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UNIV0400

4 May 2016

Part I: The Screwtape Letters: a prequel

MY DEAR SCREWTAPE,

I originally hoped that your patient would not receive acceptance to any university. There is no manifestation of pride more satisfying than the despair of a human when she has been denied the external affirmation upon which she relies. Nevertheless, your news that she will be attending a prestigious university provides much comfort, for a human can develop the most delightful brand of self-importance at this type of institution. If you tempt your patient appropriately, you can secure her soul for Our Father Below within the next four years.

The Enemy, in His desire to have a loving relationship with the filthy Earthwalkers, gave them free will. He claims that true freedom can only be achieved when the humans choose to obey Him, so He allows them to consider all options— virtuous and immoral alike— trusting that they will choose the former. Thanks to His arrogance and our valiant efforts, we have lured many humans to use their free will to turn away from Him during college and have saved millions of souls from His torturous imprisonment (How can one bear the dreadful music of the angels for eternity?). Our task is relatively easy during this period in our patients' lives because decades of campaigns have molded universities into centers of sexual immorality, competition, and addiction. Nevertheless, we have regretfully lost some humans to the Opposition during this time, so be sure to never grow complacent even in this opportune setting.

University students make wonderful targets due to their maturity— old enough to know right from wrong yet young enough to believe they know what is right. Use this naivety to your

advantage. Ensure that your patient takes up a cause; I suspect the most recent forms of feminism would be a suitable choice given your partial success with lustful temptations in the past. As I previously informed you, you must first dissolve the guilt surrounding her desire to engage in the same casual sexual interactions of her peers. This process begins by making her blind to the evil of using another's body solely for sexual pleasure, and you will know you have had success when she begins to call the objectification of men "empowering" and the committed marriage between a man and a woman "an oppressive patriarchal structure." I realize you may have trouble believing that you are capable of shepherding your patient through this drastic transition, but I assure you that the proper choice of peers and a well-developed interest in popular magazines will nearly do the job for you.

Soon she will replace her standard of goodness— a set of strict moral guidelines created by the Enemy— with a more fashionable idea that better suits our cause: moral relativism. Moral relativism changes "Thou shall not commit adultery" into "Thou may commit adultery, as long as it makes thee happy" and "Thou shall not kill" into "Thou may kill if thou has a different idea of what life means". Our research department worked in collaboration with the Head Tempters for over a century to develop and implement this weapon successfully, and there have been unforeseen benefits associated with this approach. The researchers initially crafted moral relativism to sway the average atheist or agnostic individual, but Christians took to our implanted thought just as eagerly as the rest of the weak race. Under our direction, Christians have even diluted the messages of the Bible or ignored some of the Enemy's commands entirely, thus weakening His greatest weapon and creating contradictions within His Church. Of course, your patient's vague upbringing in the Church does not give her the knowledge or authority to

contribute to the perversion of the Enemy's Word, but there remains a certain joy in knowing that we may obtain her using the same method.

I fear that I have gotten ahead of myself in discussing the damnation of your patient, for I am salivating at the mere thought of an event that may not occur for decades given your past record. Nevertheless, one is always justified in believing that the power of Our Father Below will triumph. Watch that you do not look too far into the future however at the expense of your current duties. Creating poor, mundane habits now will certainly increase our chances for success in the future.

Your affectionate uncle,

DAEMON