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Farewell, Father John

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Those of you following my blog know that I am an Atheist, Humanist & honest. I'm anti-Deist, anti-inspired religion, because of the many & outrageous degradations those belief systems have inflicted on people, causing witch burnings, pogroms, crusades, genocides, genital mutilations, whole ages of darkness, ultimately because believers can't accept non-believers as full, fellow human beings. This awareness on my part I can't pretend not to have, yet I have no problem embracing, relating with those who do believe, even remaining silent about my beliefs...so long as they don't try to evangelize me.

You also know I shoot straight, talk blunt, honestly in my writings.

Well, I let Father John know that I'm trying to get in a Christian studies BA program, yet reiterated I'm an Atheist, but that Atheist are in the program. Fr. John replied that he wanted me to stop saying that I'm a disbeliever, asked me to "keep an open mind," after we already discussed this & he said he wouldn't try to reconvert me (I was raised Catholic, didn't have a choice in the matter). My response, in relevant part, is pasted below, followed by the results:

have you ever scrutinized "Deceptions & Myths of the Bible", or, more generally, "The Psychology of Superstition"? I have, along with world & European history books, the history & evolution of world & European religions. From all those studies, I KNOW that all sects of Christianity, and other religions, are man's invention, mostly male inventors too, which explains (partly) the peculiar phenomenon that the God that individuals believe in tends to have a personality that the believer wants or needs psychologically: some Gods condemn homosexuality, other Gods condone it, & both believers adamantly justify their views of their Gods based on the same scripture...but, when someone like me points such things out, I'm evil, or mean, or some other ad hominem attack is used to ignore the truth I point out: people, mostly men, invent Gods to serve their typically subconscious purposes; sometimes people invent Gods (or religions) for more conscious purposes, as maybe Constantine did ("By this you will conquer"). Being a morally conscious person, I thus can't & won't fake belief, not even to get the Pope's help, & it surprised me that you seemed to suggest I do so; when younger & more ruthless, bro, I'd've faked the funk on you, & maybe you'd be happier believing the lie that I "believe."

Anyhoo, I ain't scared of studying Christianity. Are you scared of studying criticisms of religion, Christianity in particular?

Doesn't matter what your religion is, to me. Does my lack of religion make it ...difficult to see me as a full, functional human being worthy of dignity & respect? I've no hangups, no biases, even though I KNOW that Catholics in particular have caused the deaths of tens of millions, easily, & justified that with their religion, not to mention the torture inflicted on me in the name of Catholicism (it's too in the past for me to be angry about it, as you assume I am; I'm disappointed, at humans such as yourself, who are intelligent & mean well, yet are mentally

blocked from objectively considering the POSSIBILITY that your beliefs are not valid, or worse, not caring because the "beliefs" serve a pragmatic purpose, not the act of desperation that compels some to embrace "beliefs" that they really don't believe in in order to survive).

I suspect that you believe I'm angry at God because you can't accept that a decentistMguy can simply disregard a need to believe in God, so you assume there must be some reconcilable reason for my disbelief, so I don't lose my eternal soul... good intentions on your part. But, I also don't believe in the Easter bunny (one of the many Pagan components of Catholicism...), and I'm not angry at it either. I am, however, dismayed & displeased at how powerful people, mostly men, use their positions to force their conceptions of God on the world & oppress people in the process, which I don't want you to feel guilty about; I don't intend to manipulate you into accepting me or my beliefs, nor do I need or want to persuade you of anything; I'm just attempting to correct your misperception about why I'm atheistic. Truth matters to me, & someone else's imagined deity is not truth, even if they have a powerful machine backing them.

Anyway, I can only beat that horse to death, bring it back to life & beat it to death again so many times! :) Die horse!!!!

Man, I'm not perfect, but I fail to grasp how this ↑ email is so horrible that Fr. John would block me, yet block me he did, without comment!

That's just foul.

Like I said in another part of my email to Fr John, "I don't do dictators, especially of thoughts, my thoughts in particular." I don't dictate to either of my remaining close friends what to believe (one's a Jewish neuroscientist, the other's a French English Lit. post-grad), & I'm tired of people trying to "save" my soul by withdrawing their friendship when I don't accept their religion (not the first time -- a girlfriend, who wanted to have my baby, did the same schtick)!

Let me be clear -- "I'M AN ATHEIST! I'M NOT AFRAID TO BURN IN HELL!" as some guy said on TV recently. YOU WILL NOT CONVERT ME.

Don't write me expecting otherwise. Write me only if you're willing to take me as I am.

Goodbye Father John. Enjoy this free lesson in morality -- you're not the first priest in need of one.