

Shylock's Christmas

"...and lend, hoping for nothing again..." (Luke 6:35).



According to a recent newspaper report quoting the NZ Federation of Budgeting Services chief executive, "loan sharks" will be targeting vulnerable families with the lure of "easy credit" over Christmas, with interest rates running as high as 39%. It is stated that other loans will then have to be obtained to pay off the interest from the original debt.

This is not only how 'loaning sharking' impacts on families and individuals but how the entire world financial system operates, and why countries such as NZ had to sell off their assets, just as bailiffs confiscate the property of individuals and families who cannot keep up with debt repayments.

During Medieval times this was called "usury", was regarded as a criminal offence often punishable with death, and "usurers" were universally regarded with contempt. Today it is called legitimate business practice. Oh for the good olde days.

No less than Jesus advised to lend without expecting anything in return; hence the onetime opposition of the Church to usury. The same chap drove the moneychangers from the Temple as an offence to God. Ironically Christmas, supposedly celebrating His birth, is now the time our present day moneychangers are in their element.

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Sharks circle kids' gifts

KATHY WEBB

LOAN sharks will be funding the Christmas presents of too many New Zealand children this year, family budgeting services say.

Chief executive of the New Zealand Federation of Budgeting Services, Raewyn Fox, said finance companies were targeting people such as beneficiaries and discharged bankrupts with offers of easy credit.

Many would not be able to repay a high-interest, no-questions-asked loan, but the temptation was huge when it offered the means to pay off other debts or buy a car.

However, the high interest rate on those loans — as much as 39 per cent — was often the beginning of a debt mountain impossible for families to conquer with their normal income.

"The minute you go to a loan shark to get rid of it all, you're paying large costs and high interest on that money, which makes you less able to pay the monthly bills. The rent, power, food and phone are still there, plus the other payments. Then you have to get another loan to keep up with the payments. It spirals out of control," Ms Fox said.

The ease with which people could get those loans was worrying.

"They go home and tell all their family and friends how easy it was, no credit checks or questions. It's very attractive. They [finance companies] are preying on the emotions of people who aren't in a position to make a good decision.

"They're sinking deeper and deeper into debt. Sometimes, by the time they come to us, the situation is so complex there's not a lot we can do. Some go bankrupt."

Ms Fox said families with little or no cash at Christmas could still have a lot of fun with vouchers for days out together, activities, or jobs around the house. Those who could afford to buy gifts should plan carefully, go shopping with a list, and avoid last-minute panic buying.

5-5-07. Hail Chad! Happy Cinco de Mayo! It was great to receive your letter of 1 MAY 07, with the good news of your graduation. So Ms. Toiletson was bluffing. Congratulations for standing your ground. I have never regretted any act of courage on my part, not that I deemed it courage at the time. In my view, I saw it as duty, with risks which I willingly took. Fortunately, I never got shot nor blown up.

Religious/philosophical discussions are hampered when one adopts an illogical proposition, such as all-knowing, yet not knowing, &c. which is the dilemma faced by those who claim that their god is all-knowing, BUT his creatures have "free will." In logic, this refutes the major premise. This is what an oxymoron or contradictory expression achieves: An honest liar; a strong weakling; a brave coward. One soldier called "military intelligence" an oxymoron, for no military man he knew was the least bit intelligent! Religious belief can make otherwise smart people behave as if they were quite stupid. Orwell said that "double-think" was the ability for a person to believe two contradictions at once. Christinsanity is a perfect example of such absurdities. Alice's Red Queen claimed she could believe in at least 2 absurdities before breakfast every morning: "Sentence first, verdict later. Off with his head!" ZOG-zombies believe that "torture is bad, but our torture is good." If torture is bad, then how can anybody's torture be 'good'? This is one current example. We also believe in killing Iraqis to make Iraq safe for democracy, whether Iraqis want it or not! "Democracy" imposed by force is not democracy, which is rule by the majority. The 'holy' charlatan, Tertullian, said of Christianity: "I believe because it is absurd." Absurdities must be overcome, that is, swallowed, by "faith," not reason, so for us to be Christian, we must leave reality behind. Dr. Oliver wrote that Christinsanity is the mental equivalent of AIDS, for it destroys our ability to think critically, thereby poisoning our mental immune system. In my leave taking of the Jesus-juicers, I told them that I could sell them the Brooklyn Bridge, if they only had faith that I owned it!

The Christian Bible is an oxymoron, for it includes the Old & New Testaments. The old jew book is about Yahweh, the jew tribal god, who is exclusive & particular. Yahweh is just the god of the jews, & he cares only about jews. He is quoted as saying so. Jesus cares about everybody. He commands his disciples to baptize & make disciples of "all the nations," thereby violating the Old Testament commandment against race-mixing (adultery). Scholars have discovered that most statements attributed to Jesus are stolen from Buddha, who lived 5 centuries before the alleged Jesus. But with 'faith,' all these contradictions may be ignored. I point out to such believers that they are reading their own erroneous meanings into words out of wishful-thinking & prejudice. What is the use of having a bible if one ignores the words &/or interprets words to mean what they want them to mean? If a Christian were to consider a STOP sign the way he does his Bible, he could take it to mean: Not today; as applying to others only; perhaps on Tuesday, &c. I'd hope he'd get a ticket! In Genesis, "the sons of the gods" come to earth. "Elohim" is Hebrew for GODS. The Old Testament goes on to prattle about Yahweh's fabled doings, with no further mention of the other gods, nor their many sons. Wha happen?

Odin is indeed a tribal god, along with his fellow gods & goddesses. As you said so well, how can we equate Odin with Yahweh, Hitler with Sharon, &c.? They are not equal. By definition, The Universe is One. It is all-inclusive, therefore we are part of it. As parts of The Whole, we are in contact with that of which we are parts. Our nature is to exist in harmony with Nature. How can we seek to oppose Nature, of which we are parts thereof? Savitri Devi characterized Judaic religions as seeking to oppose Man to Nature. Judaic cults include Judaism, Christianity, Islam, capitalism & communism, all of which claim "Man conquers Nature!" One humorist called it "Man's war against Planet Earth." Of course, if Man wins, he loses. What Man has achieved is only by his knowledge of Nature, not his resistance thereto. When we abuse our knowledge, we abuse ourselves. Man cannot multiply infinitely on a finite planet; he cannot deplete & pollute the resources of our 'spaceship' much longer, but Judaists claim he can, for Yahweh breaks his own rules where Man is concerned. This is not reality, of course, since we poison ourselves when we poison our environment. That's why canaries are still used to test the air in mines, for it is well known that, if the canary keels over, so will the miners in due course!

As a creature of The Universe, I have no need to find 'god' in contradictory books. I know who, & where I am: I am at home, as are all our fellow creatures. Who could ask for anything more? Most religions are rackets for achieving profit & power over others by instilling fear & guilt. I am happy for you, in this 'realm of the possible.' DOWZ! CRION!

