Songs for the Separation of Church and State

a non-linear quilt
for Hy Kombluh
from arwulf arwulf

W're operating with a fake calendar. It has little to do with the earth and nothing to do with the moon. Worse still: years are dated from a hypothetical zero: the birth of one male manifestation of one male god. It's nice to have a system for marking time. It's also difficult to present alternatives to a dominant paradigm when the calendar itself has been seized and altered. W'hich is exactly why they did it. If the Christian calendar seems irrational, and to me it certainly is, this is his in keeping with the irrationality of Christianity altogether. In 1650, archbishop James Ussher declared officially that the earth was created in 4004 B.C. A little over 350 years later, attorney general John Ashcroft is laboring under the impression that calico cats are satanic. These are examples of the sort of reasoning which regularly issues forth from followers of the Christian religion, who base their beliefs on the Bible, a suspiciously edited compilation of texts. We're operating with a fake calendar. It has little to do with the earth and nothing to do with the moon.

The older ways were then condemned and demonized as Pagan. Heathen ones, in the eyes of the Church, must be vanquished. But the Jesus Metaphor denotes benevolence, clear-sightedness, even-keel temperance and possibly even the ability to mind one's own business, although this last trait is most often absent from the mannerisms of the devout.

Christianity is a pastiche of aspects stolen from many pre-existing belief systems. The older ways were then condemned and demonized as Pagan. Heathen means "of the heath" which means not too earthy or we'll burn you in the middle of the village on a heap of logs. Satan, the shadow of Yahweh, Jesuus and Mohammed alike, became a multi-purpose tag to hang on anything insufficiently in line with the dominant paradigm. The Hebrew word satan means adversary. That could be anybody! Example of Christian logic: "Either you're with us or you're with the terrorists."

But one consistent theme, running from cover to cover, is the subjugation of everything female. Near the beginning of this book we are told that Eve, the first woman, was born out of the body of a man. This exact inversion of the natural way of things constitutes a serious flaw, jeopardizing the credibility of the Bible in its entirety.

For the part of a woman from where every baby demonstrably emerges, the Popes called this the pudendum, meaning that of which one should be ashamed. W'omen are blamed for most of the ill-safeguarding humanity. Eve may be seen depicted in "Renaissance" artworks as a gawky misfit, clutching portions of her distinctive female anatomy while being herded out of Eden alongside the poor male victim whom she corrupted by a sword-waving alien. W hy do they hate women so much? These monotheistic, patriarchal desert religions are, in their most extreme and violently distorted forms, bitterly misogynistic.

There is beauty in the Torah, in the Koran and in the Bible. There are also lotso grapple with. If you are a reasoning person who thinks with your own brain, A nd no book has been so dangerously misinterpreted with such prolonged worldwide consequences asah the Bible.

I altogether a frustrating publication. O ver the centuries, many have tried to sort it out. Leonardo da V inci, in a section of his notebook headed "doubts," ponders two illogical aspects of the biblical flood. First off, where'd the water disappear to? Secondly: fossils. Life inhabiting clams and snails travel twelve feet per day. He found clam shells in the mountains of L ombardy. Impossible for clams to have traveled 250 miles in 40 days and 40 nights. Case dismissed. Leonardo laughs and draws a perfect circle, freethink.

Opening shot: Excitement, a non-linear quilt, for Hy Kombluh, from arwulf arwulf. Two alien cats, "Bye bye," said the Twin Buddhas, "Bye bye."
In Stopping to Save W. oman, Rescuers Saved Themselves

"Captain John assassinated the fire as previously experienced," I said to the group. It had probably spread so far by the time he was able to reach it. Help every 8 or 10 floors, they rested. When they arrived, they were at the 10th floor, the entire building shook. The other tower had collapsed. OK, if that building can go, the captain announced, this building can go. It's time to head down. Descending, Bill Butler noticed a man who thought looked middle eastern, clutching a stuffed animal, possibly a lion. Police officers grabbed him, handcuffed him, and hustled him down the stairs. The stuffed lion fell on the group.

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A Nation Challenged

For a man to cry in this time is essential. Cry for those who step on sandmen. Cry for the dead. Cry for the harmed. For the raped, cry. "Blessed are the meek," and let it out where it can breathe. W e can change the course of that. I wish to see the suffering of an entire group of people. How did it come to that? How do I die, with his hands clasped together? W hat had the lion meant to him? W hy were the police officers kindness to a person?

W hat kind of a people are we?

W e should demand that Christian ideology not be permitted to influence the laws of this nation, and in states. The State of Michigan should not be permitted to offer specially made license plates bearing the phrase: "Choose Life." This is not a benign statement. It's bad enough as a bumper sticker, existing as it does in an atmosphere of coercion and intimidation. W hat sort of a person tells other people what to choose? Especially inside of one's own body! How fucking boorish and presumptuous can you possibly get? A is a state-sponsored fundraising plan for Christian-approved, anti-choice clinics, these license plates are an abomination against all women. W hether or not you young Republican females recognize its significance, the fact remains that they as women possess the power to give life or not to give life. It's the greatest power imaginable, a power of which the Church and the State have been jealous for thousands of years. The Church-State has always represented the fact that women have the power of life and death. Gradually rendering it difficult & dangerous for women to be informed about or have access to safe pregnancy termination is exactly in line with the Christian lie which states that Eve came out of An's dam's body. It is monstrously nonsensical.

So then: must we have a W orld W ar between major patriarchal religions? I never felt anger after the jet-embosed into the Towers' N 0lly nisry. But there's some really vicious shit in the air ever since. W hat's the difference between a pogrom and the raging of Palestinian homes by Israeli bulldozers? W ithout empathy we are rabid dogs. W e are. W e're a boiling cauldron, snarl in your ribs. B urn it up and smoke in your eyes, can't see where you're going and still madder than wet hens. Enough of it, enough, says he. Gone is gone is done. B ut it keeps seeping on me. Peter of course suggested that S L A V E S S H O U L D S U B M I T T O T H E I R M A T E R S, W E V E S H O U L D S U B M I T T O T H E I R H U S B A N D S.

This is stated more or less in the same breath, clearly a prescription for D O M E S T I C S L A V E R Y . I T S I N T H E B O O K. I spit it out in disgust.

There is always a perfect voice in the arrangement of unopened copies of the W all Street Journal, each in its plastic wrapper, systematically delivered but gradually decomposing in the mud beside the curb. This morning, a completely disfigured newspaper vomited out of the tattered shroud onto the pavement, dusted up in me flaking wormy flesh. Your system is speaking. It's the voice of the ringworm. The mildew and sour rot voice, a perfect voice in the mud outside. Y our system is speaking. It can hear this morning. I am too, echoes of a systemic moratorium — stopping the war in Vietnam — O ctob 17th 1969, walking across the Diag. W e wore black arm bands, some of the teachers in school wore them too in solidarity. W e skipped school to assembled in the streets. A ye a earlier I'd straightened the Painted white like Flanders Field, stuck in the D iag mud for the Nam war dead.

Intolerance is inseparable from Christian history. A ny portions of the Bible which slander entire groups of people must be placed in historical context. This is something that increasingly few seem to have the intelligence or the inclination to do. Let's visit a handful of choice moments in this very obviously contrived Gospel:

THE NEW TESTAMENT IS BOUND TOGETHER WITH ANTI-SEMITIC CALUMNIES

JOHN 8:44   In which Jesus, a Jew, tells the Jews that they are children of the Devil. V ery clever — who wrote this garbage? Someone with a vested interest in the slanderer of the Jews, obviously. W hat does he need to do to you question it? A nd listen, there's no shortage of knuckleheads who read this shit and use it to justify all kinds of idiotic violence. Martin Luther wrote a nice long book specifically degrading the Jews. S o did Richard W agner. They based their hateful spew to justify all kinds of idiotic violence. Martin Luther wrote a nice long book specifically degrading the Jews. S o did Richard W agner. They based their hateful spew to justify all kinds of idiotic violence. Whatever it takes to get in the way of it when it re-emerges, this is a brutal culture, where Hockey Dad kill and eat other Hockey Dad. There was a photo last year in the paper of a hockey player grinning with crimson running down his face. The caption read: B L O O D Y G O O D. S o you see it's condensed. M urder is the logical outcome. W hy are you acting surprised? This is all the same problem.