

THE GOD VIRUS HOW RELIGION INFECTS OUR LIVES AND CULTURE

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The God Virus: How Religion Infects Our Lives and Culture

By Darrel Ray

What is the "God virus"?

According to Dr. Darrel Ray, the "God virus" is a metaphor for the psychological mechanisms by which religious belief spreads and takes hold within individuals and societies. It refers to the tendency for religious ideas to hijack our cognitive and emotional systems, leading to irrational thinking, biases, and social divisions.

How does religion "infect" our lives and culture?

Religion can infect our lives and culture through various mechanisms:

- **Cognitive dissonance:** Religion often presents contradictory or unbelievable claims, yet believers strive to maintain their faith by rationalizing these discrepancies.
- **Confirmation bias:** Religious individuals tend to seek out information that confirms their existing beliefs and dismiss or ignore evidence that contradicts them.
- **Groupthink:** Religious communities can reinforce conformity and discourage dissent, suppressing critical thinking and promoting blind acceptance of dogma.

- **Emotional appeals:** Religion frequently exploits our fears, hopes, and longings to manipulate our emotions and foster dependence on its teachings.

What are the consequences of religious infection?

The "God virus" can have a profound impact on our personal lives, social interactions, and cultural institutions:

- **Intolerance and violence:** Religious beliefs can justify discrimination, persecution, and even violence against those who hold different views.
- **Cognitive impairment:** Religious indoctrination can damage critical thinking skills, impairing our ability to make rational decisions.
- **Social division:** Religion can create deep divisions within societies, pitting different belief systems against each other.
- **Institutional corruption:** Religious organizations can become corrupted by power and wealth, exploiting believers for personal gain.

How can we overcome the "God virus"?

Overcoming the "God virus" requires a commitment to critical thinking, skepticism, and a willingness to question our own beliefs and assumptions. By promoting education, encouraging open dialogue, and fostering a culture of tolerance, we can create a society less susceptible to the insidious effects of religious infection.

Yamaha VMAX VMX12N: Workshop Service and Repair Q&A

Q: Where can I find a comprehensive workshop manual for my Yamaha VMAX VMX12N? A: You can purchase an official Yamaha service manual from a Yamaha dealership or authorized online retailer. These manuals typically provide detailed instructions, diagrams, and specifications for all aspects of service and repair.

Q: How do I troubleshoot electrical problems on my VMAX VMX12N? A: The first step is to check the battery and charging system. Clean terminals, tighten connections, and test the battery voltage. You can also use a multimeter to trace electrical circuits and identify any shorts or open circuits. Consult the wiring diagram in the workshop manual for guidance.

Q: How do I adjust the carburetor on my VMAX VMX12N? A: The carburetor requires precise adjustment for optimal performance. Use a synchronometer to balance the throttle bodies and adjust the idle speed according to the workshop manual specifications. Fine-tune the mixture screws by listening for smooth engine operation and adjusting for optimal power.

Q: Can I perform my own valve clearance adjustment on my VMAX VMX12N? A: While it's possible to adjust valve clearances yourself, it requires specialized tools and knowledge. If you're not experienced in this procedure, it's recommended to have it done by a qualified mechanic. Refer to the workshop manual for the correct valve clearance specifications and adjustment procedure.

Q: How do I disassemble and rebuild the engine on my VMAX VMX12N? A: Engine disassembly and rebuild is a complex process that requires extensive knowledge and experience. This procedure should only be attempted by highly skilled mechanics. The workshop manual provides detailed instructions, including torque specifications, assembly sequences, and oil and fluid capacities. Always consult the manual and follow all safety precautions during engine repair.

The Holy Innocents: A Story of Faith and Martyrdom

Question 1: Who are the Holy Innocents? Answer: The Holy Innocents are infants and children under the age of two who were killed in Bethlehem and its surroundings by King Herod's soldiers. According to the Gospel of Matthew, Herod ordered the massacre of all male infants in an attempt to kill the newborn Jesus.

Question 2: What was the significance of their deaths? Answer: The Holy Innocents are considered martyrs in the Christian tradition. Their deaths fulfilled the prophecy of Jeremiah (31:15), which foretold the weeping of Rachel, the mother of the Israelites, over the loss of her children. Their martyrdom represents the persecution and suffering of innocent victims.

Question 3: How are the Holy Innocents commemorated? Answer: The Holy Innocents are commemorated in the Roman Catholic Church on December 28, the Feast of the Holy Innocents. The feast day is a reminder of the church's commitment to protecting the vulnerable and honoring those who have suffered.

Question 4: What lessons can we learn from the story of the Holy Innocents?

Answer: The story of the Holy Innocents teaches us about the power of faith in the face of adversity. It reminds us that even in the darkest of times, the innocent and vulnerable are protected by God. Additionally, it highlights the importance of standing up against tyranny and injustice.

Question 5: How does the story of the Holy Innocents relate to contemporary issues?

Answer: The story of the Holy Innocents continues to resonate in contemporary society, as violence against children and other vulnerable populations remains a problem. Their martyrdom serves as a reminder of the ongoing need to protect the innocent and to work towards a world where all are safe and valued.

How accurate is Mao the Unknown Story? It received overwhelming praise from reviews in national newspapers and drew praise from some academics but mostly critical or mixed by others. Reviews from many China specialists were critical and cite inaccuracies and selectivity in the use of sources and the polemical portrayal of Mao.

What is the summary of Mao the Unknown Story? Here Mao's relationship with the Soviet Union dominates the story. Mao spent the first half of his life battling against the Chinese Nationalist Party led by Chiang Kai-shek over control of China until they were defeated by Mao's Communist Party during the Chinese Civil War when they retreated to Taiwan in 1949.

When did Jung Chang leave China? Chang left China in 1978 to study in Britain on a government scholarship, staying first in London. She later moved to Yorkshire, studying linguistics at the University of York with a scholarship from the university itself, living in Derwent College, York.

What is Mao Zedong known for? Mao is revered as a national hero who liberated the country from foreign occupation and exploitation in China. He became an ideological figurehead and a prominent influence over the international communist movement, being endowed with remembrance, admiration and a cult of personality both during and after his life.

Did Mao want to be embalmed? The initial embalming process took place at a temporary tomb in a secret underground chamber north of Hanoi. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, Russia started charging Vietnam for embalming chemicals. While Chinese leader Mao Zedong wanted to be cremated, he was embalmed following his death in 1976.

Did Mao have a wife? Jiang Qing (19 March 1914 – 14 May 1991), also known as Madame Mao, was a Chinese communist revolutionary, actress, and major political figure during the Cultural Revolution (1966–1976). She was the fourth wife of Mao Zedong, the Chairman of the Communist Party and Paramount leader of China.

What was the plot against Mao? Project 571 (Chinese: 五七一九; pinyin: Wǔqīyīgǔngchéng) was the code name given to an alleged plot to execute a coup d'état against Chairman Mao Zedong in 1971 by the supporters of Lin Biao, then Vice Chairman of the Chinese Communist Party.

Was Jung Chang a red guard? Jung Chang was born in Yibin, Sichuan Province, China, in 1952. She was a red guard briefly at the age of fourteen and then worked as a peasant, a 'barefoot doctor', a steelworker, and an electrician before becoming an English language student and, later, an assistant lecturer at Sichuan University.

Are wild swans still banned in China? The Chinese Communist Party banned Wild Swans due to Chang's outward criticism against China and the Chinese Communist Party. However, the book can still be bought in the Chinese-dominated regions of Taiwan and Hong Kong.

How do you pronounce Jung Chang?

What is the summary of the book Ghost Map? Synopsis. The work covers the 1854 Broad Street cholera outbreak. The two central figures are physician John Snow, who created a map of the cholera cases, and the Reverend Henry Whitehead, whose extensive knowledge of the local community helped determine the initial cause of the outbreak.

What is the summary of Mao II? Mao II, published in 1991, is Don DeLillo's tenth novel. The book tells the story of a novelist, struggling to finish a novel, who travels to Lebanon to assist a writer being held hostage. The title is derived from a series of
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Andy Warhol silkscreen prints depicting Mao Zedong.

What is the summary of the Mad Man Diary by Lu Xun? "Diary of a Madman" is about a man who goes mad and believes his fellow towns-people and his brother are cannibals who want to eat him. A narrator shares the madman's diary entries, in which the madman reveals his paranoia that everyone wants to eat him and that he, himself, is probably a cannibal.

What is the story of Mao Dun? Mao was one of the founders of the Chinese Communist Party and participated in a number of left-wing cultural movements during the 1920s and 1930s. He was the editor-in-chief of Fiction Monthly and helped lead the League of Left-Wing Writers. He formed a strong friendship with fellow left-wing Chinese author Lu Xun.

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