

Rotting Part 4

Transcription by Evernote

The newspaper of the Freedom From Religion Foundation. This article mentioned how fundamentalists loved to say, "Taking prayer out of the schools has destroyed society." The author pointed out, "Fundamentalists will grab a collection of events that are negative and claim these events were caused by taking prayer out of schools. He [the author] said, "We could just as easily take positive events and then say taking prayer out of schools was a good idea." But the author was honest enough at the end to say "that would be equally foolish because taking prayer out of schools didn't have a cause and effect relationship with the positive events."

[My friend told me about] One of my friends was at this gathering of atheists, ironically, who were talking about how society was so bad these days and not like the old days. My friend said, “He was afraid people were going to start to say, we need to bring Jesus back.” [He described] One person there who was a little younger said, pointed out, “better for who?” Certainly, for some people, 50 years ago was a lot worse. Think of blacks. Although it's not that good these days, it is at least some degree better.

Religious fundamentalists like to rant and rave about spending eternity in hell. Hell is supposed to be this terrible place. Hot pokers at you for eternity. You're on hot coals for eternity. You're in an oven of 5,000, 50,000, or 50 million degrees.

That would suck. Or maybe your skin is being pulled.

All it takes to get to this hell is not believing in Jesus Christ. I think that is irrational, unjust, and absolutely asinine. It doesn't make any sense to me. You could be a great person, but you're still going to hell.

You're being persecuted for your beliefs. But unlike other governments or entities that persecute you for your beliefs... You're going to be persecuted for eternity.

Thus, atheists and other non-believers in Christianity are ultimate martyrs. It takes a lot of guts to suffer eternally for your beliefs. It's a big stance. Even if you try really hard and you just happen to get the answer a little off, Tough luck, you're screwed.

If you're not following the fundamentalist Christian way 100%, you're screwed. If you realize that Christ is the way, but you happen to embrace Mormonism or Catholicism, you're going to hell.

These fundamentalists say Catholicism leads to hell. If that's the case, then Mother Teresa is burning in hell. That is asinine to think. But according to them, ultimately that is what would occur. Mother Teresa was as Catholic as you can get. So she's burning in hell.

It makes no sense. It's ridiculous. Some say hell was created to get the population in line. It was a way to use fear, guilt, and manipulation to get people in line. David Hawkins says [in the book *Power vs. Force*], “the spiritual traditions that involve fear, guilt, and manipulation, namely fundamentalism, are very low spiritually.” I think this is really true.

I have wondered, is the reason I turned atheist because I lived in a fundamentalist home? Would I have turned atheist if I lived in maybe a Unitarian home or a Hindu home where people aren't so crazily fundamentalist saying there's only one way to heaven and everyone else is going to burn in eternal hellfire. [since Sages say we shouldn't go from one extreme to the other] It's the old fire and brimstone. It's not the brimstone that's so bad. It's the fire.

Food can definitely rot. It happens all the time. You can put the food in the refrigerator and that does prevent mold from growing. Sometimes, though, mold does grow on food, even in the refrigerator.

We have a song about this. It's called "Living in the Fridge," done to the tune of Aerosmith's "Living on the Edge." It's interesting how Weird Al takes this serious

song about racism and turns it into something about moldy food. He says, “There's something weird in the fridge today. I don't know what it is.” And then later he says, “if you could name the object in the baggie over there, then mister, you're a better man than I”.

Sometimes you can cut off the mold and you're just fine. Other times mold is so great you really can't cut it off. Once when I was younger we had these donuts that got so full of mold they were entirely green. I joked they were lime donuts, but nobody fell for that. Some people even say “mold gives food character”. I think that's a bunch of nonsense.

I've dumpster-dived myself, and I've even gotten food from dumpsters. But the deal is, the food has been... Unopened. You have to be awfully desperate to eat food that has mold on it, especially if the mold is

significant. Few of us actually need to do that.

When I was in Stevens Point, Wisconsin, for this period of time, I watched some court cases. Most of the cases were just people pleading guilty. So when this trial happened, I got excited. A trial!

Although these run-of-the-mill cases were interesting to watch. They were pretty much all the same. They were cut and dry. There weren't too much going on. So a trial held promise. I was bummed to find out it was a boring civil trial. Civil trials are generally more boring than criminal trials. Some civil trials are even more boring than others. This was a particularly uninteresting one. It was a house that burned down and the insurance company said, "it wasn't responsible because of mold growth." Too bad it couldn't have been a libel case like *Flint versus Falwell*.

In the screening process for the jury selection, the judge asked what he thought was a very basic question. He said, "Anyone here experience mold?" Everyone raised their hands except for one woman. The judge was puzzled as to why she didn't raise her hand. He probed her further. He said, "You never experienced mold? You never had a moldy sandwich?" Then she realized, of course, she's experienced mold. So she admitted she did. People there laughed.

Some food is mold. Mushrooms and fermented food, such as vinegar and alcohol, if you can consider alcohol a food, are rotten entirely, but we consume them as people. Some say if something is rotten, we should avoid it. Perhaps we should. Certainly alcohol. Vinegar is harder to avoid. Mushrooms, although technically fungus, thus mold, are probably [not] as harmful as other molds.

I have this analogy that the Democratic Party is a loaf of moldy bread. I've heard it said, "But it's keeping people feed!"