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A NOTE ON OPINION

THE APE OF GOD

MEDICINE SIG

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EDITORIAL

Welcome to the tenth issue of Prudentia Journal!

While Prudentia has grown to more than fifty members and the first special-interest groups have been formed, I have invited Prudentia members to join the first official Prudentia writing competition. The deadline has been January 31st, 2021, and until that date two contributions from Kenneth Myers arrived. Thus Kenneth is the winner of the writing competition. In this issue of Prudentia Journal you can read his articles.

In addition, I have included a collection of links to news items for the Medicine SIG.

Enjoy reading!

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A NOTE ON OPINION

Kenneth Myers

OPINION; is in my view and to coin a prosaic cliché, a matter of mind. Mind, it matters little. After all, is not it just each of us considering, commenting, and contending obsessively over beliefs, thoughts, notions, feelings, sentiments, and judgments; thus, leading another into a position where they consider, comment, and contend over us and based on their opinion and then by a kind of legerdemain, prestidigitation, shell game or theoretical sleight of hand, not to pull a fast one on the reader; posture opinion onto another as well? Opinion, from my viewpoint, thus achieves nothing. It does not; change one's way of thinking, another's articles of faith; it doles out no advice, creates no popular or public advantage or disadvantage, and does not tell it like it is or anything else as a matter of real alacrity and indifference. Concisely; it does not add or detract from human life, experience or values. All it does is: *opinion*.

Countless hear and read these opinions, to be sure. And countless more (these days at least) consider, comment, and contend with all manner of candor and counterfeit expertise, as if their opinion, in the end; *makes all the difference*. And we opinion over everything, and worse yet, we write, talk and make opinion on views, beliefs, positions, ideas, thoughts and notions that are at the very least hazy, vague, and ill-defined, and at most, not defined at all, placing our utmost confidence in these ideas, notions, etc that are all so reasoned through and through. Imagine commenting on each thought, each idea, each notion; acting as if and speaking with complete authority and all the while *believing, positioning, thinking* we truly know what it is we have in mind. For example, I once heard a person bellow, "Opinion is all out of reason!" "Of course," I said. Granted, this is simple minded and pleonastic, but it does contain at least the spirit and viewpoint of opinion.

These days opinions are becoming crueler and much more divisive, public and popular opinion being mostly to blame: that is, the more you opinionate badly or badly opinionate publically, the bigger will be your popularity and public, opinion that is. If your opinion is silly, ridiculous, ludicrous, or just plain idiotic, you'll be inundated with more opinions, afterward appearing in the national spotlight and on talk shows, laying as it were your now much and more valued opinions at the public's feet, making you an instant and outright clamorous, boisterous and above all, noisily and vainly opinionated success.

And here in regards the overarching problem, the one whose consideration adjusts and makes for our unique and tempestuous times. The impressionable *Opinion*. We believe and are sentimental about, the opinion. Not only as a model or paragon of sentiment and point of view, but too for its constantly begging of certainty, surety and fact. We insist, by giving advice and with utter conviction, that what we are urging is indeed—*persuasive*—and that this persuasion entice, beguile and charm its way into the public and popular mind. We are in love with the opinionated self. Adoring fatuous reasoning, lack of education, poor parental upbringing, and blissful paradisiacal hastiness and laxity, all the while convinced these are virtuous truths. We believe them honest fact. In fact, we voice with empurpled and grandiloquent language and until appearing blue in the face that opinion is clearly and indubitably reality.

And so the sentimental nature of opinion. To keep giving advice, taking a stand, doling out two cents worth; all the while expecting the others' outlook and attitude to change right before our eyes. And they keep coming these opinions; coming, and coming and with nothing changing; expect, people's opinions and accordingly, people's opinions of others' opinions, of course, making those opinions obsolete, defunct and above all highly *advanced*; in the end putting the highest and most current of acumen and aptitude right at one's fingertips. After all, it's really difficult to be opinionated. It's hard to say something, open one's mouth, pick some topic, something hip, cool or stylish and begin talking, writing and ridiculing and soon and with much obnoxious and insufferable effort become an opinionated wit or wag. Requiring so much modesty, wisdom and intellectual knowhow. Taking so much willingness, willingness with obstruction, objection, and possibly proposing that orange be the new blue or short the new tall, the difficulty being in creating a new phrase (*hint*: use "X is the new Y" and you'll be a hit) that becomes so ubiquitous that just hearing it makes you want to hit yourself over the head with a sledgehammer, scratch your eyes out and then pull out all your hairs one by one.

But I suppose I'll keep right on reading and hearing others' opinions and considering, commenting, and contending obsessively over them as such. Yet, not because I am bored, not because I have a

bone to pick, not because I'm in love with any belief, idea or notion of sorts—but merely and for the fact, that it is—my OPINION.

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About the author, Kenneth (K.) Myers. Occasionally K. writes, mostly junk, but K. tries. K.'s profession, before he retired had absolutely nothing to do with writing, especially satirical and or otherwise. Too, his work history and education are completely superfluous. But, if you must know, K. was a computational scientist working for some *unnamed* but highly regarded companies and has degrees, BA (magna cum laude) and MS in mathematical physics from many moons ago.

THE APE OF GOD

Kenneth Myers

There is no God. At least these days. So I should say there is no God but there used to be. Back in the day, back in the olden days, God existed. People went out each day knowing good and well, there is a God, or rather, was a God. Then—Well, then people woke up to all this nonsense and absurdity. They became *scientific* and *technological*, and God, well; He just became downright silly and in a nutshell; *Unnecessary*. However, a problem developed. What problem? It seems actually two problems developed. One: people needed something to worship. That’s a problem. Two: people, for the most part and with few exceptions, having a natural endowment toward immorality and evil, are not to be trusted, at least with themselves. This lead smart people to question their predicament. They knew they couldn’t bring back God. He’s dead. And we, with all our infinite wisdom, still cannot resurrect a God from the dead. For Death has total dominion.

So let’s look at the immorality (evil) problem first. The smart people knew that most people, that is, most people not being all that smart to begin with, were going to start acting in a depraved and wicked manner, after the death of God. After all, even they, the smart people that is, read the bible—well, maybe!? And Fact or Fiction, Genesis informs them Moses had quite a motley crew on his hands. And what was he to do? He had no real technology at the time. Remember, this is the really, really, olden days. So, he constructed a piece of wisdom. He went up on a mountain, alone, and came down with 613 commandments, both positive and negative. What they are doesn’t really matter. After all, they’re silly, right!? What does matter is how Moses handled the entire affair. And how was that? He destroyed the image. God, he says more or less, in all His glory is invisible, ineffable and unapproachable. What a stroke of genius, at least for a man who had no technology. God, he tells this diverse crew, is all knowing, all seeing, and all present, and above all—*invisible*. This kept the people on their toes. A God, judging night and day, and subjecting them to the possibility of eternal damnation. That’s harsh and quite effective.

Fast forward to today. God, remember, is dead and unlikely a candidate for resuscitation or presidential office. And there’s a bigger problem. More people. Seven to eight billion and counting. That’s a huge problem. And guess what. They’re still just as stupid if not more so. But these smart people, remember, they’re a smart bunch, and with egotism and arrogance to match. So, I can assure you they will not use the Moses’ method, if anything, to prove their superiority in the matter and how much better they are than the; “ancients.” So, what to do? Flip the problem on its head. After all, smart people for the most part worship technology and science, right!? And they have all the answers all the time. And what’s the answer? The *image*. Bring back the image in all its glory. Only this time, as God is dead, and technology alive; do it with a *camera*. Yes, a camera. Make that the all Seeing Eye, the Panopticon so to speak. And do it with flair. Mount them on streets, on people’s houses; make them believe they each need to keep a watchful eye on the other. But above all, put it right into their hands. Attach it even, to that requisite and needful device—the Smartphone. And call it that, “Smart! Really, really, smart.” Of course, as economics goes, Moses was a lot, lot smarter and not at all, *voyeuristic*. He did all that with a few tablets and without peeking into anyone’s bedroom. And not the kind of tablets you use to today. No, *stone* tablets. And he even broke a few in the attempt. These people really pissed him off. Keep in mind also, that while he was away on the mountain, the people started constructing an idol made of gold. Now, that’s expensive. But so is today’s solution. Cameras everywhere and people needed to watch, monitor and maintain all this surveillance. And oddly, more crime, more depraved behavior; although some scientists and statisticians would like us to believe otherwise. Mostly those that want to see more cameras and surveillance. And more voyeuristic behavior. More desire to peek into people’s bedrooms. Enough of these voyeurisms. Let’s turn our eye to the problem of worship.

What problem? We have the solution. Think about it. The camera, silly. People not only keep a watchful eye on each other. Too, they keep a watchful eye on themselves. They take Selfies. After all, what better way to turn the camera than on one’s self? So, these smart people manage in one stroke to;

1. Kill God,
2. Create a voyeuristic, panoptic surveillance system,
3. And allow Narcissism to run wild...

all in one swoop!

Perfect!—what an ideal world and society in which to live. A dead God, peeping toms, and indulgent worship of self above all. I can’t think of a more ideal society. Can you? Remember, the smart people have informed us; “There is no God.” That’s very important. For all this to work, He must be dead. If He lives, even if in our hearts or heads, this cannot work. That would put something above the self, something over and above our petty egos and arrogance. And we can’t have that, can we? To be fair, there are some of these science and technology types that worship something bigger. For scientists, especially cosmologists, it’s the *universe*. The universe began (randomly of course), some 13.8 billion years ago. And we, well we; are just another random accident of that beginning. Of course, what’s behind all of it, what’s behind the creation, is all still a mystery. Not to worry. We, with our well-endowed simian brains will crack the code some day, maybe even soon. And when we do, we’ll have something else to worship. A singular beginning without form and function. Without *purpose*. Sounds great! Sign me up. Meanwhile, as God is dead and I hate cameras, I’ll worship—*nothing*. After all,

nothing can be quite enjoyable even nihilistic. Nothing gives our lives hope, drives us to new heights, and makes us look at the universe and say, “Thank God for nothing!”

When I think of nothing, something comes to mind. Namely, nothing. And that’s about it. I can’t write a book about it. By the way, someone did, and it was awful—God awful! A book, literally about nothing. Still, I’ve boredom. And boredom is often, underrated. But boredom can be downright, exciting. I’m sidetracking. Probably because once a society takes away things to talk about...Well, I’ve got nothing. Nothing but a nonexistent God, somebody peeking into my business or taking pictures of myself—that’s my choices. And that’s boring. Really, really, boring.

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MEDICINE SIG

Claus Volko

The Medicine SIG is one of two special interest groups within Prudentia. Medical doctors and biologists with a university degree may become full members and those just interested in the matter subscribers. Here are some interesting articles related to medicine from the past month.

How blood stem cells maintain their lifelong potential for self-renewal
<https://phys.org/news/2021-01-blood-stem-cells-lifelong-potential.html>

Researchers reveal recipe for engineering ribosomes
<https://phys.org/news/2021-01-reveal-recipe-ribosomes.html>

Genome-editing tool TALEN outperforms CRISPR-Cas9 in tightly packed DNA
<https://phys.org/news/2021-01-genome-editing-tool-talen-outperforms-crispr-cas9.html>

Epigenetic mechanisms that regulate macrophage inflammation discovered
<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2021-01-epigenetic-mechanisms-macrophage-inflammation.html>

AI Machine Learning Used to Predict Psychosis
<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/the-future-brain/202101/ai-machine-learning-used-predict-psychosis>

Targeting metabolism to influence aging
<https://science.sciencemag.org/content/371/6526/234>

Bioactive lipids in antiviral immunity
<https://science.sciencemag.org/content/371/6526/237>

Learning the language of viral evolution and escape
<https://science.sciencemag.org/content/371/6526/284>

Eye membrane removal may help transplanted cells reverse glaucoma damage
<https://newatlas.com/medical/membrane-removal-reverse-glaucoma-optic-nerve-damage/>

A New Kind of Gene Editing Could Turn Back the Clock on a Rapid Aging Disease
<https://futurehuman.medium.com/a-new-kind-of-gene-editing-could-turn-back-the-clock-on-a-rapid-aging-disease-c9895018c0f9>

Evolvable neural units that can mimic the brain's synaptic plasticity
<https://techxplore.com/news/2021-01-evolvable-neural-mimic-brain-synaptic.html>

An unexpected, and novel, target for prostate cancer—our biological clock
<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2021-01-unexpected-prostate-cancerour-biological-clock.html>

Model analyzes how viruses escape the immune system
<https://phys.org/news/2021-01-viruses-immune.html>

Taking the lab into the ocean: A fleet of robots tracks and monitors microbial communities
<https://techxplore.com/news/2021-01-lab-ocean-fleet-robots-tracks.html>

Scientists Successfully Store Data Inside DNA of Living Bacteria
<https://futurism.com/data-dna-living-bacteria>

Cancer cells hibernate to survive chemotherapy, finds study
<https://bigthink.com/surprising-science/cancer-cells-hibernate-chemotherapy>

Dendritic action potentials and computation in human layer 2/3 cortical neurons
<https://science.sciencemag.org/content/367/6473/83>

Sensing bacterial communication
<https://phys.org/news/2021-01-bacterial.html>

Advances in research on the most general type of stem cells
<https://phys.org/news/2021-01-advances-stem-cells.html>

Unravelling the mystery that makes viruses infectious
<https://phys.org/news/2021-01-unravelling-mystery-viruses-infectious.html>

Bacteria can tell the time
<https://phys.org/news/2021-01-bacteria.html>

How mice feel each other's pain or fear
<http://science.sciencemag.org/content/371/6525/122>

In First-of-Its-Kind Discovery, Scientists Confirm Bacteria Have a 24-Hour Body Clock
<https://www.sciencealert.com/scientists-confirm-bacteria-have-a-24-hour-body-clock-in-first-of-its-kind-discovery>

Research Says Alzheimer's Is Actually 3 Distinct Disease Subtypes
<https://www.sciencealert.com/study-splits-alzheimer-s-into-three-subtypes-and-it-might-help-us-treat-it-better>

Cancer Cells Can Go Into Bear-Like Hibernation to Evade Chemotherapy
<https://www.sciencealert.com/cancer-cells-can-go-into-a-bear-like-hibernation-to-evade-chemotherapy>

New class of antibiotics active against a wide range of bacteria
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2020/12/201223125759.htm>

How our brains track where we and others go
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2020/12/201223125757.htm>

New Study Images the Brain as It Loses Consciousness
<https://www.technologynetworks.com/neuroscience/news/new-study-images-the-brain-as-it-loses-consciousness-344242>

Will Technology Lead to the Next Wave of Mental Health Treatment?
<https://www.technologynetworks.com/neuroscience/articles/will-technology-lead-to-the-next-wave-of-mental-health-treatment-343902>

Beyond the Brain: How "Noncognitive" Skills Contribute to Educational Attainment
<https://www.technologynetworks.com/neuroscience/news/beyond-the-brain-how-noncognitive-skills-contribute-to-educational-attainment-344447>

Which Came First: The Brain or Sleep?
<https://www.technologynetworks.com/neuroscience/news/which-came-first-the-brain-or-sleep-344439>

Scientists observe live cells responding to magnetic fields for first time
<https://newatlas.com/biology/live-cells-respond-magnetic-fields/>

Heating cancer cells with magnetic nanoparticles can enhance chemotherapy
<https://newatlas.com/medical/heat-cancer-cells-magnetic-nanoparticles-enhance-chemotherapy/>

The First Pig-to-Human Organ Transplants Could Happen This Year
<https://futurehuman.medium.com/the-first-pig-to-human-organ-transplants-could-happen-this-year-a538ad0c5536>

Study uses computer modelling to identify 'vulnerable sites' on coronavirus protein
<https://phys.org/news/2021-01-vulnerable-sites-coronavirus-protein.html>

Cell biologists decipher signal that ensures no chromosome is left behind
<https://phys.org/news/2021-01-cell-biologists-decipher-chromosome-left.html>

Scientists are using bread as scaffold for human cells
<https://futurism.com/the-byte/scientists-bread-scaffold-human-cells>

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