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SINGING AND PROFANITY.

"Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain." Exodus 20:7.

Two distinguishing marks of a great religion are great songs and great laws. Without its great hymns religion would be a dull thing. Songs serve a good man in the same way that profanity serves a wicked man; both express what is in the heart. Great songs have added immeasurably to the culture and refinement of society. Every great race and every great religion has its great songs. Of course the greatest songs of the race have come out of the two greatest religious hopes, the Hebrew and the Christian religions. Every race and tongue that has embraced either of these religions for any length of time has had its great songs. Great songs spring from such a great hope spontaneously.

The Hebrew and Christian religions have also given man his greatest laws. The Ten Commandments undergird all the civil laws of the greatest people on earth today. These laws are the ivory pillars in the halls of justice in all enlightened lands. Just laws are rules of behavior that govern human relationships. They are hammered out on the anvil of life stroke by stroke, link by link. They grow out of the rich and abundant lives of a great people. Savages have but few laws, and these are often cruel and unjust. One of the most beautiful and the most lasting monuments the English speaking people will leave to posterity is English Law. The Christian religion has tempered the laws of the most enlightened people with mercy, charity and forgiveness.

It is a notorious fact that the philosophy of Karl Marx and Communism have not produced a single great song. Communism might well be called the wooden religion. The Communists do not give expressions to the deep and tender emotions of the heart because they have none. It is said the Communists never laugh or cry. They have none of the tender feelings that cause tears to flow. They do not laugh because they have nothing to laugh over.

Yet the Communists do feel hate. They have more curse words, more epithets of scorn and contempt, more venomous and slanderous expressions than any other religion. Although they are past masters at hating those who differ with them, they do not love one another. How any one can give undying devotion to such a religion is one of the enigmas of human behavior.

The Communists have not given man one great law. Karl Marx did say, "From each according to his abilities, to each according to his needs." But every practical concept of human behavior in this law is completely covered in the Golden Rule. Men tried to put this maxim into practice many times, centuries before Karl Marx was born. It has never been done successfully by any large group for any length of time. It requires a society that is all wheat and no tares, all sheep and no goats. Such a society in any large numbers has never existed on this earth. If Karl Marx had any hopes of ever seeing such a society the Communists have made a shambles of his hope.

Cursing among orientals was based on a deep superstition. It was thought that the quickest and easiest way to triumph over a man was to curse him. Goliath cursed David

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by his gods. He actually believed his curse would weaken his adversary. His knees probably grew weak when he saw the boy confidently putting large stones in his bag. His cursing was like a frightened man whistling in the dark.

Swearing an oath was based on the same kind of superstition. When a man swore an oath by his gods it was thought he would be afraid to break it. When Harold was shipwrecked on the coast of Normandy and captured by William, he was made to swear, with his hands on some sacred relic, that he would aid William in becoming king of England on Edward's death. But this oath did not keep Harold from claiming the throne for himself when Edward died. When John Silver's companions gave him the black spot he made their faces blanch with fear, when he turned the paper over and showed them it had been cut from a Bible. Although these men would cut a man's throat for a few dollars, they were frightened when they learned they had cut a page from the Bible. It is strikingly noticeable that the superstitious fears of these wicked men had no bearing whatever on their moral conduct. Superstitious fears will not keep a man from lying, stealing, or even committing murder.

Profane swearing is the outpouring of a profane life. A profane life is the emptiest of all lives. Sam Jones said the devil called in some of his lieutenants to give them some instructions on fishing for men. For one man he recommended they bait the hook with a bottle of whiskey, for another a dollar bill was suggested, for a third a lewd woman. When they came to the profane man, he said, "Just throw him the empty hook."

Lying is usually done to cover up the truth. The Lord said the devil is the father of liars. One of the oldest jokes in American folklore is about a man who was such a big liar he had to get one of his neighbors to call his hogs for him. They wouldn't come when he called them. If people had as much sagacity as hogs it would discourage lying. Hogs will quit coming when you lie to them a few times. But people will keep coming for the same lie told over and over. Hitler said, "If you tell a lie over and over enough times people will believe it." All the hopes of Communism is based on this human weakness.

Hitler offered the wool growers of South Africa a larger price for their wool than any one else would give. He was to pay for the wool with machinery and tools that they needed badly. When time came to pay he had some lame excuse, but he wanted to buy the wool crop again. He got it, and again defaulted on payment. He bought the third wool crop before the people and government of South Africa woke up to the truth, that Hitler never intended to pay for the first crop.

"You may fool all the people some of the time; you can even fool some of the people all the time; but you can't fool all the people all the time." Abraham Lincoln.

"An honest man's the noblest work of God." Robert Burns.

Honest men do not lie.