

Chapter IX: " Out of Thine Own Mouth...."

Thanks be to God, George Bernard Shaw has spoken, and for the benefit of the timid skeptic The International Book Review has given us his words in the March number. The Irish clown of England has doffed his cap and bells to tell us his mission: to drive Christ from the earth!

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The article in question is Archibald Henderson's review of Saint Joan. Shaw's latest play. "Shaw's Joan is a character of extraordinary vividness, powerful will, and strange beauty a real human being, more touching and sympathetic than the saint of superstition or the heroine of romance." Read that again.

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Shaw's view of the Church is enlightening. Speaking of the theatre he says: " I claim for it that it is as important as the Church was in the Middle Ages...A theatre to me is a place 'where two or or three are gathered together.' Unfortunately this Christian Church, founded gaily with a pen....has become the Church where you must not laugh; and so it is giving way to that older and Greater Church to which I belong: the Church where the oftener you laugh the better, because by laughing you destroy evil without malice, and affirm good fellowship without mawkishness."

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Apologies are extended to our readers for reprinting the blasphemous flippancy with which scripture is perverted and Christ ridiculed; and the Wellsian calm assumption that the Church has flickered out.

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Of the Ten Commandments he says: "People imagine that actions and feelings are dictated by moral systems, by religious systems, by codes of law and conventions of conduct which lie outside the real human will.....These conventions do not supply them with their motives. They make very plausible ex post facto excuses for their conduct; but the real motives are deep down in the will itself. And so an infinite comedy arises in everyday life between the real motives and the alleged artificial motives." All of which means: "There is no God and there is no law of God: all the fun in life arises from the fact that people still think and act as if there were."

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On another occasion he said: "Mark Twain and I are in precisely the same position. We have to put things in such a way as to make people who would otherwise hang us believe we are joking."

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If you must rave over anti-Christ, why not pick Julian the Apostate? He did exactly the same thing, but with less harmful results.

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