

O Come Let us Despise Them

After reading my article praising a new found poet, a kindly enquirer asked, “But didn’t you know that guy is gay? I found poems in the rear of his book that were definitely perverse.

I’d been wondering how long it would take for one of my rigorously righteous friends to come up with that, ”I Gotcha” question; or was it a charge? My answer was a shrug, but after my inquisitor left, a few reasons came to mind.

A similar charge could be made against many whose reputations have been marred because lapses from righteousness. Why should discovered sins blind us to perhaps a life devoted to helping humanity. Who are we to judge?

I began to realize that many of the people I’ve admired could probably be listed in some ‘book of the damned,’ myself included, because they “fell into sin?” Leonardo DaVinci came first to mind. The accuser might as well have said, “forget *“The Madonna of the Rocks”* and *The Last Supper*, the guy was a fag.” Sorry Clyde, I’m not about to forget either of those masterpieces, anymore than forget Grant’s role in winning of the Civil War because he was a drunk. I like the freedom he helped win, and agree with Abe Lincoln, “If I knew what he’s been drinking, I’d order him some more.”

As for Leonardo, I think his paintings are sublime. If I were a terrorist I’d likely raze The Sistine Chapel, because Michelangelo also was said to be gay. And the chapel’s ceiling is painted with naked jews, for shame!

Benjamin Netanyahu recently, gave a great speech. It reminded me of Martin Luther King. Bibi quoted the Welsh poet, Dylan Thomas, who drank himself to death by age 39. Bibi justified Israel’s bombing Hezbola’s leadership in Lebanon

by saying, “Israel refuses to *go gentle into that good night.*” Which is what our “Blinkin” secretary of state seems to want.

If Bibi thought no one should read any alcoholic poet, Thomas’ masterpiece would have gone unquoted. Of course, Bibi’s speech was boycotted by the Palestinian reps at the U N and minimized by our main line press, who continue to push for a two state Israel. And that, says Bibi, is a non-starter, given Hamas’ massacre of Israelis last October.

More to my point, many of my cherished friends, some even in my own family, I could shun, since they believe “a loving God would never have allowed the suffering of so many innocent people,” and have left Christianity.

That’s the key questions of many, among them Thomas Hardy in his poem “*Hap,*” and Timothy Murphy, the “new” poet I mentioned in my last article. Here’s Murphy’s reaction to the curse that hit his farming: *The Failure:* Tractor and combine axle deep in muck/ Seed corn and soybeans frozen in the field/ Home farm pledged against a bumper yield,/ he has run out of money time and luck.”

Both Hardy and Murphy wrote poems implying God ignored crop failures, natural disasters and the untimely deaths of countless people. To quote again Macduff, in *Macbeth*, at the butchery of his wife and children, “Did Heaven look on and would not take their part?”

Arguments will seldom convince hardened unbelievers. Some of my best friends, and even my father and half-brother scorned organized religion. Dad was saved out of a coma on his death bed. And that has given me hope that all of my loved ones will get a salvation miracle before they die. I hear of miracles almost daily, and no hard case is too tough for Jesus. I think I’ll likely joy to see them all, on that “Great Gittin’ Up Morning.” Love never fails. Gene Pinkney for

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