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Socrates said,

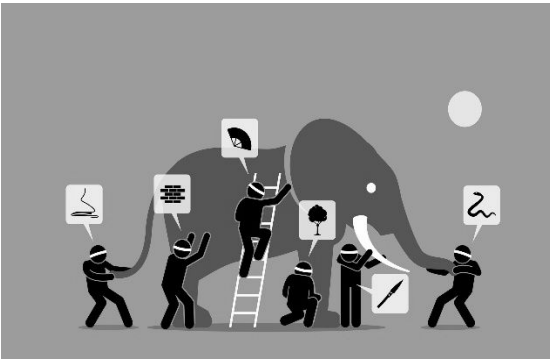
“I cannot teach anybody anything.

I can only make them think.”

Preface

WARNING

I want to warn the reader that some of the content in Hokus Pokus may be disturbing. It is not intended to attack anyone's religious beliefs or pass judgment. The content of this book goes far beyond the typical discussion about deconstructing one's faith and answers the BIG questions. The contents of Hokus Pokus challenge a person to use deconstruction as a steppingstone towards spiritual awakening.



Hokus Pokus looks at the big picture. There is an ancient parable about six blind men and an elephant that teaches a profound lesson.

The tale goes like this. An elephant was brought into a town, and there were six blind men who could not see it. They were all curious about the elephant and decided to inspect it by touching it. The first blind man touched the trunk of the elephant and thought it was a thick snake. The second blind man touched the elephant's ear

and thought it was a big fan. The third blind man touched the elephant's leg and thought it felt like a tree trunk. The fourth blind man touched the side of the elephant and told the others, "It is a wall." The fifth blind man touched the tail of the elephant and described it as a rope. The sixth and last blind man felt the ivory tusk and told the others in the group that the elephant was hard and smooth, so it had to be a spear.

The moral of this tale implies that one's subjective perception is limited because of insufficient knowledge. Deconstruction is much more than just looking at the "tail of the elephant" or the "trunk of the elephant" to reach a definitive conclusion about one's faith.

Hokus Pokus gives the reader knowledge and insights that help one see the big picture or the "whole elephant." When the reader sees the "whole elephant" for the first time, it will be very disturbing. This will be like Dorothy in the Wizard of Oz discovering the truth about the Wizard. He was a fraud, hoaxster, and a deceiver. She yelled at him... "I don't believe you!"

The beginning of the book talks about non-threatening topics like spiritual gaslighting, fearmongering, and spiritual bondage. It continues with Plato's Allegory of the Cave, The Wizard of Oz, Fairy Tales, and Hollywood movies that illustrate spiritual awakening outside of traditional religion.

The water gets deeper when the book goes into the “hokus pokus” of man-made religion. The next section looks at the early church history and the genocide of Christian “heretics” by the Catholic Church during the Middle Ages. All this information is important because the content builds on top of each chapter. It is like climbing a ladder and when one gets to the top, the reader will see (spoiler alert) a wolf in sheep’s clothing. Hokus Pokus is filled with disturbing content that uncovers the truth that has been covered up by man-made religion.



The last chapter is mind-blowing and quite disturbing because it talks about the thousands of evil-looking gargoyles roosting on churches and cathedrals throughout Europe. The Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris has 102 gargoyles roosting on it. Hokus Pokus explains why these evil creatures are looking down on people in the cities.

Finally, the book pulls back the curtain and reveals the invisible rulers who are written about in the Bible and ancient texts. These are the evil powers and principalities who rule over the world. They influence your thoughts, emotions, and actions. These forces of darkness have infiltrated all aspects of our lives, creating chaos,

confusion, fear, and evil. The reader will learn how these evil tricksters use a counterfeit spirit to change good into evil, and light into darkness.

Although this book is disturbing, it is also empowering because it encourages the reader to recognize the “shadows” are not real. The picture on the front cover is a visual image of Plato’s Allegory of the Cave that reflects the overall contents of this book. There are prisoners in a cave staring at shadows since childhood believing the shadows are real.



People often ask me what religion are you, or what church do you go to. I tell them that I belong to the Church of None and it is the fastest growing religion in the country. I usually get a blank stare before I hear, “never heard of it.”

I joined the Church of None about 20 years ago when my pastor suggested that I find another church. At the time, I was on the church board, taught Sunday School, and even was asked to fill in on a Sunday or Wednesday night service to give a teaching.



As I was preparing for my lessons, a silent voice inside me spoke to my spirit that something is not right, and I needed to rethink everything that I was taught as a child and later as an adult. I put on my “critical thinking” glasses and started to read and study material that challenged my core beliefs. Because everything that I read made a lot of sense, I was challenged to keep searching for answers. It did not take very long to see the hokus pokus that my church was teaching.

One day I went to my pastor and shared some of the things that I was learning. He could not respond with a meaningful answer to my questions and concerns. Our meeting ended when he said that it would be better if I found another church. This was one of the best things that ever happened to me. That is when I joined the Church of None. The “Nones” account for nearly 30% of the U.S. population. The term “none” is a label given to those who are unaffiliated with organized religion.

My Church of None has “none” of this.... No religious hokus pokus, no dogmas and creeds, no church buildings, no fear, no guilt, no condemnation, no hell, no judgment, and no delusional thinking. My Church of None is about a relationship with the True God. It honors critical thinking and asking questions.

I have the freedom to interpret scripture as allegories, metaphors, and parables and permission to read all the “banned and heretical” texts, like the Gnostic Gospels, which do not agree with the teachings of man-made religion. The Church of None is universal and not inclusive. There is no hierarchy to tell me what I must believe. I am free to read, study, and listen to spiritual teachers that I choose. It is not a religion but a personal experience.

Hokus Pokus is a thought-provoking and insightful book that strips away the delusional thinking and hokus pokus that keeps individuals in bondage to man-made religion. It will challenge you, disturb you, and make you think. I hope that this book helps you escape from the “cave.”

Thank you for reading this.

Best wishes on your journey along the “yellow brick road.”

Francis Marion

Hokus Pokus
A Practical Guide to Deconstruction

Illusion and Delusion

Illusion

Magic shows are one of the most popular attractions in Las Vegas. David Copperfield, Chris Angel, Shin Lim, Matt Franco, and Penn & Teller are just a few of the most recognizable names performing their magic in magnificent showrooms. People pay top dollar for tickets; their performances are usually sold out. What is the big draw that attracts so many people to magic shows? Can you relate to the disbelief and awe everyone in the audience experiences?

Many people vividly remember an “illusion” they witnessed at a magic show. I recall a dinner show at the Dixie Land Stampede in Branson, Missouri. There were beautiful horses, trick riders, clowns, and a lot of entertaining things to watch. But I still cannot forget the two covered wagons racing to the far end of the arena. At the back of one of the wagons, a young girl waved at the crowd. She ducked into the wagon and disappeared. A few seconds later when the race was over, the same young lady appeared in the back of the second covered wagon waving at the crowd. How did she do this? I have seen this performance several times and it still is an amazing illusion.

One can go on YouTube and watch David Copperfield walk

Illusion and Delusion

through the Great Wall of China or make the Statue of Liberty vanish. There are videos showing people and elephants disappearing or a giant saw that slices a person into two parts. People love to watch the illusion even though they know it is not real.

The words “illusion” and “delusion” often express similar ideas. Although many believe these words mean the same thing, they are radically different. Illusion comes from the Latin word “eluder,” meaning “to mock.” Illusions trick or mock our brains into perceiving something that is not real. Optical illusions are often used as mind games or puzzles to entertain people.

Magic has been around for centuries as an art form where a magician fools people using all sorts of illusionary tricks. They make things appear and disappear. With a sleight of hand or hokus pokus, abracadabra, the magician mocks one’s brain into believing something unreal. An illusion is based on optical or sensory perception. It takes our focus away from the main objective by using sensory images that mislead the brain into thinking that false perception is the true reality. Optical illusions fascinate people because they amaze us when we discover that our brain fooled us into seeing something that is not real.

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This image will “mock” your brain into seeing something unreal. **Stare at the four dots in the center of the image for thirty seconds. Next, look at a blank wall and start blinking your eyes.** Who do you see? Did your brain fool you into seeing a shadow or image of Jesus that was not there? The surprise of seeing a picture of Jesus on the wall is surreal. You certainly know that the image is just an optical illusion. Your personal experience of seeing an illusionary picture on the wall will have a deeper meaning when the book talks about the “shadows” on the wall of Plato’s cave.

If you keep reading this book, you will learn about the ultimate mind-blowing illusion that has been mocking your brain and tricking you into seeing something that is not real. It is the greatest illusion ever created because it makes the universe disappear.

Illusion and Delusion



Delusion

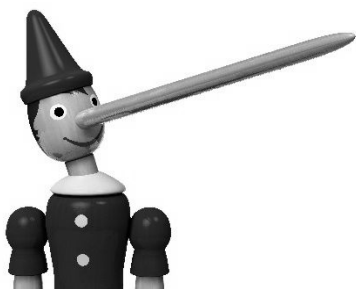
The Latin word for delusion is “delusionem” which means deceiving. Unlike an “illusion” that receives false information from the senses, a delusion, such as a lie, receives false cognitive information and believes it to be true. A delusion is a false belief resistant to confrontation and will not change despite evidence to the contrary. It is much more serious because it controls a person’s ability to make rational decisions and forces one to believe in something that is not true or real.

When the brain receives false and misleading information, such as lies, and other distortions of the truth, it deciphers the data as either true or false depending on the preconceived mental state of the individual. Often a delusional person will receive false information and interpret it as confirmation and reinforcement that supports their erroneous perception of the truth. The Cambridge Dictionary defines delusion as “something a person believes and

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wants to be true when it is not.” Your brain creates your perception of the world. This means that your brain fills in gaps when there is incomplete information. In a delusion, the brain creates a false image or belief. Individuals trapped in a delusion are prone to believing errors and lies and see them as truth. A delusion is like a mental fortress that resists both common sense and overwhelming evidence to the contrary.



Studies reveal the existence of an illusory truth effect that occurs when false information is repeated over time. Individuals most often believe something is true because they heard it many times in the past.

The foundational principle of the illusory truth effect suggests repetition makes a false idea much easier to believe. Billions of people believe hokus pokus is true because it has been repeated for hundreds of years. Repeating delusional thinking and false information does not change hokus pokus into truth. “The illusory truth effect, also known as the illusion of truth, describes how, when we hear the same false information repeated again and again, we often come to believe it is true. Troublingly, this even happens when people should know better-that is when people initially know that

Illusion and Delusion

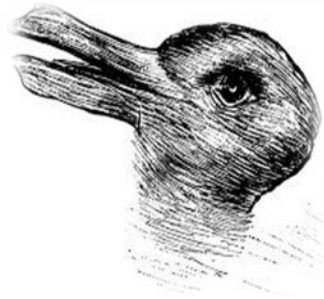
the misinformation is false.” (The Decision Lab, Why do we believe misinformation more easily when it’s repeated many times?)

Delusional thinking will be explained later in the book as a counterfeit spirit that deceives and tricks the mind.

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What Do You See?

An old lady or a young lady? A rabbit or a duck?



The literal story or the hidden symbolism

Illusion and Delusion

We can read numerous passages in the Bible that warn individuals about a strong delusion. The premise of this book is to demonstrate that this “strong delusion” has blinded millions or billions of people in the world over the centuries into believing a lie. They are like the “shadows” in Plato’s cave. Although the Bible warns us about a “strong delusion,” most people will dismiss this and think it refers to someone else or another religious group.

“Denial is the most predictable of all human responses.”

(The Architect, Matrix Reloaded)

Mystics throughout the ages have used coded language to communicate their esoteric wisdom. They disguised their message in common words like cave, mountain, water, air, earth, man, woman, etc., to fool those on the outside. They also used numbers and names to hide and protect their teachings about the sacred mysteries. In the New Testament, Jesus used the same approach to teach his disciples about the Kingdom of Heaven when he spoke in parables. This literary technique has “blinded” unawakened souls into believing hokus pokus.

Hokus Pokus

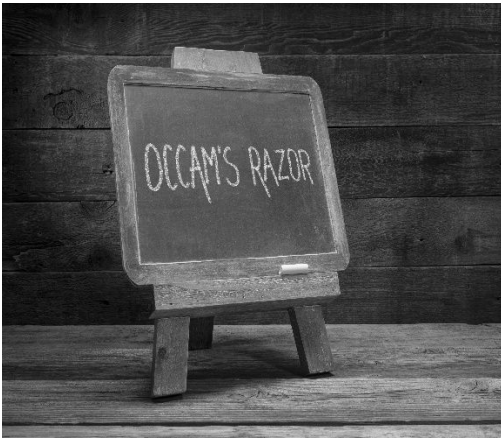
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Hiding the esoteric and symbolic message in a literal story resonates with the words of Jesus of Nazareth... “Therefore speak I to them in parables, because seeing, they see not, and hearing, they hear not, neither do they understand.” (Matt 13:15)

Plato’s Allegory in The Cave uses prisoners chained to a wall to illustrate how mankind has been fooled and deceived by “shadows” that are not real. The remainder of this book will use fairy tales, the Wizard of Oz, Hollywood movies, and the Christian Bible to reveal the universal message that transcends the delusional thinking and hokus pokus of man-made religion.

Deconstruction and Occam's Razor

Searching for your inner truth may feel like you are lost in a maze. There are so many opinions and ideas to sort out. One can feel overwhelmed and inadequate to figure things out. The only thing that you know for sure is that your intuition is telling you something is not right with your religious beliefs.



Occam's Razor is a philosophical principle that dates to the fourteenth century. This brilliant rule for solving a difficult problem is associated with William of Occam who lived between 1285-1348. He was an English theologian and Franciscan friar. The true origin of Occam's Razor is still debatable as many scholars believe it goes back to ancient times.

The main idea behind Occam's Razor follows the footsteps of modern detectives, medical doctors, scientists, and others searching for answers to difficult questions. A doctor must consider all the symptoms before he can give a diagnosis and a detective must check out all the clues before he links someone to a crime. Occam

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simplified the problem-solving dilemma by suggesting the truth is simple and not complicated.

The simplest answer is most often correct.



Occam used the visual imagery of a razor to communicate the cutting away or shaving away all the unnecessary or unlikely explanations. A jackhammer is more realistic for someone who is deconstructing.

It may take a jack hammer to bust through the layers of hokus pokus and years of indoctrination. One can look at deconstruction as the shaving away of delusional thinking, myths, and false evidence appearing real.

Jefferson's Bible

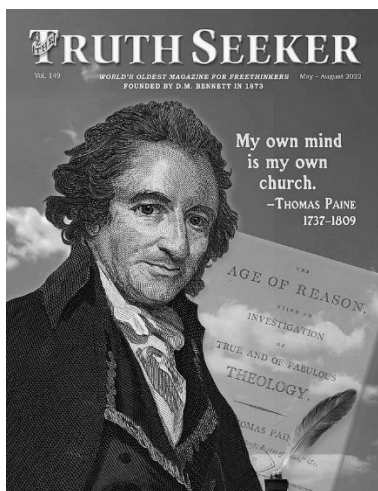
Thomas Jefferson took a razor and physically removed the “hokus pokus” from his Bible. Many religious writers and right-wing fundamentalists did a hokus pokus on Thomas Jefferson and many of the other founding fathers by reinventing them to look like orthodox Christians. The former president was a deep spiritual thinker who dismissed the Trinity, virgin birth, the miracles of Jesus, and the resurrection. Jefferson believed Jesus of Nazareth was a holy man and a preeminent teacher. More importantly, he rejected the divinity of Jesus of Nazareth.

Using his razor, he cut and pasted the text into a scrapbook that he bound in red leather. “The ex-president bent over the book, using a razor and scissors to carefully cut out small squares of text.” (History Channel, Why Thomas Jefferson Rewrote the Bible Without Jesus' Miracles and Resurrection, August 1, 2019) This is commonly known as the Jefferson Bible. He wrote two volumes, *The Philosophy of Jesus of Nazareth* and *The Life and Morals of Jesus of Nazareth*. Jefferson's Bible is condensed into eighty-four pages. This national treasure is on display at the Smithsonian Museum. One can also purchase a copy online.

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Thomas Paine



Thomas Paine was a founding father, political activist, philosopher, and a truth seeker. He had a profound influence on molding the independent spirit of the colonists and the shaping of the Declaration of Independence. He wrote a short pamphlet called Common Sense that sold more than 500,000 copies that inspired the

American Revolution.

He also wrote another pamphlet, The Age of Reason, which sparked a revival in religious “deconstruction” and free thinking. Paine was a deist who believed in the True God but rejected the divinity of Jesus. He belonged to a brotherhood of other colonial Deists who included George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, James Madison, and James Monroe, and others.

Image of Thomas Paine: The publisher of the Truth Seeker, Roderick Bradford, provided permission to upload these images to Wikimedia Commons., CC BY-SA 4.0
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Deconstruction and Occam's Razor

Because Thomas Paine attacked organized religion, his thought-provoking ideas were ridiculed and rejected by Christians. Although schools across America “banned” Paine’s “heretical” book, it still stands out today as a popular resource for truth seekers. The ideas of Thomas Paine are more relevant today as individuals search for meaningful information that exposes the hokus pokus of organized religion.

Trying to summarize *The Age of Reason* would be an injustice to the book and to the courage of Thomas Paine for expressing his views to a closed-minded and hostile audience. Here are several quotes from Thomas Paine’s book.

“It is the duty of every man, as far as his ability extends, to detect and expose delusion and error. But nature has not given to everyone a talent for that purpose, and among those to whom such a talent is given, there is often a want of disposition or of courage to do it.” Thomas Paine, *The Age of Reason*

“It is a contradiction in terms and ideas to call anything a revelation that comes to us at second hand, either verbally or in writing.” Thomas Paine, *The Age of Reason*

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“Of all the systems of religion that ever were invented, there is no more derogatory to the Almighty, more unedifying to man, more repugnant to reason, and more contradictory to itself than this thing called Christianity. Too absurd for belief, too impossible to convince, and too inconsistent for practice, it renders the heart torpid or produces only atheists or fanatics. As an engine of power, it serves the purpose of despotism, and as a means of wealth, the avarice of priests, but so far as respects the good of man, in general, it leads to nothing here or hereafter.”— Thomas Paine, The Age of Reason

“The most formidable weapon against errors of every kind is Reason. I have never used any other, and I trust I never shall.”
Thomas Paine, The Age of Reason

“All national institutions of churches, whether Jewish, Christian, or Turkish, appear to me no other than human inventions set up to terrify and enslave mankind, and monopolize power and profit.” Thomas Paine, The Age of Reason

“Whenever we read the obscene stories, the voluptuous

Deconstruction and Occam's Razor

debaucheries, the cruel and torturous executions, the unrelenting vindictiveness, with which more than half the Bible is filled, it would be more consistent that we called it the word of a demon, than the word of God. It is a history of wickedness that has served to corrupt and brutalize mankind; and, for my part, I sincerely detest it, as I detest everything that is cruel.”— Thomas Paine, The Age of Reason

“The study of theology, as it stands in Christian churches, is the study of nothing; it is founded on nothing; it rests on no principles; it proceeds by no authorities; it has no data; it can demonstrate nothing; and it admits of no conclusion. Not anything can be studied as a science, without our being in possession of the principles upon which it is founded; and as this is the case with Christian theology, it is therefore the study of nothing.”
— Thomas Paine, The Age of Reason

“It is a contradiction in terms and ideas, to call anything a revelation that comes to us second-hand, either verbally or in writing. Revelation is necessarily limited to the first communication; after this, it is only an account of something which that person says was a revelation made to him; and though he may find himself obliged to believe it, it cannot be incumbent on me to

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believe it in the same manner; for it was not a revelation made to *me*, and I have only his word for it that it was made to him.”— Thomas Paine, Age of Reason

“Thomas did not believe in the resurrection; and, as they say, would not believe without having ocular and manual demonstration himself. So, neither will I; and the reason is equally as good for me and for every other person as for Thomas.” Thomas Paine, Age of Reason

“The age of ignorance commenced with the Christian system.” Thomas Paine, Age of Reason

“That many good men have believed this strange fable [Christianity] and lived very good lives under that belief (for credulity is not a crime) is what I have no doubt of. In the first place, they were educated to believe it, and they would have believed anything else in the same manner.

Deconstruction and Occam's Razor

There are also many who have been so enthusiastically enraptured by what they conceived to be the infinite love of God to man, in making a sacrifice of himself, that the vehemence of the idea has forbidden and deterred them from examining into the absurdity and profaneness of the story.”— Thomas Paine, The Age of Reason

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The Pearl of Great Price

Although we do not hear much about “pearl peeling” today, it was a common practice long ago. This was the process of removing blemishes, stains, and other imperfections from a natural pearl spoiled by imperfections. It required a sharp knife or razor to remove the blemishes and stains. After the “pearl peeling” was completed, only the perfect white pearl remained.

This is like the parable of the pearl of great price. “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, who when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.” Matt 13:45-46 The merchant sold all that he had so he could buy the “one pearl of great price.” The merchant had to sell his hokus pokus, false beliefs, and delusional thinking before he could purchase the pearl of great price.

Using Occam’s Razors requires critical thinking, asking questions, and cutting out the delusional thinking and hokus pokus. Someone choosing the path of deconstruction can no longer accept “blind faith” as an authoritative answer to meaningful questions. Let knowledge, critical thinking, common sense, and your inner intuition be your friends on your journey.

Fundamentalism

F.E.A.R., or the *false evidence appearing real*, is the outward manifestation of fundamentalism. The Oxford Dictionary describes fundamentalism as “a form of a religion, especially Islam or Protestant Christianity, which upholds belief in the strict, literal interpretation of scripture.” At its core, fundamentalism is closed-minded and rigid thinking. Dogmas, doctrines, literalism, and the belief in the inerrancy of scripture are crucial to this narrow-minded thinking.

A fundamentalist is incapable of critical thinking, reasoning, or asking questions. Despite overwhelming evidence that opposes his delusional beliefs, the fundamentalist will not change his dogmatic thinking and continues to believe his views are right. Because most fundamentalists hold on to the literal interpretation of scripture, it suggests this type of thinking is a mental disorder.

Because a “delusion” resembles a mental disorder, we must consider what the mental health community says about it. Psychiatrists and psychologists use a double standard for individuals who manifest the symptoms of a delusion and meet the classical definition of this disorder. They treat individuals with unshakable beliefs that are irrational and unbelievable as a delusional psychotic mental disorder; and ignore billions of people on the planet who believe in a delusional reality of talking snakes, a man living in a

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whale for 3 days, or a burning bush that talked. The mental health community does not consider a person delusional if their false reality and fantasies are part of a common set of beliefs shared by a larger group.

Author and philosopher Robert M Pirsig said, “When one person suffers from a delusion, it is called insanity. When many people suffer from a delusion, it is called religion.” Sigmund Freud suggested that religion was a collective neurosis of mankind.

Fundamentalism

Herd Mentality



This “collective neurosis” is called herd mentality. It is also called mob mentality or group thinking. The definition of herd mentality is “the tendency of the people in a group to think and behave in ways that conform with others in the group rather than as individuals.” (Meriam Webster's Dictionary) One can see this in political views, social behavior, and religion. Belonging to a group of like-minded people provides comfort and social acceptance. The likelihood of judgment, criticism, and social distancing keep individuals locked into the herd. Belonging to the “in crowd” does not mean the herd is always right. History is filled with disturbing examples of a herd mentality gone wild. Racial discrimination, female inequality, bigotry, antisemitism, are just a few examples.

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Herd thinking or sheeple behavior is dangerous when it takes away an individual's ability to use critical thinking and form opinions. The definition of sheeple is "people who copy what other people do or believe what they are told and do not think for themselves. Sheeple is a combination of the words sheep and people" Man-made religion has thrived over the centuries because it is based on herd mentality and sheeple behavior. One must accept a set of established dogmas and creeds to belong to the herd. Individuals cannot belong to the herd without accepting the dogmas and creeds sanctioned by the leaders of the flock.

Whether one belongs to a Catholic or Protestant herd, the herd mentality is the same thing, only the outward appearance is different. Both denominations rely on group thinking or a mob mentality to serve the powers controlling the herd. One can argue...

*A religion that demands herd thinking is
self-serving and man-made.*

Christian deconstruction and deconverting are rapidly growing because individuals reject the authoritarian mindset of institutional religion, which holds them hostage to herd thinking. Many in the "herd" are waking up and sensing something is wrong.

Many factors influence herd mentality. Individuals in

Fundamentalism

bondage to herd mentality are not consciously aware of their predicament. This is a collective unconsciousness. Later in this book, we will discuss Plato's Allegory of the Cave. The prisoners in the cave are like the "sheeple" or part of the herd mentality. Although one prisoner escaped, the remaining prisoners stayed in the cave because they thought the shadows were real and did not want to leave the "herd."

Crowd psychology is important to herd mentality because people instinctively follow the crowd. More importantly, crowd behavior influences how a person receives information. If the crowd takes on a herd mentality, there is no critical thinking, no questioning, and blissful agreement with the "statement of faith" that defines the beliefs of the herd. A preacher can easily manipulate the crowd by asking the congregation for an affirmative "amen" to his talking points.

Worship music has become a major part of crowd psychology and herd mentality. The music is emotional, scripted, and orchestrated to create a euphoric atmosphere of like-minded people. The music can make people cry, raise their hands, or even jump and down. Repetitive music is manipulative, hypnotic, and used to open one's mind to suggestions. This crowd psychology keeps the congregation in a "herd mentality."

Herd mentality or group thinking is dangerous because it

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does not allow individuals to voice their opinions or express opposing viewpoints. Religion is a perfect example of herd mentality and group thinking. Delusional thinking thrives in herd mentality because no one is allowed to ask questions or express a negative opinion.

Fundamentalism

Spiritual Gaslighting



The definition of gaslighting is “manipulate (someone) using psychological methods into questioning their own sanity or powers of reasoning. This is a modern term

that can be applied to Christians who are undergoing deconstruction or deconversion. Spiritual gaslighters are often abusive, manipulative, and closed-minded. It boils down to “We are right, and you are wrong.”

In a spiritual context, gaslighting is a form of spiritual abuse where the “know it all” rejects the belief of the person who is deconverting. In most cases, the “know it all” is professing hokus pokus, and the truth seeker is waking up to the truth. A person using spiritual gaslighting will often threaten another by saying something like this.... “You are going to hell if you don’t believe like I do,” or “You are listening to the devil.” The predictable “big bazooka” always comes out as a last resort, “be careful there are false prophets and teachers, and they will deceive many.”

Christian gaslighters are working overtime and using every diabolical trick to combat the exodus of free thinkers and deconverters who are leaving the church. Spiritual gaslighting is a

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common spiritual practice in man-made religions. Truth seekers who are alert, will recognize the gaslighters and the tactics they use to control people and keep power over them. They manipulate a person's sense of spiritual truth and reality by hiding behind blind faith, delusional thinking, and hokus pokus. They also use their ecclesiastical power to shame one into submission and accept their orthodox beliefs.

Spiritual gaslighters tell you what to think without respecting the other person's intelligence, perspective, or experience. Truth-seekers walking the path of deconversion must be aware of "spiritual gaslighters" and the tactics they use to keep individuals in bondage to their way of thinking. Everyone walking the path of deconstruction (the yellow brick road) needs to stay strong and continue to seek truth outside of man-made religion. The inner voice of the mystical Christ inside you makes this reassuring promise for your faith journey. "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth" John 16:13

Because the "voice" of man-made religion is so loud, most unawakened souls have never heard the silent inner voice of the mystical Christ. When you turn off the delusional thinking and hokus pokus of your church, you will soon hear the inner voice of the mystical Christ.

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And he said, “Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the Lord. And, behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the Lord; but the Lord was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the Lord was not in the earthquake:

And after the earthquake a fire; but the Lord was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice.

And it was so, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out, and stood in the entering in of the cave. And, behold, there came a voice unto him, and said, What doest thou here, Elijah? 1 Kings 19 11-13

Elijah stood in the “entering of the cave,” just like the prisoner who escaped from Plato’s cave and discovered the illuminating light and the True God.

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Spiritual Bondage

If your religion teaches you not to question, then it is hiding something from you.

Plato's Allegory of the Cave uses allegory to teach us about individuals who choose to remain in the cave. They believed the shadows on the cave's wall were real and did not want to escape. This is typical of most individuals in man-made religion. They are comfortable and do not want to think for themselves. Because the delusion of the false evidence appearing real has spiritually blinded unawakened souls, the deceptive shadows look real. Plato's allegory reveals a surprising twist to the story.



The other prisoners chained to the wall did not want to escape; they chose to remain in bondage. Metaphorically speaking, the prisoners who did not want to escape represent individuals who refuse “deconstruction.” The prisoners are not physically incarcerated, they have the freedom to go anywhere they choose. It is

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their minds and souls that are in prison. Man-made religion has brainwashed, indoctrinated, and psychologically manipulated the prisoners so they do not want to leave the comfort of their mental prison.

The deconstruction movement is like a “prison ministry” helping unawakened souls exit the cave and come out of spiritual bondage to man-made religion.

The Church has made it extremely difficult to overcome this bondage. Throughout early Church history, one can see the extreme measures taken to control people, spiritually enslave them, and bind them to the whims of papal authority. Anyone who challenged the church’s doctrine was labeled a heretic and most often put to death. The religious slave masters burned sacred books and wisdom libraries. They also silenced the ancient Mystery Schools and sanitized the world from all ancient teachings that contradicted the theology of the Roman Church. History records the ugly narrative of the Inquisition, Crusades, and other holy wars to “convert” the population and “bind” them as spiritual slaves to the authoritarian control of the Roman church. Heretics were tortured and burned at the stake to eliminate everyone who disagreed with Rome's theology.

Man-made religion uses more subtle tactics like the fear of hell, literalism, and promises of prosperity and blessings to keep the

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flock enslaved and shackled to the mental prison walls of the religious “matrix.” Churches use entertainment and emotional praise music to “hypnotize” and psychologically sedate the congregation into spiritual ignorance and bondage. Repetitive music allows the counterfeit spirit to take control of the minds of the “prisoners in the cave,” so they do not want to leave. The counterfeit spirit is important and will be discussed later in the book.

Even today, man-made religion maintains an ecclesiastical dictatorship as it hides behind its “God given” authority. For example, Catholics give the Vatican ultimate authority to interpret scripture and truth, and Protestant leaders declare their fundamental orthodox ideologies as the inspired “word of God.” This is bondage to the religious hierarchy of man-made religion; it requires obedience and religious servitude to remain a church member. The authoritarian rule of man-made religion is a perfect example that illustrates the Latin word “relegare,” which means to bind.

In the first Matrix movie, Morpheus told Neo he was born into bondage. The overwhelming power of the “matrix” to program a young person at such an early age makes it extremely difficult to break the chains of bondage.

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Morpheus

“As children, we do not separate the possible from the impossible which is why the younger a mind is the easier it is to free while a mind like yours can be very difficult.”

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St. Ignatius of the Catholic Jesuits said, “Give me a child until he is seven, and I will show you the man.” It is far easier for a child to let go of

Santa Claus than for an adult Christian to let go of talking snakes, Noah’s Ark, Jonah and the whale, and other myths and fables. The indoctrination of literalism into the gullible minds of children creates a mental prison that carries over into adulthood.

Man-made religion indoctrinates children. The definition of indoctrination is the process of teaching a person or group to accept a set of beliefs uncritically. Man-made religion preys on the gullibility of children to believe whatever adults tell them. The leaders of man-made religion know that it is critical to fill the minds of children with hokus pokus because it creates a mental stronghold of delusional thinking that shackles children into spiritual bondage as adults.

Indoctrination of children will make a lot more sense as you continue to read this book. The reader will learn about the counterfeit spirit and the forces behind this brainwashing.

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The Pied Piper



*When, lo, as they reached the mountainside,
A wondrous portal opened wide,
As if a cavern was suddenly hollowed.
And the Piper advanced, and the children followed,
And when all were into the very last,
The door in the mountainside shut fast.
Robert Browning*

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The picture of the Pied Piper is a powerful visual aid to illustrate how children and adults are easily led by the counterfeit spirit into a dark spiritual place. Jesus warns us about following blind leaders. He talked about blind religious leaders who lead unawakened souls away from the Kingdom of Heaven. The people following the Pied Piper are blissfully ignorant and have no idea where they will end up.

“Let them alone. They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch.”

Matt 15:14

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Modern Day Pharaohs

The biblical story of the Exodus has striking similarities to the modern-day deconstruction movement. There is a mass “exodus” of individuals walking out the doors of mainstream churches or deconstructing their faith. These individuals are like the Israelite slaves leaving the bondage of Egypt, only this time, it is the bondage of mainstream religion.

Although most historians and scholars agree that the historical Exodus never happened, it always occurs within the consciousness or spirit of a truth seeker. There are both the inner voices of a mystical Moses inside a person calling one out of the bondage of man-made religion; and a mystical pharaoh standing in the way as a gatekeeper, keeping the unawakened soul in bondage to “Egypt” or man-made religion. The mystical Moses says, “Let my children go.” The mystical pharaoh inside a person says, “No way,” blocking the exit to spiritual freedom like a prison guard demanding that his slaves stay in bondage.

The modern-day “pharaoh” is a tyrant who uses spiritual gaslighting to shackle unawakened souls to man-made religion. It is usually an authority figure, like a pastor, a parent, or a religious zealot within the family, who insists they know better. These modern-day pharaohs are trying to manipulate individuals and control the outcome of their thinking. They will use their Bibles and

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memorized scripture rebuttals to bully and confuse you. Later in this book, the reader will learn the true identity of the “pharaoh” inside you who is trying to block your exit from the “cave.”

Unfortunately, a brand-new deconstructionist is vulnerable to the attacks of the “know it all” and may prematurely give in to the spiritual gaslighters. A truth seeker who spends a minimal amount of time in critical thinking, study, and personal reflection will soon have the confidence, knowledge, and wisdom to stand up and not get pushed around by those spiritual gaslighters who are trying to control you.

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Modern Day False Prophets



Traditional religion and spiritual gaslighters have silenced the prophets of the modern world. Although Christianity identifies itself with the

prophets of the Old Testament, it refuses to acknowledge any outsider who challenges its dogmas, doctrines, and delusional thinking.

Because the members of the Church are so dull of hearing and poisoned by the “apple” of delusion, they cannot comprehend the truth coming out of today’s modern-day prophets urging people to wake up and come out of the cave. The message of the modern-day prophets echoes the same criticisms of the “heretics” who opposed the Roman Catholic Church hundreds of years ago. These “holy people” were tortured and burned at the stake to silence them. This will be discussed in greater detail later in the book.

In the past, prophets were labeled heretics. The Roman church (bad fruit) tortured and killed millions of innocent souls in cold blood to protect the “faith.” Today spiritual gaslighters who stand behind their pulpits frighten their congregations by suggesting today's prophets are deceivers, scoffers, and false prophets.

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Protecting the “faith” is much easier and more humane because the church only needs to metaphorically snap its crooked finger, and the followers do whatever they are told without blinking an eye. Blind faith is the sedative that keeps individuals in spiritual blindness, ignorance, and captivity.

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Who Are the Real Scoffers and Deceivers?

Many wolves in sheep's clothing arrogantly point their crooked fingers at modern-day prophets and condemn them for being scoffers and deceivers. One only needs to spend a few minutes in the book of Jeremiah to see and understand that the ***pastors*** are scattering the sheep and destroying the vineyard. This is another hokus pokus, a sinister cover-up perpetuated by man-made religion to cover up the truth. According to the Bible, "***pastors***" are the real scoffers and deceivers because they are the ones who scatter the sheep, destroy the vineyard, and transgress against the True God.

The counterfeit spirit prevents unawakened souls from discerning the truth and recognizing what Jeremiah is saying to those with ears to hear. Pastors are preventing people from knowing the True God and driving unawakened souls away.

Jeremiah 23:1-2 Woe be unto the ***pastors*** that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture, saith the LORD. Therefore, thus saith the LORD God of Israel against the ***pastors*** that feed my people; Ye have scattered my flock and driven them away.

Jer_2:8 The priests said not, where is the LORD? And they that handle the law knew me not: the ***pastors*** also transgressed against me, and the prophets prophesied by Baal, and walked after things that do not profit.

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Jer_12:10 Many *pastors* have destroyed my vineyard, they have trodden my portion underfoot, they have made my pleasant portion a desolate wilderness.

Jer_23:1 Woe be unto the *pastors* that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture saith the LORD.

Jer_23:2 Therefore thus saith the LORD God of Israel against the *pastors* that feed my people; Ye have scattered my flock, and driven them away, and have not visited them: behold, I will visit upon you the evil of your doings, saith the LORD.

Individuals going through a “faith deconversion” need to turn this false accusation around and understand that man-made religion is the “false prophet,” keeping people from knowing the truth revealed by Jesus of Nazareth and embraced by many of the earliest Christians.

In the Matrix movie, Morpheus warned Neo that by taking the red pill, he would show him how deep down the rabbit hole goes... and that all he was offering was the truth. Metaphorically taking the “red pill” opens your eyes, and you begin to see things from a new perspective. One is empowered to disregard group thinking and question everything. The “red pill” is a symbol for waking up to the truth. This phenomenon is growing exponentially in Christian churches as more people wake up and experience

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enlightenment and spiritual freedom. Individuals are discovering the “key of knowledge” or gnosis that the Roman Church took away two thousand years ago.

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Truth Detector

If you still find yourself lost in the deconstruction maze. You can always follow the words of Jesus of Nazareth and let them guide you.

“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore, by their fruits you will know them.” Matt 7 15-20 The “bad fruits” and “bad trees” will be discussed at great length later in the book .It will be easy to spot the false prophets who come in sheep’s clothing but are inwardly ravenous wolves.

The bad fruits are the bloodshed, corruption, materialism, scandals, and other hokus pokus that are out in the open and impossible to deny. Throughout history thousands of innocent souls were labeled heretics and tortured or burned at the stake by the Roman Church. Jesus of Nazareth is clearly pointing his finger at the bad fruit of man-made religion and warning unawakened souls to stay away from them.

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Most often the counterfeit spirit keeps individuals locked into the comfort of belonging to the herd. In Plato's Allegory of the Cave, only one prisoner chose to leave the cave and the other prisoners remained in the bondage of the cave staring at shadows. Although the message of the "bad fruits" and "bad trees" is easy to understand, it has failed to make a significant impact on modern day church attendees. The counterfeit spirit seduces individuals to remain in man-made religion stained with bloodshed, corruption, materialism, scandals, and other hokus pokus. The counterfeit spirit will be discussed in greater detail later in the book.

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Fearmongering

The definition of fearmongering is “the action of intentionally trying to make people afraid of something when this is not necessary or reasonable. (Cambridge dictionary) A popular perception of many outspoken people discussing religion is that it is based on fear. A famous writer and philosopher, Bertrand Russel, wrote, “Religion is based, I think, primarily and mainly upon fear.” The fear of hell, the fear of not being good enough, or the fear of being “left behind” at the rapture are just a few examples of the “fear” that torments the minds of many believers. “In addition to the widely accepted meaning of “fear” as a strong unpleasant emotion in response to a danger or threat, there is an equally important acronym, F.E.A.R is false evidence appearing real. This will be discussed in greater detail later in the book.



Dante’s Divine Comedy stands out as one of the great classics of literature. It was written in the 14th century to portray the eternal damnation of hell. Although this was written over seven hundred years ago, it had a profound and lasting influence that still terrorizes people in the modern world. In his poem, he described the nine circles of hell and the fitting punishment assigned to the

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sinners. His poem about the horrors of eternal damnation is an example of fearmongering and scaremongering used by the Catholic and Protestant Churches to control the world's population.



Fearmongering or scaremongering has been a tool for Christians to recruit new members and keep current members in bondage to the dogmas and creeds of the faith. Billy Graham was a Southern Baptist evangelist who has been portrayed as one of the most influential Christian leaders of the twentieth century. He hosted meetings between 1947 and 2005. The Billy Graham Association claims that Billy Graham preached the gospel message to more people than anyone else. Nearly 215 million people in more than 185 countries attended his meetings. He hosted 417 crusades. One can also argue that he was the greatest fearmonger and scaremonger of all time.

His fire and brimstone preaching scared the “hell” out of people. He preached that hell is real and that God would judge everyone when they died. Sinners would go to their eternal damnation if they did not accept Jesus of Nazareth as lord and Savior. In one of his sermons, he said, “God is a God of wrath, and His wrath is going to be poured out upon this world and upon you if you are outside of Christ.” His fearmongering crusades would

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climax in scripted and orchestrated altar calls. Billy Graham's captivating sermon scared people. Because the promise of going to heaven when a person dies was a "no-brainer," the crowds emptied their seats when the invitation to come forward was announced. The song, *Just as I Am*, was always played during the altar call. Because music has been described as an effective type of hypnosis, the melody and words of the song created a hypnotic atmosphere that spoke to the crowd and urged people to come forward. Billy Graham was a master at using psychological manipulation to justify the outward appearance of saving people for Christ.

Although millions of people thought they were saved and would go to heaven, Billy Graham admitted that few people became committed Christians. "And yet, in a 1990 interview with PBS, Billy Graham stated his belief that only about 25% of those who came forward at one of his events became Christians. ("Reverend Billy Graham talking with David Frost," PBS, January 23, 1993, as recorded in David Frost's *Billy Graham - Personal Thoughts of a Public Man*, (1997), pp.71-72) Although Billy Graham touched a significant number of lives, his "fearmongering" cannot be overlooked. Does the end justify the means? Ask yourself does God condone "fearmongering"? Did Jesus of Nazareth instruct his disciples to "scare the hell of them" when he sent them out to preach

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the kingdom of heaven? Fearmongering is a psychological tool of man-made religion.

“In recent years, studies have shown that only 3-6% of people who “come forward” at an evangelistic crusade are any different in their beliefs or behavior one year later.” (Pulpit & Pen, Do Greg Laurie’s Harvest Crusades Produce False Converts? June 22, 2016) This suggest that a spontaneous decision for Christ is most often a false conversion.

Everyone watching, in person or on TV, was amazed at all the lines of people going forward to recite the sinner’s prayer and invite Jesus into their hearts. Although they thought they were committing their lives to Jesus, we now know that only a tiny fraction of the people made a lasting commitment. Billy Graham’s altar calls were fabrications that fooled everyone. Although a tiny fraction of people benefited from the altar call, the vast majority were unchanged. It was false evidence appearing real that deceived everyone watching.

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False Evidence Appearing Real

The letters in the acronym F.E.A.R. create a useful tool to help one remember the definition of a delusion. It stands for False Evidence Appearing Real. Both serve and mutually support one another. F.E.A.R (false evidence appearing real) perpetuates fear (unpleasant emotion.)

Because Santa Clause is a universal figure, he perfectly fits the narrative about F.E.A.R. or false evidence appearing real. Through the eyes of a child, Santa Clause is a real person who has a long snowy white beard and dresses in a red jacket trimmed with white fur. He lives at the North Pole and flies through the sky in a sled pulled by nine reindeer. Parents bring their children to see Santa in person so they can personally tell him what they want for Christmas. Because children are guided by childish thinking, they believe what their parents and other adults tell them... Santa is real.

In most cases, parents are the first adults to introduce Santa to their children. Parents, grandparents, teachers, and other adults perpetuate this fantasy by telling “little white lies” that trick the child into believing fictitious stories about Santa Claus.

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Eventually, every parent must tell the truth, “Santa Claus is not real.” We can learn a lot from our children. Despite their age and immaturity, they ask questions and want to know the truth. Can we say the same for most adults?

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F.E.A.R.

One must first understand that the ancient world had a deep intuitive understanding of spiritual truths. They understood that the stories about their pagan deities were mythological, allegorical, and symbolic. Nature, the zodiac, philosophy, and mathematics were sources of their wisdom. Sacred mystery schools throughout the ancient world taught initiates about man's relationship with the True God. This wisdom has a long history going back thousands of years to ancient Egypt. Some of the greatest spiritual minds shared this knowledge and passed it on through secret writings, rituals, and drama plays. The most common themes centered around the symbolic birth, death, and resurrection of a deity. Drama plays or writings like the gospels were symbolic scripts used in initiation ceremonies for advanced initiates. They were not intended to be comprehended as literal stories and events but as allegories and esoteric teachings.

Because it is crucial that the reader understands this important point it will be repeated. Initiates were instructed that these allegories were not literal stories, but spiritual teachings hidden in esoteric symbolisms. Because this knowledge was sacred, it took several initiations to communicate the esoteric knowledge to the initiates who were seeking a deeper relationship with the True

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God. The mysteries were not revealed to the masses because this knowledge or gnosis was never shared with the population on the outside. The initiates took a solemn oath to keep their knowledge about the mysteries a secret, and they would never share these teachings with anyone outside the mystery school.

The false evidence appearing real was the counterfeit spirit that tricked the world into believing the delusional thinking and hokus pokus of the early church. The Roman Catholic Church was financially supported and politically empowered by the mighty power of the Roman Empire. The merging of the secular state and the church allowed the false evidence appearing real to go unchallenged. This diabolical marriage created a man-made religion (know them by their fruits) that was free to create all sorts of hokus pokus and delusional thinking.

Because the new converts were uneducated peasants, they were easy prey for Roman Catholic missionaries. The nobility received large sums of money and other benefits as bribery from the church state to buy their conversion and allegiance. This allowed the Catholic Church to dominate the world for hundreds of years despite the corruption, materialism, and scandals of the priests, bishops, and papacy.

The false evidence appearing real was a useful decoy for the early church to recruit new members. Because large numbers of

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unawakened souls multiplied throughout the world, a “collective unconsciousness” became the new normal for “believers.” This is like the “prisoners” in Plato’s cave since childhood who believed the shadows on the wall were real.

The false evidence appearing real will be discussed in greater detail later in the book. This is only the tip of the iceberg.