

The Origin of Religion

— By W. H. Adams. —

Primitive people have primitive ideas. They reason directly, concretely and according to their narrow experiences. It is a safe assumption that this was the case in the origin of the idea of God. Primitive man recognized that certain effects followed certain causes. He was forced to the belief that all effects have their due causes. He did certain things and obtained certain results. When he saw natural phenomena he reasoned that unseen persons brought them about, somehow. These unseen persons were men and women very like himself, endowed as he was, with likes and dislikes, with love and hate and passion. Some things they did thru love, others thru hate. Because there were so many occurrences of varying character primitive man held the idea of many persons or gods as causing all these things. Because his own hate or anger could be mellowed by something that pleased him he reasoned the same held true with the gods.

This led him to try to find out what would please the gods and he developed a system of sacrifice the echo of which we still have in church service.

As man became more intelligent his idea of god or gods changed accordingly. Indeed, a person's general intelligence may be somewhat correctly measured by his idea of God. Gradually the number of gods was reduced with greater powers granted to each until one god, allpowerful was, the result Greek and Roman mythology represents the idea of many gods; Hebrew literature the idea of one god. There are many strong resemblances between the two ideas showing their close relationship.

Thinking people are gradually drifting away from the idea of a necessary god. They find that all things are controlled by fixed laws which are an inherent part of the things themselves. The origin of matter and of these laws is a profound mystery and is in no way simplified by the introduction of the idea of one or many gods. It is altogether probable that in a few generations the idea of there

being a god will have well nigh disappeared among enlightened people. Whether or not this will be a benefit to humanity in no way alters the fact about the drift of thought.

Every people, according to natural surroundings and economic life have developed a religion. There are ten

great religions. These all differ according to the influences that have called them into existence. In many respects they agree showing the kinship of human mind. In many other respects they are contradictory showing the working of the Law of Economic Determinism.

RUMINATIONS OF A REBEL

By Tom Clifford.

George Horace Lorrimer, editor of The Saturday Evening Post, continues his fulminations against those who dare even intimate that the rule of the bourgeoisie should be ended and a real democracy established in its stead. However, we notice some evidence of change in George's opinions of late. He now admits that the capitalist system is anything but perfect in its operations and is subject to correction. But he wants no change that will sweep him and his fellow exploiters of labor out of existence. The fear of that drastic possibility is an ever present cause for anxiety to the ruling class, and to postpone the catastrophe George Horace and his co-conspirators are willing to sacrifice some of their privileges if by so doing they can perpetuate their piracy. George also presents some specious arguments to counteract the growing class-consciousness of the workers, among which is the old familiar rot of co-operation. He knows full well that the dispossessed cannot establish and conduct industries because of the poverty of their resources, and when he says "there is absolutely nothing to prevent Socialists, Syndicalists and Communists from experimenting with their own medicine" he utters a conscious lie. That kind of bunk may possibly find an abiding place in the minds of those who have never given the matter serious thought, but the enlightened worker who has gained an insight into the capitalist state will dismiss it with a jeer. However, George is wasting his time in hurling

vicious criticisms at the radicals and their propaganda. The revolution will not come through the education of the masses, but rather because of imperative necessity. The inexorable law of evolution is at work in society — the same law that in biology eliminates what has become useless. Capitalism has served its purpose as a stage in the evolution of society and is now in its dotage. The chaotic conditions of to-day prove its inability to function, and it is fated to give way to another social order that will better conserve the interests of the people. The plaintive wails of men like Lorrimer are but the expiring protests of a damned and doomed industrialocracy. Already invitations are out for the wake.

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If you don't believe that God takes care of fools and children, how do you account for the fact that ex-mayor Davis, of Cleveland, secured the Republican nomination for Governor? The entire State could be controlled without producing a bigger boob than this same Harry Davis. If there was nothing else to discredit representative government the nomination of Davis would be sufficient. His election, barring a miracle, is assured, for he will be a pliant tool in the hands of plutocracy. On second thought, I am inclined to consider that an explanation of his choice over his competitors. However, it doesn't matter a continental damn to the workers who is the next Governor of Ohio. They will be skinned just the same.