

Bullshit

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Identify some instance of bullshit and write 1 page on why it is bullshit.

Premise: Religion, as a whole, is bullshit. For the purposes of this argument, I will define religion as a “belief in supernatural entities or forces with some effect on the natural world”.

In class, we discussed how a person could be bullshitting regardless of the truth of his/her words. The amount of bullshit in a person’s words is irrelevant to the truth of his statement, but rather their relation to those words, their relation to their audience, and their intent in their delivery. A bullshitter by definition seeks to promote some agenda through a manipulation of the way they are perceived.

There is no better example for this than religion itself. Over the past few millennia, religion has emerged as a dominant force in society, imposing rules and guidelines on a person’s behavior and mindset. Religion came about as a Stone Age method of social structure and control, and thus its agenda has always been establishing social control.

Like bullshit, religion is wholly unconcerned with the facts, or lack thereof, in their dogma. With the exception of a small portion of the devout, few religious people believe in the literal truth of their religious dogma. Religious scripture very easily falls apart under any scrutiny.

It is trivial to establish that religion is unconcerned with truth, what about morality? Many profess that religious doctrines and texts are meant to be read metaphorically for the purpose of moral guidance. Well, like bullshit, even if religion professes to be an upstanding source of metaphorical objective morality, it still has an agenda unrelated to what its moral strictures are conveying. As in the case of the monotheistic Abrahamic religions, one can very easily find tribalistic elements of the “us vs. them”, “my god is the only god” mentality, which is fueled by the religion’s need to self-perpetuate and claim to legitimacy.

Religion creates a virtue out of faith, and like bullshit, requires a quality of self-deception where one must shut out contradictory information for the purpose of the religion.