

A Parable for the Now

19Mar2020

I was raised Roman Catholic and spent eight years in their school system. As part of my indoctrination, I was required to study Bible texts ad nauseum. Enough that even though I am long since cured of any sort of religious belief or affiliation I still find myself reverting to my early learning in framing my response to current events.

I am reminded today of the story of Passover, when (the Bible tells us) the believers were spared the wrath of God by keeping their first born sons inside and marking their lintels so the Angel of Death would 'pass them over.' (And yes, I know this is a very small treatment of the whole Passover mythology – please, let it go).

Today we are being told once again to keep those we love under lock and key to spare them the dread fate that awaits them outside. The fact that I consider the Bible (and Qu'ran, and Torah, and Pearl of Great Price, etc.) to be fiction does not in any way imply that they are not sometimes *useful* fiction. Whether an idea comes from an apostle or Hans Christian Andersen has no bearing on whether we can use its ideas to our benefit. And who knows which of the 'sacred' tales actually arose from a version of actual events?

I sincerely hope that each and all of you acts wisely during this pandemic and in so doing, reap the benefits of being passed over by this new visitation of the Ten Plagues. And if you believe in such things, the occasional prayer can't hurt. (Hey, who says I'm right?)