

# Scientific Wisdom

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## Does Belief in Miracles Benefit?

Bibles begin with miraculous creation. After creating the world, according to the Vedas, Supreme Brahma made Adami and Heva, placing them on a beautiful island, which he forbade them to leave. Adami soon became restless. The devil produced a mirage. Adami determined to visit the beautiful land, and persuaded Heva to accompany him. After crossing a narrow isthmus, it sank, leaving them on barren land. Supreme Brahma pronounced a curse on both. Adami declared it was his fault; he alone should be cursed. But Heva stood by him, and said: "If thou wilt not spare him, spare neither me. I do not wish to live without him. I love him." Brahma said, "I will spare you both and watch over you and your children." Compare this from India's sacred book with the Jews' account of Adam, Eve and the serpent, 4000 years later.

Egyptians believed in one invisible, overruling, self-created god, annihilation of the wicked, absorption of the good into deity. God created lesser gods, regarded by the priests as attributes or manifestations, but by the people as separate gods. The priests were the only mathematicians, scientists, lawyers and physicians. They ruled the living and were supposed to open and shut the gates of eternal bliss. They possessed immense power and wealth.

Mohammedans believe their prophet split the moon in two; from his finger tips flowed springs; stones and trees ran to meet and salute him; a mutton chop warned him it was poisoned; mounting his ass, Alborach, he went in one night from Mecca to Jerusalem, hence by a fiery ladder to the seventh heaven and had an interview with Alla.

In Christianity's bible, serpents and asses talked; Joshua stopped the sun; ram's horns prostrated strong walls; a fountain flowed from a jaw-bone; she bears obeyed a prophet's curse; Jonah lived in a whale; a virgin became God's wife and mother, etc.

Barbarous people, like children, guess at causes and invent marvelous stories about everything. Extraordinary inventions were repeated, became legends, miracles, religions, which the ignorant believed, causing fear and worship. The effective in all religions are miracles; these, mingled with history and practical maxims, seem real. The miracle of future life, the priests inserted because the people wanted it; thereby priestcraft easily tyrannized them into sacrificing everything the priests and kings wanted.

Why teach children that "Arabian Night's Entertainment", ghosts, fairies, fables, Santa Claus and dime novels are not true? Because believing leads to idle dreamings, dissatisfaction with surroundings, needless fears, misleading hopes, follies, disappointments, trouble, and prevents acquiring and using practical knowledge and enjoying realities. Is not belief in miracles similar?

Many Christians shirk responsibilities by belief in miracles. They think, "Oh, I cant; God will stop poverty, crime and disease in his own good time." Miracles are imaginations. Scientific work is the effective reformer. Causes are natural; hence, cures must be natural. Self-reliant doubters accomplish more than god-relying believers. If the W. C. T. U. and Prohibitionists would teach more woman suffrage, justice and hygiene, and pray less, our country would sooner be saloon-free.

## About the Bible.

Suppose that some author of today should issue a book containing tales as ludicrous and absurd as the majority of the biblical myths which have been handed down to us as "inspired" literature, and suppose the author should assure us that golden crowns and elevated thrones awaited those who would believe his hobgoblin stories and falsehoods, and if we did not believe the tales he originated and invented, we would be punished in a most cruel and relentless manner. Now think and reflect—how many intelligent people of today would we find who would not consign such a book to the fate of the flames in disgust? If an author of today be held in contempt and scorn because he had issued cruel and disgusting falsehoods, why should an intelligent person be expected to accept those most disgusting and cruel falsehoods from the ancient authors of the so-called inspired book, the

bible? I sincerely believe it would be a confusing task to produce a French novel containing more disgusting or degrading language than can be found within the chapters of that book which has been set apart from all others (and it surely ought to be) with a view, they tell us, to make mankind better.

There never was, nor will there ever be, a degrading sentiment which would tend to make mankind better. The so-called wise men of the bible had not the slightest knowledge of what morality meant, or if they had their biblical teachings greatly belie them. But philosophers of today are viewing things differently, and will accept that only which is morally and physically the best for their fellow men. Natural laws, properly understood, will elevate mankind to a standard to which humanity should belong. Love, unselfishness and truth are the principal factors in founding and promoting the religion of humanity and common sense.  
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