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PARENTS JAILED OVER BABY'S DEATH

A COUPLE WHO RELIED ON HOMEOPATHIC TREATMENTS FOR THEIR ECZEMA-STRICKEN BABY DAUGHTER HAVE BEEN JAILED OVER HER DEATH. THOMAS SAM, 42, AND HIS WIFE MANJU, 37, WERE FOUND GUILTY OF THE MOST SERIOUS CASE OF MANSLAUGHTER BY CRIMINAL NEGLIGENCE.

THE JUDGE SAID THEIR NINE-MONTH-OLD DAUGHTER GLORIA HAD SUFFERED HELPLESSLY AND UNNECESSARILY FROM A TREATABLE CONDITION AND SENTENCED THE PAIR TO A TOTAL OF 10 YEARS BEHIND BARS. THOMAS SAM GOT THE LONGER SENTENCE OF AT LEAST SIX YEARS BECAUSE, AS A HOMEOPATH, HE HAD A DOUBLE DUTY OF CARE.

MINUTES AFTER HE WAS HANDCUFFED, HIS WIFE MANJU WAS TAKEN INTO CUSTODY FOR THE FIRST TIME. SHE WAS JAILED FOR FOUR YEARS.

THEIR DAUGHTER GLORIA WAS SO SICK WITH ECZEMA THAT SHE CONSTANTLY CRIED IN PAIN, HER SKIN BROKEN AND OOZING FLUID. BOTH PARENTS WERE WELL EDUCATED AND THE JUDGE FOUND THEY SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER. THEY REPEATEDLY REJECTED CONVENTIONAL MEDICAL TREATMENT AND INSTEAD OPTED FOR HOMEOPATHIC REMEDIES.

THEN, AGAINST DOCTORS' ORDERS, THEY TOOK THE BABY GIRL TO INDIA WHERE HER CONDITION DETERIORATED. JUDGE PETER JOHNSON CONCLUDED IT WAS THE "MOST SERIOUS CASE OF MANSLAUGHTER BY CRIMINAL NEGLIGENCE".

THE COUPLE WEPT AS JUSTICE JOHNSON DETAILED THE PAIN THEIR DAUGHTER WOULD HAVE EXPERIENCED. HE SAID THEY SHOULD HAVE KNOWN JUST HOW SICK SHE WAS. INSTEAD THEY DELAYED HER TREATMENT AT THE HOSPITAL BECAUSE MANJU SAID THEY WERE TIRED AND JETLAGGED.

SHE DIED THREE DAYS AFTER BEING ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL.

"SHE WAS VERY A VERY SICK INFANT WITH ERODING SKIN, HER DISTRESS WOULD HAVE BEEN APPARENT TO HER PARENTS," JUSTICE JOHNSON SAID.

DEJECTED SUPPORTERS LEFT COURT STILL REELING FROM THE JUDGMENT.

(NEO: CIVILIZED HUMAN BEINGS WOULD HAVE LEFT THE COURT REELING FROM THE AGONY THAT THIS POOR LITTLE CHILD WAS NEEDLESSLY PUT THROUGH. SO THEY MUST BE REFERRING TO THE SUBHUMANS WHO SUPPORTED THE KILLERS).

FOR THOMAS SAM, HIS LEGAL FIGHT IS NOT OVER AS HE FACES SEPARATE CHARGES, ACCUSED OF THREATENING HIS LAWYERS.

(NEO: JUST AN ALL-AROUND PEACHY GUY).

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THE SCIENCE SEGMENT

TWO HUNDRED YEARS AFTER DARWIN’S BIRTH, SCIENTISTS STILL CAN’T AGREE ON WHETHER EVOLUTION AND RELIGION CAN HAPPILY COEXIST

IT HAS BEEN THE YEAR OF EVOLUTION. TO COINCIDE WITH THE ANNIVERSARIES OF BOTH DARWIN'S BIRTH AND THE PUBLICATION OF ON THE ORIGIN OF SPECIES, RICHARD DAWKINS PUBLISHED THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH: THE EVIDENCE FOR EVOLUTION. AND JERRY COYNE (AN EMINENT EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGIST AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO) WROTE WHY EVOLUTION IS TRUE. YET, AMID THE ONGOING CELEBRATIONS, A NEW STORM HAS ERUPTED. THIS IS NOT THE USUAL BATTLE BETWEEN CREATIONIST FUNDAMENTALISTS AND EVOLUTIONISTS. THE LATEST RUCKUS HAS BROKEN OUT AMONG SCIENTISTS AND PHILOSOPHERS WHO ACCEPT EVOLUTIONARY THEORY AS THE EXPLANATION FOR THE EMERGENCE OF LIFE'S DIVERSITY.

WHERE THEY DIFFER IS ON THE PUBLIC COMMUNICATION OF SCIENCE AND EVOLUTION. DAWKINS IN PARTICULAR IS BEING REBUKED FOR DOING MORE HARM THAN GOOD TO THE PUBLIC FACE OF SCIENCE. THE BASIC CLAIM - SPELLED OUT BY THE JOURNALIST CHRIS MOONEY AND THE BIOLOGIST SHERIL KIRSHENBAUM IN THEIR BOOK UNSCIENTIFIC AMERICA, PUBLISHED IN JUNE - IS THAT DAWKINS PRESENTS AN UNNECESSARILY DIVISIVE CHOICE: YOU CAN ACCEPT EVOLUTION AND A SCIENTIFIC WORLD-VIEW MORE BROADLY, AND THEREFORE REJECT RELIGION, OR CLING TO RELIGION AND SACRIFICE SCIENTIFIC UNDERSTANDING.

(NEO: THAT IS NOT THE CHOICE DAWKINS OFFERS. YOU HAVE CREATED A FALSE DICHOTOMY. DAWKINS ATTACKS RELIGION IN A SEPARATE BOOK "THE GOD DELUSION." DAWKINS PRESENTS THE EVIDENCE FOR EVOLUTION IN HIS BOOK "THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH." IN NEITHER BOOK DOES HE TELL ANYONE TO ACCEPT EVOLUTION AND REJECT RELIGION - HE MERELY PRESENTS THE EVIDENCE FOR WHY HE BELIEVES IN EVOLUTION AND, IN HIS OTHER BOOK, EXPLAINS WHY HE REJECTS RELIGION. EVERYONE ELSE IS FREE TO MAKE UP THEIR OWN MINDS.

MOONEY AND KIRSHENBAUM HAVE BEEN EXCORIATED ACROSS THE BOARD FOR THE POOR LEVEL OF SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTED IN THEIR BOOK. THEIR OPINIONS REFLECT THEIR THINKING - NOT THE MAJORITY OF SKEPTICS).

THIS STRATEGY, CRITICS ARGUE, ALIENATES MODERATE RELIGIOUS PEOPLE WHO MIGHT OTHERWISE BE RECEPTIVE TO SCIENTIFIC THEORY. FACED WITH A MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE CHOICE BETWEEN THEIR PRIVATE FAITH AND THE OBJECTIVE WORLD-VIEW OF SCIENCE, MODERATES WILL TURN AWAY FROM THE LATTER. SCIENCE LOSES OUT.

(NEO: IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT TO REALIZE THAT - IT IS THE MODERATES WHO LOSE OUT. INSTEAD OF BEING ABLE TO APPRECIATE MODERN SCIENCE, THEY ARE NO BETTER OFF THAN THE PEASANTS IN THE DARK AGES).

IT'S NOT JUST DAWKINS. COYNE AND ALL THE "NEW ATHEISTS" (INCLUDING THE DARWINIAN PHILOSOPHER DANIEL DENNETT, THE NEUROSCIENTIST SAM HARRIS AND THE CULTURAL COMMENTATOR CHRISTOPHER HITCHENS) ARE CHARGED WITH ALIENATING PEOPLE FROM SCIENCE.

(NEO: "NEW ATHEISTS" IS A TERM USED BY RELIGIOUS BELIEVERS TO REFER TO NONBELIEVERS WHO NO LONGER ... KEEP THEIR MOUTHS SHUT).

LINING UP AGAINST THEM IS A GROUP OF "ACCOMMODATIONISTS", INCLUDING MOONEY, AN ATHEIST, AND KIRSHENBAUM, AN AGNOSTIC, WHO BELIEVE THAT EVOLUTION AND RELIGION CAN LIVE HAPPILY SIDE BY SIDE - AT LEAST UNDER AN ENTENTE CORDIALE, IF NOT IN A MUTUALLY SUPPORTIVE RELATIONSHIP.

(NEO: YOU HAD BETTER SETTLE FOR THE "ENTENTE CORDIALE." IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR 2 CONTRADICTORY EPISTEMOLOGIES TO EXIST IN A "SUPPORTIVE RELATIONSHIP").

DAWKINS CALLS ACCOMMODATIONISM "THE NEVILLE CHAMBERLAIN SCHOOL" OF EVOLUTION, AND ITS PROPONENTS THE APPEASEMENT LOBBY. YET IT IS THE OFFICIAL LINE OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE, THE US NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AND THE NATIONAL CENTRE FOR SCIENCE EDUCATION, WHICH IS DEDICATED TO PROMOTING THE TEACHING OF EVOLUTION IN AMERICAN SCHOOL CURRICULUMS.

(NEO: THAT IS BECAUSE THEY DON'T WANT YOU GUYS TO START BURNING PEOPLE AT THE STAKE AGAIN. LET'S FACE IT - THAT WASN'T "ANCIENT" HISTORY - IT WAS FAIRLY RECENT HISTORY).

APPEASEMENT LOBBY

THE ACCOMMODATIONIST CRITIQUE HAS AT LEAST TWO STRANDS. ONE IS THE INCREASINGLY COMMON CRITICISM THAT THE NEW ATHEISTS ARE EXCESSIVELY MEAN TO PEOPLE OF FAITH, "MILITANT" IN TONE, AND IRONICALLY FUNDAMENTALIST IN THEIR NON-BELIEF.

(NEO: RELIGIOUS PEOPLE CLAIM ATHEISTS ARE MEAN AND MILITANT FOR NO OTHER REASON THAN THAT ATHEISTS DARE TO VOICE AN OPPOSING OPINION AND BACK THAT OPINION UP - WITH PROOF. IF YOU WANT TO SEE MEAN AND MILITANT, JUST KEEP WATCHING THE NEWS FOR STORIES OF HOW BELIEVERS TREAT NONBELIEVERS. I WOULD CALL THREATENING PEOPLE WITH ETERNAL TORTURE AND CALLING THEM "EVIL" WOULD QUALIFY AS MEAN AND MILITANT - SOMEHOW, THAT OBVIOUS TRUTH ESCAPES YOU.

CALLING NONBELIEVERS "FUNDAMENTALIST" IS THE COMMON RELIGIOUS ATTACK THAT ATTEMPTS TO BRING NONBELIEVERS DOWN TO THEIR OWN LEVEL. BELIEVERS USE THE SAME ARGUMENT WHEN THEY TRY TO CLAIM THAT SCIENCE IS "JUST ANOTHER FAITH SYSTEM").

THE ACCOMMODATIONIST PHILOSOPHER BARBARA FORREST CHASTISES THE NEW ATHEISTS FOR COMBINING RUDENESS WITH ARROGANCE AND CLOSED-MINDEDNESS.

(NEO: SHE IS WRONG ON ALL ACCOUNTS: RUDENESS AND ARROGANCE ARE FAR MORE LIKELY TO COME FROM BELIEVERS AS WAS POINTED OUT ABOVE. AS FOR CLOSE-MINDEDNESS - SURELY YOU JEST?)

(LIKE MOONEY AND KIRSHENBAUM, FORREST IS NO FRIEND OF CREATIONISM; SHE WAS A CRITICAL WITNESS AT A 2005 TRIAL IN DOVER, PENNSYLVANIA, IN WHICH PARENTS BLOCKED THE INTRODUCTION OF "INTELLIGENT DESIGN" THEORY INTO STATE-SCHOOL CURRICULUMS - SEE "GORILLA WARFARE" BELOW.)

FORREST ARGUES THAT NEW ATHEISTS SHOULD RESPECT THE PERSONAL NATURE OF FAITH,

(NEO: IT'S NOT THE PERSONAL NATURE OF FAITH THAT IS CAUSING THE PROBLEM - IT IS THE PUBLIC NATURE OF FAITH BY INVADING OUR CLASSROOMS WITH CREATION MYTHS, AND FORCING THEIR POLITICAL BELIEFS ON THE MINORITY - AGAINST THE CONSTITUTION. THAT LAST STATEMENT IS PROVEN EVERY TIME THEY LOSE IN COURT ON FIRST AMENDMENT CASES AS THEY DID IN DOVER IN 2005).

AND NURTURE A SENSE OF HUMILITY BY RECOGNISING THAT SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE DOES NOT RULE OUT EXISTENCE OF THE DIVINE.

(NEO: NO ONE CLAIMS THAT IT RULES OUT THE EXISTENCE OF THE DIVINE. BUT THE DISCOVERIES OF SCIENCE HAVE RULED OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE BIBLE IS TRUE).

THEY SHOULD ACCEPT THAT THERE IS A WIDE RANGE OF VIEWS, SHE SAYS, AND STOP INSISTING THAT EVERYONE FOLLOW THE "ONE TRUE WAY" OF ATHEISM.

(NEO: YOU HAVE IT COMPLETELY BACKWARDS: IT IS RELIGION THAT INSISTS THAT EVERYONE FOLLOW THE ONE TRUE WAY (THEIRS). ATHEISM ONLY SAYS THERE IS NO EVIDENCE FOR GOD (WHICH THERE ISN'T). IT DOES NOT TELL ANYONE IT IS THE "ONE TRUE WAY").

FAILING TO DO SO ONLY TURNS PEOPLE OFF IN DROVES.

(NEO: YOU ARE DOING THE SAME THING TO ME, RIGHT NOW).

YET IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT THE NEW ATHEISTS HAVE BEEN THIS DAMAGING. THEY HAVE BEEN AN IDENTIFIABLE GROUP AND SOCIAL FORCE FOR FIVE YEARS ONLY - STARTING WITH HARRIS'S THE END OF FAITH IN 2004,

(NEO: ACTUALLY, RATIONALISTS EMERGED TO BATTLE THE INSANITY OF RELIGIOUS ZEALOTS, BEGINNING ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001).

WHICH WAS FOLLOWED BY DAWKINS'S THE GOD DELUSION IN 2006. MORE SIGNIFICANTLY, POLLS INDICATE THAT THE PROPORTION OF THE US PUBLIC THAT SUBSCRIBES TO A CREATIONIST ACCOUNT OF HUMAN ORIGINS HAS REMAINED RELATIVELY CONSTANT FOR THE PAST 25 YEARS, HOVERING AROUND 45 PER CENT. THE PREVIOUS ERA, WHICH ADVOCATED GREATER RESPECT FOR RELIGION, DOES NOT SEEM TO HAVE WON OVER HEARTS OR MINDS. SO WHO IS TO SAY THAT TAKING THE OPPOSITE APPROACH WILL DRIVE ANYONE AWAY?

THE SECOND THREAD OF THE ACCOMMODATIONIST ARGUMENT IS THAT SCIENCE, IN FACT, NEED NOT BE INIMICAL TO RELIGIOUS FAITH. EMINENT SCIENTISTS FROM GALILEO TO NEWTON HAVE FOUND LITTLE TROUBLE RECONCILING THEIR PERSONAL FAITH WITH A SCIENTIFIC WORLD-VIEW.

(NEO: THAT'S BECAUSE THEY DIDN'T HAVE ACCESS TO THE MODERN SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE THAT WE NOW HAVE).

PERHAPS THE MOST PROMINENT CONTEMPORARY EXAMPLE IS THE GENETICIST FRANCIS COLLINS, WHO RAN THE AMERICAN ARM OF THE HUMAN GENOME PROJECT AND WAS RECENTLY APPOINTED HEAD OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH (NIH), THE BIGGEST FUNDER OF BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH IN THE US. COLLINS IS ALSO AN EVANGELICAL CHRISTIAN WHO SPEAKS PUBLICLY ABOUT HIS FAITH AND ITS RELATION TO SCIENCE. EXEMPLARS OF THIS SORT SHOW THAT A SINGLE HUMAN MIND CAN HOLD TWO DIVERGENT WORLD-VIEWS SIMULTANEOUSLY, OR AT LEAST ACCEPT THE LEGITIMACY OF TWO VERY DIFFERENT WAYS OF GAINING KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE WORLD.

(NEO: THAT IS ALSO TRUE OF SCHIZOPHRENICS).

AN INTERVENTIONIST GOD

BUT THERE IS ANOTHER SIDE TO THIS STORY. STEVEN PINKER, A HARVARD PSYCHOLOGIST AND AN ATHEIST, HAS VOICED GRAVE MISGIVINGS OVER COLLINS'S APPOINTMENT - NOT JUST BECAUSE OF HIS RELIGIOUS BELIEFS, BUT BECAUSE OF HIS "PUBLIC ADVOCACY" THAT "ATHEISTIC MATERIALISM" MUST BE RESISTED. COLLINS BELIEVES IN AN INTERVENTIONIST GOD WHO, IN HIS OWN WORDS, "GIFTED HUMANITY WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL (THE MORAL LAW), WITH FREE WILL, AND WITH AN IMMORTAL SOUL".

(NEO: UNFORTUNATELY, COLLINS DOES NOT REQUIRE THE LEVEL OF EVIDENCE FOR HIS PERSONAL RELIGIOUS BELIEFS THAT HE REQUIRES OF HIS SCIENTIFIC BELIEFS).

ALTHOUGH, IN PRINCIPLE, RELIGIOUS BELIEFS NEED NOT AFFECT ONE'S DAY-TO-DAY SCIENCE, IN PRACTICE, THEY MIGHT. TAKE RESEARCH ON THE FOUNDATIONS OF HUMAN SOCIALITY AND ETHICS, CURRENTLY ONE OF THE HOTTEST AREAS IN BEHAVIOURAL SCIENCE. RESEARCHERS ARE PROBING THESE QUESTIONS WITH EVOLUTIONARY THEORY, COMPARATIVE PRIMATE STUDIES AND NEUROBIOLOGY, AMONG OTHER APPROACHES, BUT NO ONE INVOKES NON-NATURAL OR NON-MATERIAL EXPLANATIONS. ARE THESE INSTANCES OF ATHEISTIC MATERIALISM TO BE RESISTED?

(NEO: ACCORDING TO COLLINS - YES).

HOW WOULD COLLINS'S VIEWS AFFECT THE PRIORITY HE MIGHT GIVE TO FUNDING SUCH RESEARCH, IF HIS PRIME BELIEF IS THAT ETHICS AND THE MORAL LAW ARE GOD-GIVEN?

(NEO: THAT IS A QUESTION THAT PROVES HIS APPOINTMENT WAS DUBIOUS AT BEST. BUT AS ANY ADULT HAS LEARNED, QUALIFICATIONS CAN NEVER COMPETE WITH POLITICS).

IT IS PERFECTLY POSSIBLE THAT HE WOULD ACCEPT THE MATERIALISTIC EXPLANATION OF MORALITY, AND JUST ADD THAT EVERYTHING WAS SET UP BY GOD IN SUCH A WAY THAT NATURALISTIC PROCESSES WERE BOUND TO PRODUCE A BIG-BRAINED MORAL SPECIES. TIME WILL TELL IF, AND HOW, NIH FUNDING CHANGES UNDER HIS LEADERSHIP. IT WOULD BE UNFAIR TO PREJUDGE THE CASE.

(NEO: I AGREE. LET'S GIVE HIM A CHANCE - AND THEN HANG HIM. JUST KIDDING. IF HE CAN SEPARATE HIS RELIGION FROM HIS WORK, AS HE APPARENTLY DID IN THE PAST, THEN FINE - IF NOT, WELL ...).

IN THE MEANTIME, THERE IS LITTLE REASON TO SUPPOSE THAT THE WORLD WILL REACH ANY MEANINGFUL CONSENSUS ON THE QUESTION OF HOW BEST TO ENGAGE THE PUBLIC WITH SCIENCE IN GENERAL, AND EVOLUTIONARY THEORY IN PARTICULAR.

(NEO: WERE IT NOT FOR RELIGION, THERE WOULDN'T BE A PROBLEM. EVERYONE COULD JUST LEARN TO APPRECIATE THE WONDERFUL VAULT OF KNOWLEDGE THAT SCIENCE HAS OPENED FOR ALL OF US. THEN AGAIN, SCIENCE IS NOT THE ONLY VICTIM OF RELIGION; ALL OF HUMANITY HAS SUFFERED ITS CONSEQUENCES).

PERHAPS, IN TRUE DARWINIAN FASHION, THOSE ARGUMENTS AND IDEAS BEST ADAPTED TO THE MODERN WORLD WILL PREVAIL.

(NEO: IF THAT WERE TRUE RELIGION WOULD HAVE DISAPPEARED WITH ZEUS. OBVIOUSLY, THIS IS ONE CANCER THAT IS GOING TO REQUIRE MUCH MORE SERIOUS INTERVENTION).

IN AN ERA OF RESURGENT RELIGION, IT IS FAR FROM CLEAR WHICH APPROACH THIS WILL BE.

(NEO: RELIGION HAS NO ARGUMENTS - ONLY DECEPTION DESIGNED TO CONTINUE THE ENSLAVEMENT OF HUMANITY TO INVISIBLE GHOSTS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THOSE IN GOVERNMENT AND CLERGY).

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ABROAD

5 GUILTY OF PLOTTING AUSSIE TERROR ATTACKS

FIVE MEN HAVE BEEN CONVICTED OF CONSPIRING TO CARRY OUT TERRORIST ATTACKS IN AUSTRALIA USING GUNS AND HOME-MADE EXPLOSIVES. THE MEN, BUSTED IN RAIDS IN SYDNEY, WERE ACCUSED OF PLOTTING ATTACKS TO FORCE THE GOVERNMENT TO CHANGE ITS MIDDLE EAST POLICY. ONE OF THE MEN TRAINED AT A TERROR CAMP IN PAKISTAN WHILE OTHERS PREPARED FOR HOLY WAR AT TRAINING CAMPS IN THE AUSTRALIAN WILDERNESS.

JIHADIST LITERATURE, WEAPONS, AND BOMB-MAKING MATERIALS WERE FOUND IN THE MEN'S HOMES. THE FIVE, WHO COULD NOW FACE LIFE SENTENCES, WERE FOUND GUILTY AFTER A 10-MONTH TRIAL, ONE OF THE LONGEST IN AUSTRALIAN HISTORY. PROSECUTORS SAID THAT WHILE THEY HADN'T BEEN ABLE TO DETERMINE WHAT SPECIFIC TARGETS THE SUSPECTS PLANNED TO ATTACK, THEY HAD SUFFICIENT PROOF THAT THEIR PLANS INVOLVED "EXTREME FORCE AND VIOLENCE, INCLUDING THE KILLING OF THOSE WHO DID NOT SHARE THEIR FUNDAMENTALIST, EXTREMIST BELIEFS."

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FAMOUS QUOTES

MARTIN LUTHER (1483 - 1546) 62 YEARS.

HE CHANGED THE COURSE OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION BY INITIATING THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION. LUTHER STRONGLY DISPUTED THE CLAIM THAT FREEDOM FROM GOD'S PUNISHMENT OF SIN COULD BE PURCHASED WITH MONEY. HIS REFUSAL TO RETRACT ALL OF HIS WRITINGS AT THE DEMAND OF POPE LEO X IN 1520 AND THE HOLY ROMAN EMPEROR CHARLES V AT THE EDICT OF WORMS MEETING IN 1521 RESULTED IN HIS EXCOMMUNICATION BY THE POPE AND CONDEMNATION AS AN OUTLAW BY THE EMPEROR.

LUTHER TAUGHT THAT SALVATION IS NOT FROM GOOD WORKS, BUT A FREE GIFT OF GOD, RECEIVED ONLY BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH IN JESUS AS REDEEMER FROM SIN. HIS THEOLOGY CHALLENGED THE AUTHORITY OF THE POPE OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH BY TEACHING THAT THE BIBLE IS THE ONLY SOURCE OF DIVINELY REVEALED KNOWLEDGE AND OPPOSED SACERDOTALISM BY CONSIDERING ALL BAPTIZED CHRISTIANS TO BE A HOLY PRIESTHOOD. THOSE THAT IDENTIFY WITH LUTHER'S TEACHINGS ARE CALLED LUTHERANS.

HIS TRANSLATION OF THE BIBLE INTO THE LANGUAGE OF THE PEOPLE (INSTEAD OF LATIN) MADE IT MORE ACCESSIBLE, CAUSING A TREMENDOUS IMPACT ON THE CHURCH AND ON GERMAN CULTURE. IT FOSTERED THE DEVELOPMENT OF A STANDARD VERSION OF THE GERMAN LANGUAGE, ADDED SEVERAL PRINCIPLES TO THE ART OF TRANSLATION, AND INFLUENCED THE TRANSLATION INTO ENGLISH OF THE KING JAMES BIBLE. HIS HYMNS INSPIRED THE DEVELOPMENT OF SINGING IN CHURCHES. HIS MARRIAGE TO KATHARINA VON BORA SET A MODEL FOR THE PRACTICE OF CLERICAL MARRIAGE, ALLOWING PROTESTANT PRIESTS TO MARRY.

MUCH SCHOLARLY DEBATE HAS FOCUSED ON LUTHER'S WRITINGS ABOUT THE JEWS. HIS STATEMENTS THAT THE JEWS' HOMES SHOULD BE DESTROYED, THEIR SYNAGOGUES BURNED, MONEY CONFISCATED, AND LIBERTY CURTAILED WERE REVIVED AND USED IN PROPAGANDA BY THE NAZIS BETWEEN 1933 AND 1945. AS A RESULT OF THIS AND HIS REVOLUTIONARY THEOLOGICAL VIEWS, HIS LEGACY REMAINS CONTROVERSIAL.

"REASON IS THE GREATEST ENEMY THAT FAITH HAS;

IT NEVER COMES TO THE AID OF SPIRITUAL THINGS,

BUT MORE FREQUENTLY THAN NOT

STRUGGLES AGAINST THE DIVINE WORD,

TREATING WITH CONTEMPT ALL THAT EMANATES FROM GOD."

"WHOEVER WANTS TO BE A CHRISTIAN SHOULD TEAR THE EYES OUT OF HIS REASON."