

As a seeker of truth, to me, evil is any erroneous belief that sews a mind's eye shut, prevents a person from realizing the true nature of reality. In order to promote our existence in & improve reality, we must understand reality. As was shown by what happened to Copernicus in his time &, among other events, what happened to a spiritual, personal God (an impossibility<sup>1</sup>) requires the believer to sew their eyes shut & inspires them to sew others' eyes shut.

Madonna pointed out that "we are living in a material world," yet believers in a spiritual God must put their faith in their immaterial God above the seeable, touchable, & potentially dangerous material world. This is ironic, given that those who believe in a perfectly good, spiritual God who created the material world & everything in it must disregard the very senses & brain they believe God endowed them with in order to believe in such a God.

"Oh my God! If God doesn't exist, all Hell's gonna break loose!" some who've taken Pascal's Wager think. Well, if God does not exist, then neither could the Devil & <sup>the</sup> Hell that a perfectly-good God is supposed to have created. Unless the Devil exists & inspired a false belief in God as the most sadistic torment ever dreamed up: teasing humanity with a false hope that God loves them & if they live a life of self-denial they can live in "Paradise" for eternity. But I'll leave this fertile thought alone... for now.

Believing in God, even if God doesn't exist, can serve the practical purpose of dissuading the Homer Simpsons of our world from pissing in their & our Kool-Aid. This is because people generally only act decent (follow the golden rule) when they suspect someone is watching who might judge & sentence them, such as an omnipotent & omnipresent God. I suspect that all people only act decent, whether or not they consciously realize they are only acting, because they hope to gain something by it (according to the findings of game-strategy researchers, as noted in The Universe & a Teacup, they will). I'm not criticizing us players, but believe we'd be spared a lot

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**F.N. 1** Post #119 reveals why a spiritual God is an impossibility. A personal God is an impossibility because such a God would need 7 billion-plus personalities, one for every living human. It's more explicable that God is a psychological phenomenon, the projection of each individual's needs, beliefs, desires, etc. Thus some people believe God condemns homosexuality, while others believe God's gay, etc.

of hypocritical angst + condemnation of others if we better understood ourselves. Sure, Theism can artificially civilize Homer Simpson, but it can also artificially turn him into a demon, inspiring + justifying the oppression, torture, even murder of non-popular people: assertive, independent women deemed witches, the mentally ill, those with atypical beliefs, cultures, or appearances, as well as animals + the environment, despite the believers' belief that their God created these things.

Realizing that there is no spiritual God could lead a person to become hopeless, overwhelmed with despair, + thus lead to self-destructive behavior or violence against a seemingly senselessly cruel + temporary world. That would depend upon the mental competence of the person + their sense of satisfaction of their psychological + physical needs. Donald Trump would be less likely to lash out at the world that is treating him so well than would that infamous failed painter + former corporal in the Wermacht, Adolf Hitler.

For me, realizing that we only have one life + that there is no spiritual, personal God, leads me to cherish the one life I have. I'm pained at knowing that I'm spending this life in prison, very oppressed; but I make the most I can of this life, taking it more seriously than I did when I accepted the teaching that God exists + cares about people. My realization causes me to believe that we need to care about each other, rather than foolishly hope that God will make things right, hoping for a better afterlife, while letting this one go to hell.

I can't understand how a person could not cherish every exquisite moment of the life they have + bless the lives of others, knowing this is it. Smell the lillacs! Kiss your lover! Hug your children, + prepare them well for their own lives. There's too little time for us to make each other miserable!

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