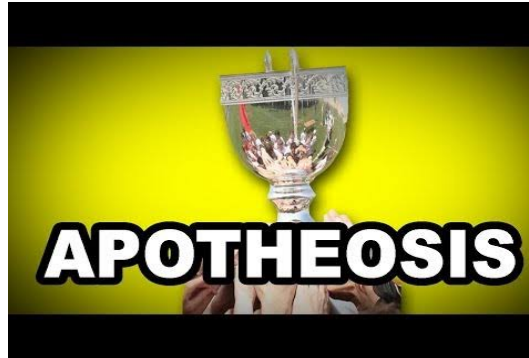


**apostate**



(noun) one who abandons long-held religious or political conviction

**apotheosis**



(noun) the best or most extreme example of something; deification; glorification to godliness; an exalted example; model of excellence or perfection

**asperity**



(noun) severity, rigor; roughness, harshness; acrimony, irritability; the quality of being severe in the way that you speak and behave

**gainsay**



(verb) to deny, to dispute, to contradict, to oppose

asseverate



(verb) to aver, allege, or to assert or declare emphatically or solemnly

chimera



(noun) an illusion; originally, an imaginary fire-breathing she monster; a hope or dream that is extremely unlikely ever to come true

contumacious



(adj.) insubordinate, rebellious; contumely means insult, scorn aspersion; stubbornly resistant to authority; wilfully obstinate

diaphanous



(adj.) transparent, gauzy

diffident



(adj.) reserved, shy, unassuming; lacking in self-confidence

dirge



(noun) a song of grief or lament; a slow sad song or piece of music, sometimes played because someone has died

extirpate



(verb) to destroy, to exterminate, to cut out, to excise