
Says the Devil: *"The time they [people] spend in fearing something would, if reversed, give them all they want in the material world and save them from me after death."*

Q What is keeping such a thinker from appearing in the world?

A Fear of criticism! It may interest you to know that the fear of criticism is the only effective weapon I have with which to whip you. If you were not afraid to publish this confession after you wring it from me, I would lose my earthly kingdom.

Q And if I did surprise you and publish it, how long would it be until you lost your kingdom?

A Just long enough for one generation of children to grow into understanding. You cannot take the adults from me. I have them too securely sewed up. But if you published this confession, it would be sufficient to keep me from gaining control of the yet unborn and those who have not yet reached the age of reason. You wouldn't dare publish what I have told you about the religious leaders. They would crucify you!

Q I thought the savage practice of crucifixion went out of style two thousand years ago.

A I don't mean crucifixion on a cross. I mean social and financial crucifixion. Your income would be shut off. You would become a social outcast. Religious leaders and their followers alike would treat you with scorn.