

harms mankind.

Is the Fundamentalist Biblical account of original sin and Adam and Eve a viable basis for an ethical code that explains good and evil in such a way as to promote human cooperation and survival? Consider the following dialogue from my book, 'Socrates Meets Jesus'

Socrates:

If God is all powerful, why did he allow Satan to come to the garden and tempt Eve? If God did not want man to eat the fruit, why did he put the tree in the garden in the first place? If God did not want man to make sexual love, why did he equip man with the organs necessary for it? If God did not want man to commit the original sin, why did he give man a desire for knowledge, experience, adventure and carnal love?

Jesus:

God put the tree in the garden and allowed Satan to come there because he wanted to test mankind.

Socrates:

But God created everything that went into this combination, situation or environment. When he created each of the elements or ingredients in the situation, he knew exactly how each would react with the others in any circumstance; because he was all-knowing. He intended for each element to be exactly as it was because he was all-powerful and could not make a mistake. It is as though a scientist or physician combined several ingredients into a medicine, which although harmless in themselves, when combined, become a deadly poison; and then after administering it to a patient, disavowed any responsibility for his death. In just this way, God combined many things; an innocent man, a tree of knowledge, a beautiful garden and an angel. It is absurd for God to punish man after creating him. It is as though Homer wrote an ode about a pig and then whipped or lashed the pages or cast them on an eternal uncosuming fire, because he disliked the qualities of the animal. Or that a master sculptor made a perfect statue of a pig and then lashed it for all eternity because he dislike the traits of the animal.

If the doctrine of original sin is false, so is salvation. Turning the other cheek or giving all you have to the poor may not be the God given ethical code that fundamentalists repute it to be. Turning the other cheek would allow criminals to prevail and giving all you have to

the poor would encourage the least capable members of the human race to have more children. In fact following Jesus Christ's admintions would create exactly the kind of lysenkoist democratic tyranny and dysgenic disaster that we see in our inner cities today. Ask yourself this question: Would less 'favored races' or less 'favored' socio-biologic classes be any threat to the human family if we had a religion based on evolutionary ethics rather than on Jesus?

Dysgenic suicide and nuclear suicide are only possible in a society that refuses to accept the moral responsibility for its actions. Now the imminent prospect of our dysgenic decline, and extinction under the lysenkoist democratic tyrannies marvelously concentrates the mind and forces us to accept our moral responsibility for our own destiny. The imminent prospect of nuclear self destruction doesn't leave us another 2000 years to wait for Godot. Having acquired the technological and scientific power of a God, we must accept the moral responsibility of a God that goes with that power.

We must finally accept the moral responsibility for our own destiny & recognize that we are the consciousness of the universe; that we are the focus and fulcrum and center of the universe through which everything is seen & understood & done: That we are indeed God in the process of evolving into existence.

If man is responsible for the destiny of man and the universe, then the purpose of human action should be to increase man's knowledge about and power over the universe. That means avoiding superstition especially when it masquerades as fundamentalist religion.

Has fundamentalist religion increased the probability of human survival by expanding man's understanding of and control over the universe around him or has it obstructed it? An honest examination shows that the history of fundamentalist religion has been one continued centuries long scopes monkey trial. In astronomy, medicine and biology, fundamentalist religion has been the single greatest obstacle to advancement. Fundamentalist religion is guilty of crimes against humanity because by obstructing the advancement of knowledge fundamentalist religion has actually jeopardized the health, the well being and the very survival of the human race.

For a thousand years, doctors were prevented from examining the human body to determine the source and the cure of disease because fundamental religionists believed that the examination and dissection of the human body was blasphemous. How many millions of innocent people suffered and died in agony because of that? In fact, countless millions of people would still die horrible deaths today except that some courageous scientists risked their lives and dissected and examined the human body in spite of the threats of fundamental religionists.