



ON THE DEATH PENALTY

A faith based analysis

Due to the recent execution of the DC sniper, I thought it made sense to update my blog on the death penalty. My position remains adamantly against it. I continue to be absolutely certain that NO ONE can nor will EVER escape justice;.....and a justice that *perfectly* fits the crime.

Putting aside the well known imperfections of our justice system for a moment, where a person's financial and or social status significantly impacts their punishment or lack thereof, I'd like to fortify my heartfelt position by adding something from Dante's Inferno that provides a very chilling example of the perfect justice doled out for the most loathsome, detestable and abominable criminal act in history; **the betrayal of Jesus by Judas Iscariot**. Do remember that Jesus, at the Last Supper, *knowing this was going to happen*, said that **"IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR HIM HAD HE NOT BEEN BORN"**!

Please keep in mind that this classic work is in fact one very long and graphic poem.
THIS IS NOT INTENDED FOR CHILDREN.

Another excerpt from **The PIT**: The Road to Salvation

Scene description:

The discourse has reached the subject of the consequences of our behavior. It is Dante's turn to speak. He stands, faces the audience, and warns them that they are about to hear shocking things that they are not prepared for. He asks everyone if they still want him to proceed. Socrates, the moderator, tells him to proceed without further delay!

Dante: Very well! [The ceiling lights darken and the air gains a foul odor; everyone begins to get nervous] This scene is in the lowest depths of Hell where Lucifer himself resides. My guide

Virgil, who I refer to as The Master, points out to me the unimaginable suffering of three sinners clutched in the jowls of a three headed monster:

*O, what a marvel it appeared to me,
When I beheld three faces on his head!
Such as befitting were so great a bird.
No feathers had they, but as of a bat
With six eyes did he weep, and down three chins
Trickled the tear-drops and the bloody drivel.
At every mouth he with his teeth was crunching
A sinner, in the manner of a brake,
So that he three of them tormented thus.
To him in front the biting was as naught
Unto the clawing, for sometimes the spine
Utterly stripped of all the skin remained.
That soul up there which has the greatest pain,
The Master said, is Judas Iscariot;
With head inside, he plies his legs without.
Of the two others, who heads downward are,
The one who hangs from the black jowl is Brutus;
See how he writhes himself, and speaks no word.
And the other, who so stalwart seems, is Cassius.
But night is reascending, and 'tis time
That we depart, for we have seen the whole.*

Dear readers, believe what I say to you: **Lucifer is real** and when all is said and done, he will become King and rule over a place called **Hell** that is just as real as the block you live on today!

In my very humble opinion, the surest way to join him is by possessing a cold, mean spirited and **unforgiving** heart. Since we are ALL sinners, you would think that we realize that if WE are not forgiven by HIM, we ourselves have **zero** chance of entering into HEAVEN. Sadly, this is not the case with most people. In other words, WE want to be forgiven, **but we do not want to forgive others!**

By rejecting the death penalty, again, in my very humble opinion, we are telling GOD that we understand that we are **wholly unqualified** to be judges and that we trust in HIM completely to carry out perfect justice to all who HE deems fit; according to HIS perfect plan!

For now, life in prison is the answer for those horrible human acts.

I myself believe that kindness of heart, *in all circumstances*, is on the road to our Salvation.

WHAT SAY YOU??