

A DISARMING CHRISTMAS

The spirit of Christmas is above all the spirit of peace. It is not the spirit of war. It is the spirit of joy and meekness, not revenge and violence. Gentle holiness and good will toward all people is the air in which the soul breathes at Christmas-time. The decorations, the lights, the trees, the music all come from and speak to that universal human longing for genuine peace on earth.

Yet, the sale of war toys has increased 350% since 1982. The top-selling toys are toys that seduce children into playing homicide. G.I. Joe, a grotesque and vicious killer toy, the utter opposite of the spirit of Christmas is continually a best seller at Christmas. It is reasonable to assume that this year one company or another, whose senior executives could care less about the truth, love and holiness of this Christian feast day, will try to Ramboize Christmas for a quick buck. It is also reasonable to assume that they will succeed and that Christian parents and children will again be "had" by the pagan con artists of Hollywood and Madison Avenue.

What this means is that on Christmas morning in front of the stable of the Prince of Peace, millions of little Christian children will be living in the murderous, hate-filled spirit of enmity that Rambo, G.I. Joe, toy machine guns, war video games etc. require for their use. The child is putty in the hands of the adult authority figure, Christian or secular. The child is too young and uninformed to protect himself or herself from the adult authority figures, e.g., toy manufactures, commercial media con artists, parents, pastors etc., who are seducing him or her into the pleasures of the evils of enmity, violence, retaliation, revenge and victorious homicide, by offering the child as Christmas presents toy weapons and violent video games for their playtime enjoyment and pastime entertainment. These toy guns and X-box *Call to Duty*, etc., demand that the child enter into communion innumerable times over with the perpetually foul, radically anti-Holy, anti-Gospel spirit of the self-righteous destruction of other sons and daughters of the *Father of all*. Indeed they hardwire the brain of the child so that it is near impossible to see someone who is tagged an enemy as a son or daughter of their *Father* and the *Father of all*.

About 390 BC in THE REPUBLIC, Plato wrote on telling violent tales and war stories to children:

"All the battles of the gods in Homer must not be admitted into our State, whether

they are supposed to have an allegorical meaning or not. For a young person cannot judge what is allegorical and what is literal; anything that he receives into his mind at that age is likely to become indelible and unalterable”

To play homicide one must put on a homicidal mind. But the homicidal mind is not the mind of Christ. To give a child a war toy is to entice him or her into putting on a killer consciousness where conflict is self-righteously resolved by the total destruction and humiliation of the other party. Indeed, to give a child a war toy is to nurture him or her into enjoying the subtle but powerful pleasure of executing the total destruction and humiliation of those with whom one disagrees.

To those who say, "War toys are educationally and morally neutral," I say, "That is not true - and you know it." To those who say, "War toys allow a child to vicariously experience a homicidal fantasy world and therefore reduce the possibility that he or she will participate in such activity outside the mind," to those who say this I say, "That is not true - and you know it." Who is trying to fool whom? There is not scintilla of evidence to support such a position.

The wood or plastic out of which the toy is constructed may be morally and educationally neutral- if moral and educational neutrality is ever possible. But, to actually play with a toy requires that toy's logic, spirit and reality be entered into. Hence, I ask this: "If little children are not damaged by presenting them with toys that coax them into homicidal fantasies, then why not present little children with toys that arouse lustful and pornographic fantasies? Or better, this Christmas season Wal-Mart, Toys R Us, etc. are selling to children and their parents for Christmas gifts actions figures of Walter White and Jesse Pinkman, who are the notorious crystal meth dealers from the TV show *Breaking Bad*. The White and Pinkman toys come complete with a detachable bag of money and a bag of meth. Any child or parent can find them at his or her local toy store between the *Star War* killer action figures and the *Black Ops* killer toys. We all know what the truth in this matter is regardless of how many “kept” psychologists and educationists the giant war toy corporations put on stage in order to justify their manipulation and abuse of children for profit.

A person becomes what he or she thinks and desires. A song from the musical, *South Pacific* exquisitely captures the dark and destructive side of this human meme:

You've got to be taught
before it's too late,
Before you are six or
seven or eight,
To hate all the people
your relatives hate.
You've got to be
carefully taught.”

War toys are a very important teaching tool in the hate - enmity - destruction curriculum. They whet the appetite of children for the pleasures of destruction. Unfortunately they teach nothing of the desolation and agony of destruction. That my Church and the spiritual leadership of my Church and of most mainline Churches have never said a word on this issue means either it is irrelevant to the Way, Will and Plan of God revealed by Jesus in the Gospels or they are existing, culpably or non-culpably, in a state of ignorance and gross moral negligence.

I would ask therefore that Christian parents and all parents would take it upon themselves this Christmas and refrain from giving their children those toys that will motivate the little ones to enter into and enjoy the vicious world of the spirit of homicidal violence. I ask Christian parents and all parents this Christmas to be honest with themselves for the sake of their children's spiritual and human welfare. I would ask Christian parents, and all parents, not to allow themselves to become the unwitting accomplices of those who would abuse and barbarize their child's mind for personal profit. I ask those who would consider these words overly stern, to reflect on the words of Jesus regarding the corruption of children's minds and hearts. They would appear to be at least as stern as mine regarding those who would lead "*these little ones*" astray with an education in the spirit of evil through war toys and violent:

"Anyone who welcomes a little one like this in my name welcomes me. But anyone who is an obstacle to bring down one of these little ones who have faith in me would be better drowned in the depth of the sea with a great millstone around his neck. Alas for the world that there should be obstacles. Obstacles indeed there must be, but alas for the one who provides them!"

(Matthew 18:5-7)

Please, parents, give your little ones only what Jesus would give them on His birthday, gifts of life and love, not toys of death. Please do not set them up to become the dead, broken and maimed “little shots” in the wars that the “big shots” of their generation will start. Please stop the soiling and desecrating of Christmas by allowing it to be utilized—by those who don’t give a hoot about your child—as an agent to sow children’s minds and hearts with the seeds of the seven capital sins. Don’t hand your child’s mind and heart over to those who will abuse, darken and en-savage it in order to make buck. Give Christmas a chance to be what the Christ desires it to be for your children, rather than what those who have plans of death for your children are selling it as. Don’t be an obstacle to your child’s growth in holiness, merciful love, empathy and Christlikeness. Don’t teach your children a phony Gospel of fear that proclaims that they can kill other people in order to avoid going to their eternal home and into the loving arms the their Father and Jesus in heaven. Put the Holy Spirit of Nonviolent Jesus of the Gospels and the Reality of the Nonviolent Christ back into Christmas, not just the word “Christ.” Remove war toys from Christmas. Christmas with war toys as gifts is a pseudo-Christmas—all tinsel.

A PARENT’S CHRISTMAS GIFT TO OTHER PARENTS AND TO THEIR CHILDREN

*I will not raise my precious child to kill your precious child.
And if it is within my power
I will not in any way hand over my beloved child to others
To kill your beloved child, or
To learn to kill the one you cherish.*

No war toys at Christmas!

-Emmanuel Charles McCarthy