

A New Year for Salvation, But Without Miracles.

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What do you expect? Magic? A miracle, perhaps? What do you think this New Year will bring to us?

If I cook up a recipe for Chicken Soup, why would anyone expect that I would end up with pancakes? The ingredients dictate the recipe. What we cook, and how we cook it, defines what it is that we eat.

With food for the body, this is common logic that everyone knows. No one expects, or would accept any alteration to this simple and plain fact. Yet, with regards to food for the soul and mind, for some bizarre reasons, we think that the relationship between that which we cook and that which we eat is somehow magically, or miraculously different.

Let me be very simple here, and state it in the vernacular for everyone to understand. *“No way, Jose.”* It doesn't work like that. *“And that's a fact, Jack!”*

What one sows is what one reaps. According to the effort invested, are the just rewards received. If we create bad times, then bad times, they be a comin'.

In the spirit of desperation, the religious mind, stripped of all power and influence, falls back on the only hope it has, that of belief in imminent direct Divine intervention, and the hope of an apocalypse to come punish all the wicked, who have stripped the religious of all their power. Essentially, belief in apocalypse is a psychological archetype that expresses the utter frustration and powerlessness of the disenfranchised.

In light of modern times, with the growth and proliferation of discovery, the mythologies of religion are being peeled away. Religion is left in a crisis. ***Reality is forcing religion to strip itself of its centuries old facades, and to restore itself to being a psychological system of relevance, central to every individual's personal growth into a better, highly moral, righteous humanity.***

In accomplishing its original goals, religion has for the most part failed miserably. Morals, character and righteousness have been put in the proverbial back seat to religious interests that are more focused on compulsive ethnic and cultural

identifications. In other words, ***as long as the outside looks good, what's inside is only of secondary importance. Needless to say, this is the opposite of what religion is supposed to be.***

Since Biblical times, the Hebrew seventh month, Tishrei, is the time of blowing the Rams Horn (shofar). It is the time of new beginnings. It is the time, in Jewish tradition, to focus on repentance, and returning to God. Yet, ***in the crises of misguided religion, exactly what it means to repent and return to God has been forgotten and lost to the collective consciousness.***

Repentance and return to God has come to be defined as becoming more ritually religious, usually according to the opinion of zealots, or extremists. Emphasis is placed on rituals that are supposed to be pleasing to God. ***Emphasis, however, needs to be placed on our interpersonal behaviors, and how we must improve the ways in which we treat one another.***

The Biblical prophetic message is clear that what ***God wants from humanity is for humanity to act humanely one towards the other.*** It is this code of righteous behavior that defines the highest worship of God. As such, it is the observance of the Biblical code of moral righteousness that draws us close to God. This then is how one repents, and returns to God, by repenting of the poor ways that we treat one another. As we turn towards each other, we are essentially returning to God.

Now, with this said, let us return to discuss the negative mindset of apocalyptic thinking. As long as there is division and strife between different, and often competing groups of religious believers, there will always be the mental storm clouds of apocalyptic vision, if not the outright desire for the death, and destruction, of those whom the religious declare to be sinners.

It is this negative mindset that is the most destructive attack one individual can make on another. As bad as this is between individuals, it is even worse when between groups. ***When an individual hates and strives with another individual, we say that the attacking person places an "evil eye" on the object of his wrath. When groups do this, their power of "evil eye" is compounded and expanded.*** With such negative, evil mental focus, a single group can create chaos and devastation in the world body.

We will never escape negative human thought through some magical, or miraculous intervention from Heaven. On the contrary, ***our polluted minds, and evil thoughts actually are what blocks Heaven*** from acting in any practical, progressive way to bring about the betterment of all humanity.

So, in light of present circumstances, in the world at large, and in the individual minds of the peoples in the world, what can we expect the future to hold once the

new beginning commences with the month of Tishrei? We can blow the Rams Horn, go through all the motions of prayer and ritual. We can put on a show, and act of repentance, that even Hollywood would consider to be fine acting. With all the pomp and show, we might convince ourselves how holy and pious we are, but ***we will never convince Heaven that are superficial show of pomp is honest***, and sincere remorse for our misdeeds, coupled with an equal commitment never to repeat them.

Yes, we fool ourselves all the time, but we will never, ever fool Heaven. So, what do we expect for this New Year, magic and miracles? According to our religious beliefs, such events are, at least theoretically possible, but we do not live in the world of theory. ***We live in the world of reality.*** And in the world of reality, it is ***God that waits for us to act.*** It should never be us waiting for God to act.

I predict, based upon current affairs that the New Year will be much like the previous one. ***We need to make every effort to join together and support our mutual efforts to make our world a better place***, by making ourselves better, and by improving the way we treat others.

If we dream of apocalypse, doom and gloom, then we will be bringing it upon our own heads. It will not be God at fault, but us. ***Think negative, and experience the negative. Think good and experience good.*** Be good and do good.

If we can bring hell to earth, so too can we bring heaven to earth. The power is all in our hands, and God is indeed watching and waiting for us, to sincerely repent, to return to Him, and to shine His Divine light by simply being the best human being that we can be!

As the New Year dawns upon us, pray not, and ask not, for magic or miracles. Rather, ***work hard! Make life better! Change everything!*** Change the way you live, change the way you behave. Yes, even change the way you eat.

Do not rely upon miracles or wait for magic, rather trust in God above to bless the hard work of our hands. In this, we are seldom disappointed.

May we bring upon ourselves the resolve and resolution to work hard to make our New Year, the best we can make it.

And may God bless the righteous works of our hands. Amen!