

The Majority

Dominik Slusarczyk

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Introduction

All of the religions say we are special. They say humans are better, more important, than the other life forms. They say we are above dogs and flowers and bacteria. Most people agree with the religions: everybody thinks animals and plants are beneath us, so far beneath us that we are allowed to do anything we want with them.

The religions say god made us in his own image. They say god made Earth just for us. They say we are so important that we get to live forever. They say we are being tested.

The religions say life is a game with rules and points. If you follow the rules you get points. If you get enough points you get to be happy for eternity. The situation is a little bit worse if you do not get enough points.

As well as telling us what to do the religions go into great detail about what we are not allowed to do. We are not allowed to murder, steal, commit adultery. According to the religions we're god's pets.

You decide what your dog is allowed to do. When your dog is good you give him treats. When he's bad you muzzle him. God also punishes or rewards us based on rules he decided himself. The religions say we are god's pets.

God only lets us live in his house if we are good; if we are bad we have to live in god's garden. God has complete control over you just like you have complete control over your pet.

This is a definition of humanity that most of the planet believes. There are more religious people than non-religious people. Even though there are many different religions the central ideas are always the same: if we are good god will give us treats and if we are bad god will muzzle us. The majority of the planet believe we are god's pets.

If you disagree with this definition of humanity you probably don't believe in god. It doesn't matter that you don't believe in god. What matters is the majority of the planet do believe in god. Humanity is a team. Like a team we work together. We make decisions together. Nobody gets to decide what the rules are themselves; we let the legal community as a whole decide what the rules should be.

The legal system is very much like god inasmuch as it tells us what we are and are not allowed to do. If we break the rules we are punished and if we follow the rules we are rewarded by not being punished.

Religion wasn't enough. People still weren't good. Telling people that they would get to be happy for eternity if they were good wasn't enough to get people to be good. People needed more: people needed to be forced to be good.

Are people naturally good or naturally bad? The fact that the prisons are full strongly suggests that people are naturally bad. People know if they are bad they will go to prison and they still choose to be bad. Even with the threat of punishment hanging over their head people still choose to do bad things. Instead of defining people as god's pets I would like to define people simply as 'bad'.

You likely disagree with this definition as well. You probably think you are good. You are a fool for thinking that humanity is good just because you are good. There are billions of people and you are one person. Why would everyone be like you?

As foolish as it is to believe that all people are the same that is what I'm going to do with this book. I am going to find a way of defining all of humanity. There is one thing that accurately describes all eight billion of us. Just like we are all different there are many ways in which we are all the same.

Science, like religion, tries to define us. We can say people are things with two eyes, things with a liver, things with ten toes. More importantly we can say that people are things with a specific type of genetic information.

All life has certain genetic information within it. This genetic information tells your body how to make your eyes and your feet. This genetic information is not only a recipe for how to create us it is instructions for what to do after the creation. There are genes inside your body that tell your lungs how to breathe and genes inside your body that tell your heart how to pump. Science, like religion, has rules. The consequences of not following science's rules are just as severe as not following religion's.

If you don't follow religion's rules you will spend eternity in hell but if you don't follow science's rules you will die straight away. We cannot live without science's rules: if your body does not follow science's rules to the letter you will immediately die. Science's rules tell your heart how to pump. If your heart doesn't pump right you will die.

We are trapped like prisoners, forced to follow rules like prisoners. Everybody around us forces us to follow rules. When we were children our parents gave us rules. When we were older our teachers gave us rules. When we were older still our boss gave us rules. We have never been free and we will never be free. We spend our whole life surrounded by rules we have to follow or we will be punished.

How are we supposed to decide what to do? It is of utmost important that we make good decisions but everyone around us gives us different rules to follow. Christianity says if we follow its rules we get to be happy for all of eternity. It seems so simple: all we have to do is follow Christianity's rules. Unfortunately there are many different religions.

Islam has rules too. Islam says if we follow its rules we get to be happy for all of eternity. There is a problem: some of Islam's rules contradict Christianity's rules. We cannot possibly follow all of the rules so it is impossible for us to be happy for all of eternity.

The problem is even bigger than this because some people say god doesn't even exist. Some people tell us to follow Islam's rules and some people tell us to follow Christianity's rules. We can't do both. Some people tell us god doesn't exist so there is no reason to follow any rules. Now we have to follow Christianity's rules, follow Islam's rules, and not follow any of the religion's rules all at the same time.

Some people tell you god exists. Some people tell you god doesn't exist. How are we supposed to know if god exists or not?

Life is impossible: we cannot possibly do everything everyone tells us to do. It is impossible to be a good pet because nobody can agree on what a good pet is. We get chucked into this strange life and are immediately bombarded with different people telling us contradicting things. Somehow we have to work out what to do ourselves.

Instead of being about what we are maybe this book is about what we should be. We should be good but we're not. We should be productive but we're not. We should follow Christianity's rules and Islam's rules but we just cannot work out how to do that. We have to work out what to do, how to live our life, on our own. Life is hard, so hard that most people fail to live a successful life. Nobody has ever followed every rule from every religion so nobody has ever been a good pet. Does this mean we are all doomed to suffer for eternity? What if god doesn't even exist?

If god doesn't exist why do so many people believe in him? If every scientific theory of the past has been proven to be false why do so many people believe in science?

You have to work out who you are. Nobody can help you do this. You have to work out how to live your life. Nobody can help you do this either. We have been cursed with freedom. The stupidest thing the religions say is that free will is a gift from god. It would be better to be a prisoner because if we were told what to do we wouldn't have to work out what to do ourselves. It would be better to not have to make any decisions because the only things helping us make decisions are other people and other people can't even agree on how the universe was created.

We are completely alone even though we are surrounded by people. Everyone orders us around yet we are completely responsible for our actions. We are cursed with this stupid brain that makes us think god doesn't exist when everyone around us is telling us god exists. We are cursed with free will, cursed with choice in a world with endless options. We are all fools but nobody quite understands how stupid they are.