others, it became necessary to tie the created, mythical fear to the life force of the individual being controlled. This gave us the concept of “eternal life” through being specifically included

among the “believers.” If the volcano required a young woman to be sacrificed, and the reward for all believers was another year of life, the young woman was thrown into the pit. So declared the priests, and so followed the believers. The habit of “following” was reinforced and all followers were required to believe the same myths. Soon, the concept of “tribute” emerged and mythology, gods, priests, sacraments, beliefs, following—and the promise of eternal life—became measured by tribute or the giving of value. Ultimately, the control through supernatural mythology would include the amassing of wealth by the corrupt shamans, priests and the emerging sects.

Over the sweep of time since the evolution of humans, we can surmise a giant leap from the first pre-historic experience and fear of lightning to the modern day bloated coffers of the church. The vast period of time in between was simply the research and development period for the architects and creators of the greatest organized myth ever conceived in all of our existence: the concept of “holy.”

War

Logic alone would tell you that when you have a good thing like the “holy” scam, you have to protect it from others who want a piece of the action. With the emergence of societies, there came the development of languages, leading to storytelling, then to written stories, and finally to holy writings or “scriptures.” The scriptures formed those holy or divine prescribed beliefs that controlled the population of believers who followed and sought the false promise of eternal life.

Like a good stage play, the script, as well as the acting, has to be sufficiently compelling to draw an audience and convince them to fork over a substantial part of their disposable income. And so, we have the creation of the Old Testament, a really scary, dark, and foreboding story about god, death and rules.

Here, the sects began to emerge in influence. Fast forward to Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and Others. Somewhere in the earlier mists of recorded history, after the emergence of scriptures and sects, the shamans, imams, priests, and ministers established the “My God is Bigger than Your God” fallacy within the mass insanity of the “holy” concept in order to maintain majority control of the minds of fearful, following believers in eternal life who will provide the wealth and treasure *in perpetuity*. The game is afoot.

The consequence is that humankind has experienced over two thousand years of mass slaughter, mind control, repression of joy and of pleasure, fleecing of treasure, and the mind-crushing assumption of guilt, misery and sorrow, all in the name of religion. Not one positive thing has ever evolved from this mass insanity.

Holy War

When we think of the two concepts of “holy” and “war” together, the only conclusion possible is that holy wars are bogus in every regard. They are rooted in mythology and supernatural fear and control; they are invented by corrupt, wealth-amassing mind controllers; they prey upon, yet demand the sacrifice of, the very believers they are seeking to control, and this makes the priests, ministers, imams, and shamans little more than religious pimps and panderers.

There can be no end to the scourge of holy wars until humankind comes to value the evidence-based logic and truth of Reason and Science over the lies of religion's supernatural, mythical power and wealth grab. Religion, in all of its guises and infamies, and through the fanatical spread of holy war, is doubtless the greatest threat to humankind today.

For The Simple Humanist, the only response possible is to live one's life within the principles of a secular Humanist reality and to encourage others, through exploration and education, to embrace Humanist mental health and happiness and turn away from the insanity and horror of religion.

Don Libey, The Simple Humanist, lives in Ocala, Florida. He is a retired Intermediary and is the author of seventeen books, including two in which he edited and organized the orations of Robert Greene Ingersoll into prose, book format. Fifteen years ago he experienced total liberation and freedom from religion and spent five years studying the writings of Dr. Paul Kurtz, ultimately finding a satisfying life in Humanism and atheism.