
Unfair.

Typical of modern text books that misconceive or ignore the Catholic point of view is the "Introductory Sociology" by Cooley, Angell and Carr of the University of Michigan.

On page 451 we read: "In contrast to such theories (that hold to revelation as the chief basis of religion) philosophers and scientists trace the origins of religious phenomena in general to one or more of three kinds of sources: the self-interest of priests and rulers; common psychological predispositions; and primitive attitudes."

Simple, isn't it? No possibility at all that philosophers and scientists can hold to revelation as the chief source of religion. Those in the Catholic camp who call themselves philosophers and scientists must be soft-headed fogies who don't know what the shooting's about.

But is the reasoning of the genuine philosophers and scientists really unassailable?

As an origin self-interest is purely a gratuitous assumption. For religion exists, anthropology reports, at the very dawn of history. With the Mousterian culture we first become certain of man's existence on earth and at the same time we find evidences of religion.

Our pre-history takes us back no further. We must merely assume, then, what took place before that. These genuine philosophers and scientists seem to know a secret avenue that leads back beyond pre-history, or how can they say scientifically that man first formed religion out of self-interest?

And as to Psychological Predispositions, we are told by these authors that "a thrill" results from the recognition of some "mysterious potency" in the environment. This looks very much like the recognition by reason of a First Cause. Man's reason tells him that there must be a "mysterious potency" all right in existence that shapes the laws of nature; and reason should further make him admit such a potency to be uncaused, or God.

Mr. Cooley thinks "By association this feeling came to be attached to nearby plants and animals which were thus made into totems.....which was probably one of the earliest of religious ideas." How then explain the contention of Doctor Cooper that as one investigates among barbarians (higher primitives) one finds monism, animism, totemism, magic, etc., tending to crowd out monotheism. But when one pushes his investigation further back to the savages, the Pygmies, the Fuegians, etc., (lower primitives) he finds monotheism more common than animism, monism, etc. And we have every right to assume that the savage, rather than the barbarian, represents the civilization of prehistoric man.

"Philosophers" and "scientists" are hardly the titles for gentlemen who thus brush aside revelation by mere speculation and fiction-izing on the known facts.

Continence.

"I knew that without God I could not be continent." This was the wise Man in the Old Testament. If you are not making the Novena for Purification, may not begin tomorrow morning a private tridium of Holy Communions in honor of the Immaculate Conception? You would complete such a tridium day before the feast. Or do you consider yourself the rare exception that does not need God's help in the temptations of life? If you have a surer way of obtaining that help than through the intercession of Mary, good Christians throughout the centuries never heard of it.

PRAYERS: Deceased, grandmother of George Ball, killed in auto accident. Ill, mother and father of Bob Siegfried (Lyons), injured in auto accident; friend of Tom LaLonde. Four special intentions.