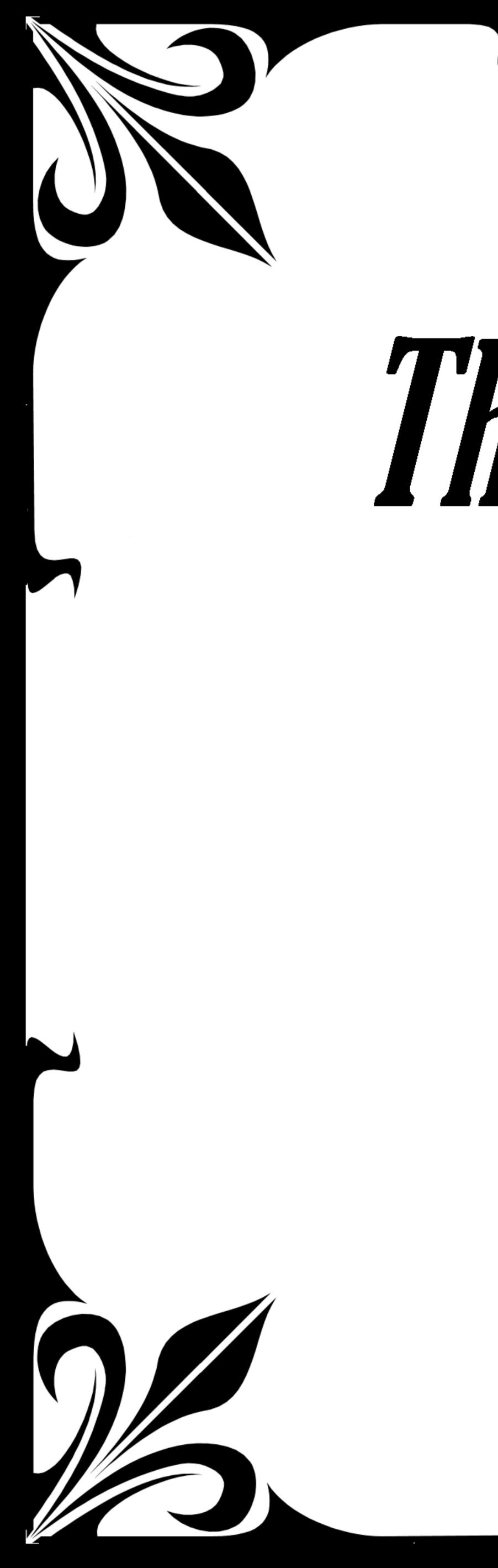
The following slideshow accompanied the lecture of Dr. Richard Carrier at Skepticon III in 2010 (at the Springfield convention center in Missouri). Much of it is unclear without the audio as context, which can be found online (see <u>Skepticon III Video</u>).

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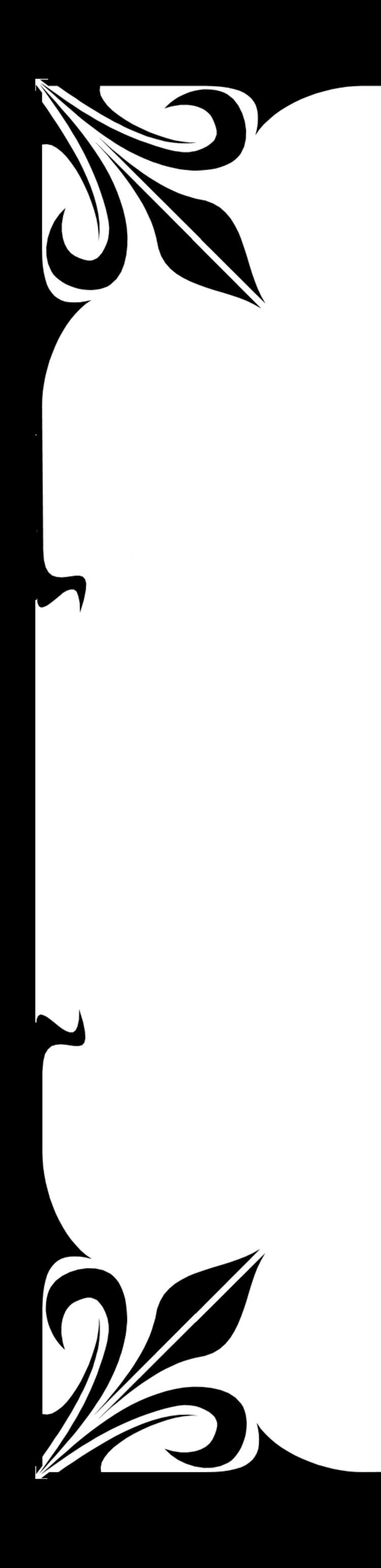
(use only with attribution and not for profit)



The Christian Delusion

with chapters by Dr. Richard Carrier www.richardcarrier.info (Prometheus 2010)



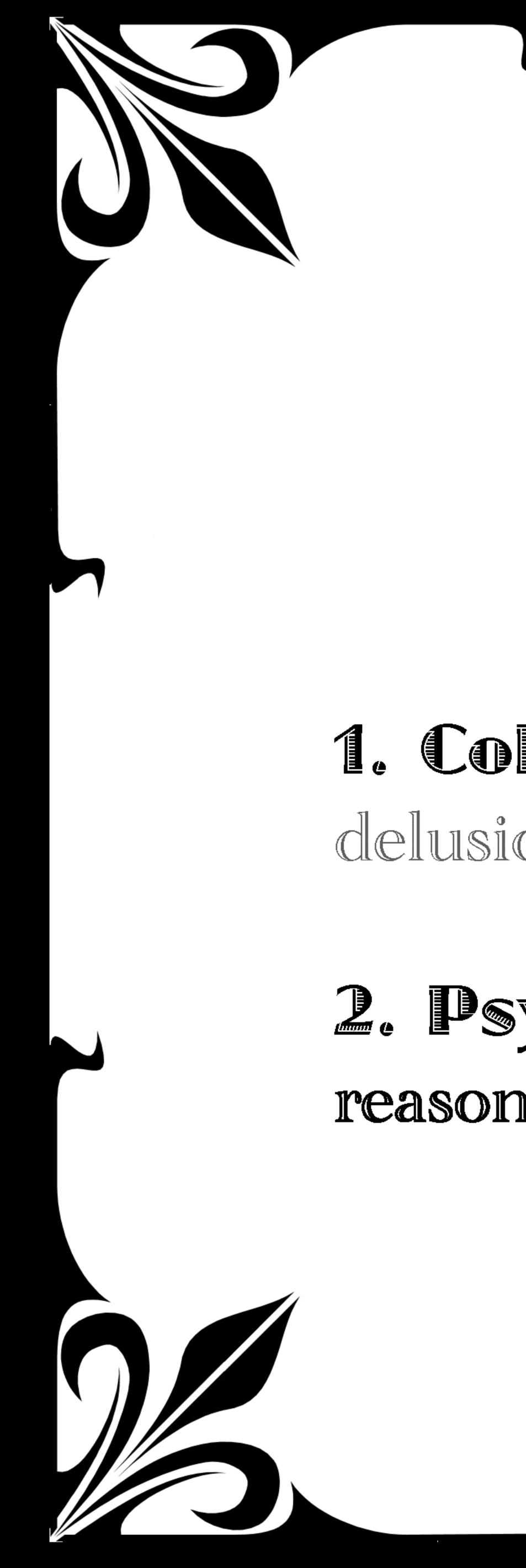


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Are Christians Delusional?







de•lu•síon (noun)

1. Colloquíal: a false belief or opinion ("he has delusions of grandeur")

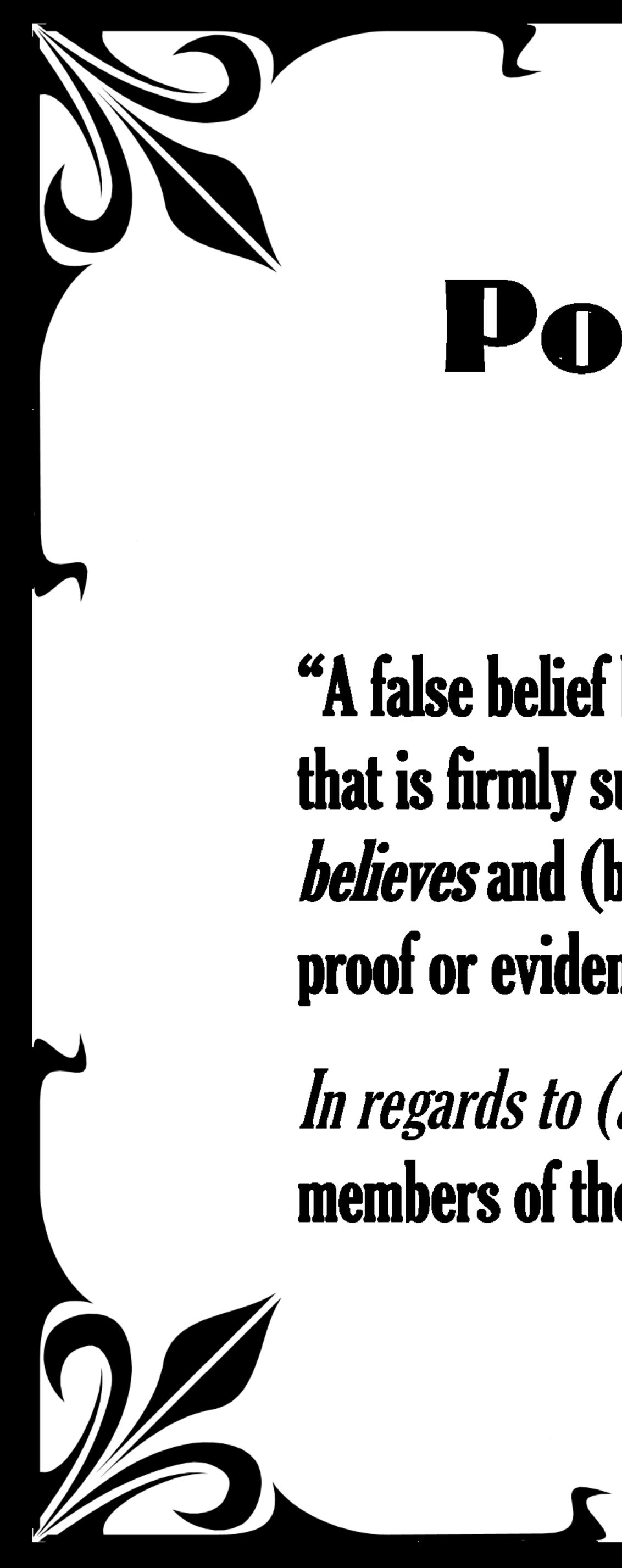
2. Psychiatry: a false belief that is resistant to reason or confrontation with actual fact











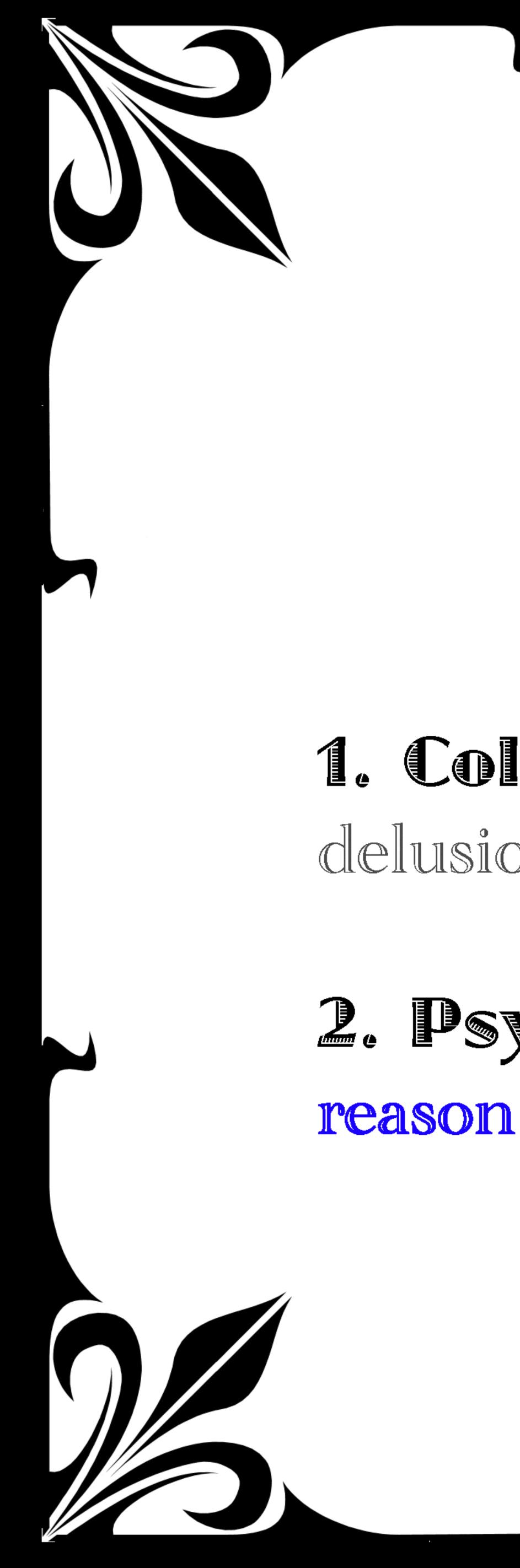
Polítícally Correct Psychiatry

"A false belief based on an incorrect inference about external reality that is firmly sustained (a) *despite what almost everybody else* believes and (b) despite what constitutes incontrovertible and obvious proof or evidence to the contrary."

In regards to (a): "the belief is not one ordinarily accepted by other members of the person's culture or subculture."







de•lu•síon (noun)

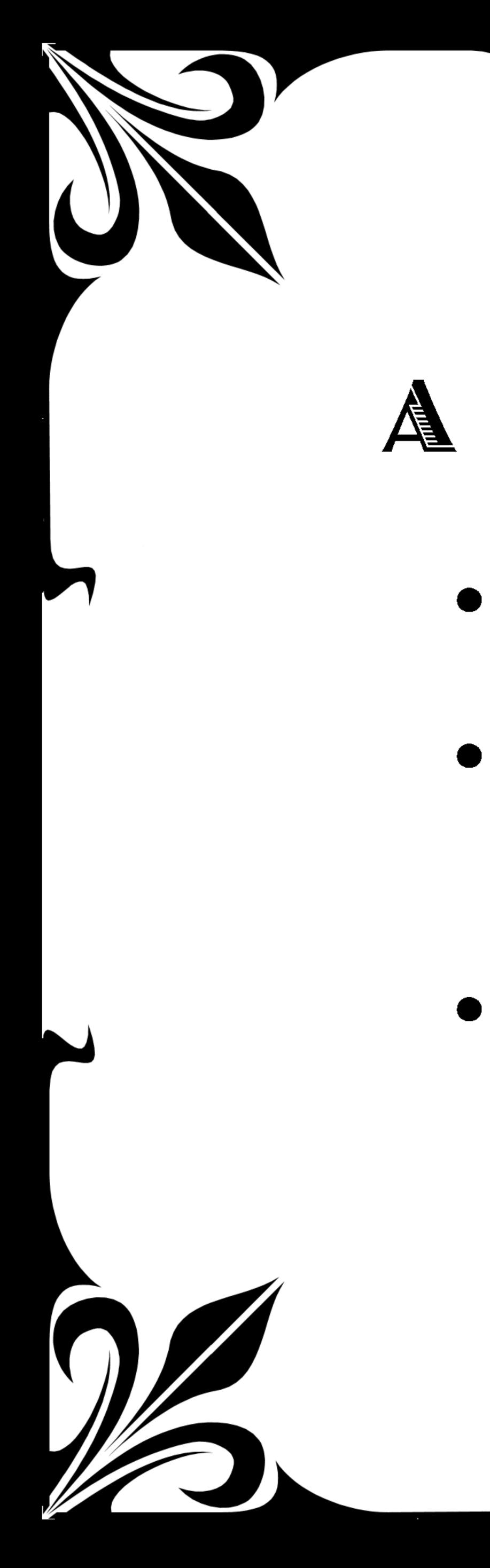
1. Colloquíal: a false belief or opinion ("he has delusions of grandeur")

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Delusion Consists of...

• certainty (held with absolute conviction) • incorrigibility (not changeable by compelling counterargument or proof to the contrary) • impossibility or falsity of content (implausible, bizarre, or patently untrue)





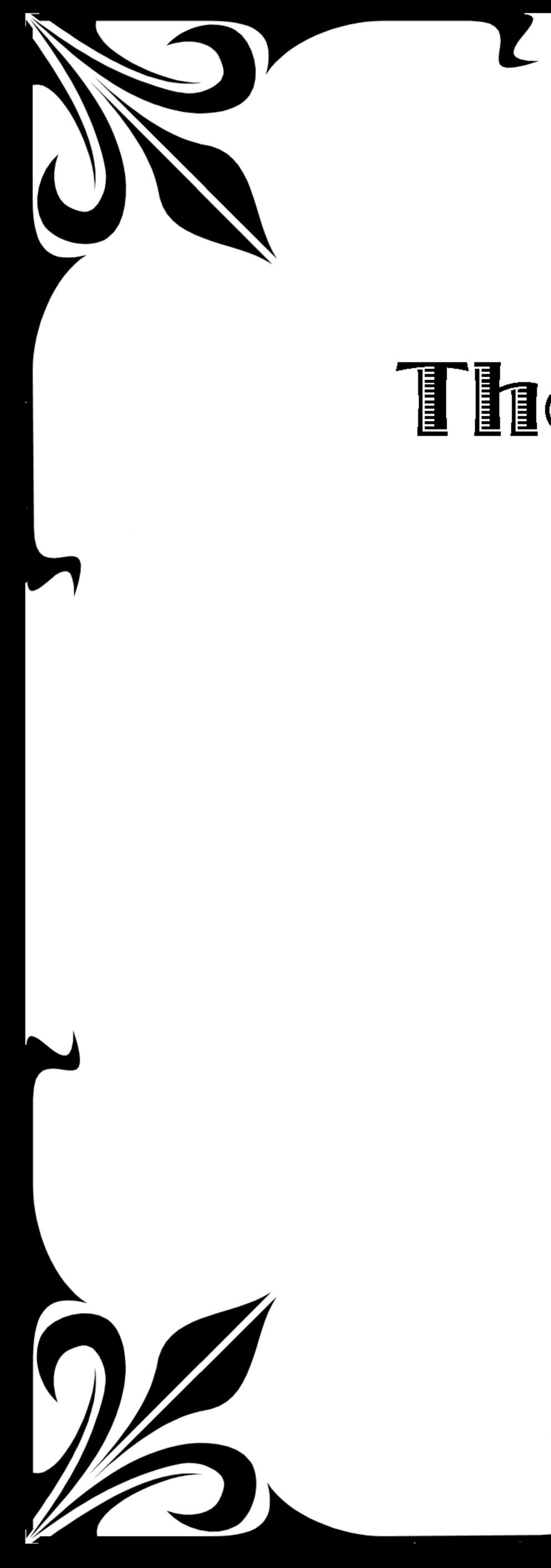


Mildly Delusional **Majorly Delusional 5 Batshit Insane**









The Official Dr. Carrier Delusion Scale

Mildly Delusional 2 Majorly Delusional Worrisome 3 Crazy 4 **5** Batshit Insane



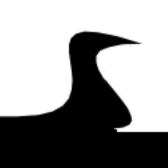


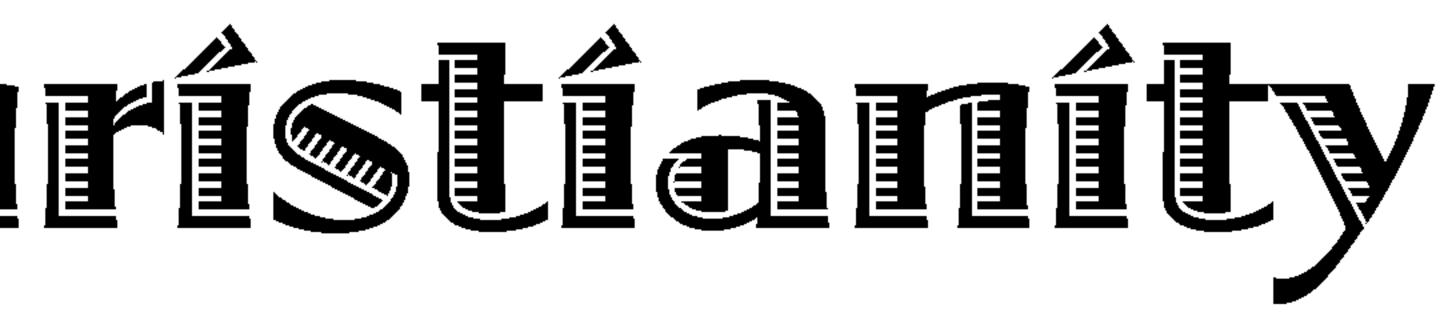






- The belief that some cosmic Jewish Zombie can make you live forever if you symbolically eat his flesh and telepathically tell him that you accept him as your master, so he can remove an evil force from your soul that is present in humanity because a rib-woman was convinced by a talking snake to eat from a magical tree.
 - "That totally makes sense!"









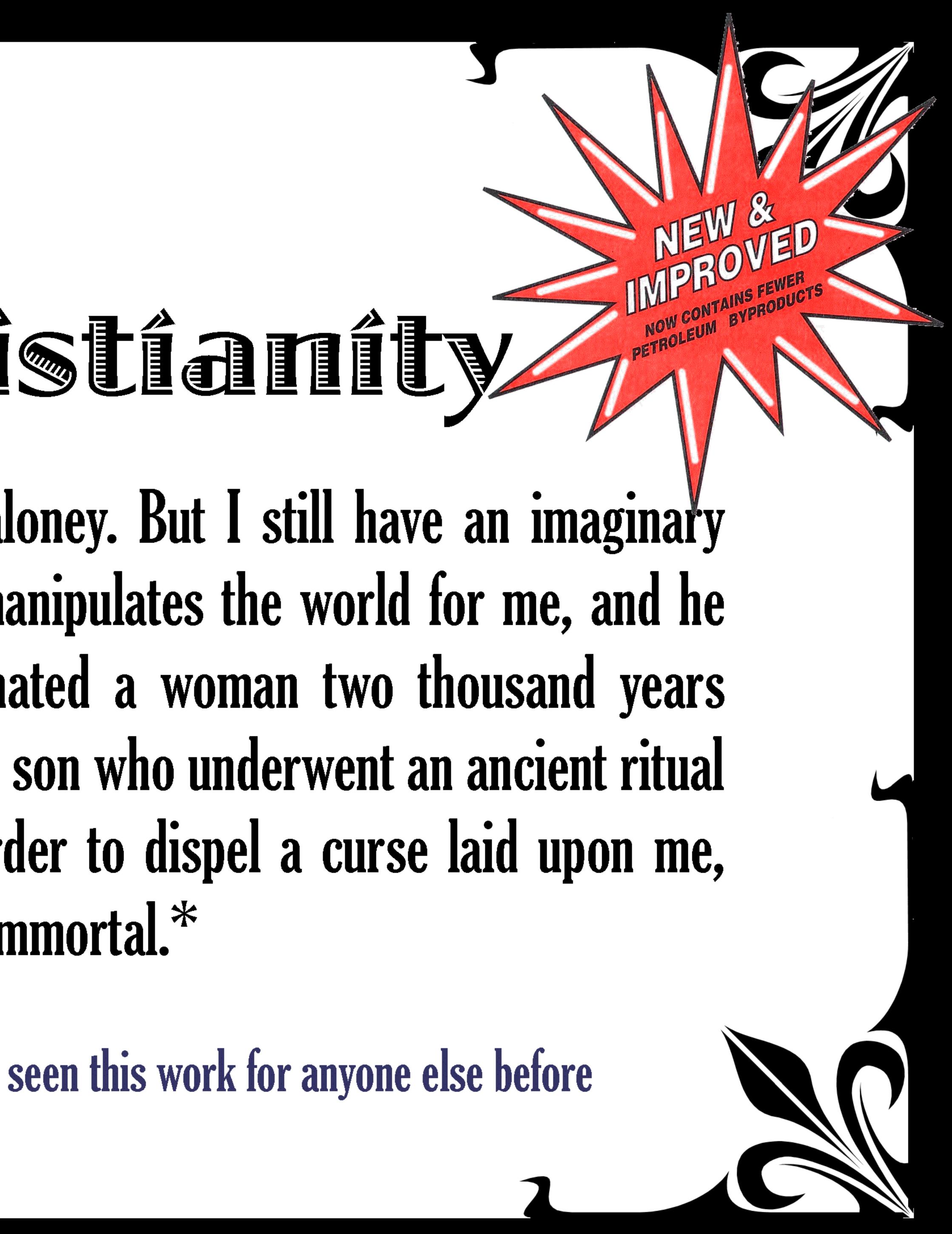


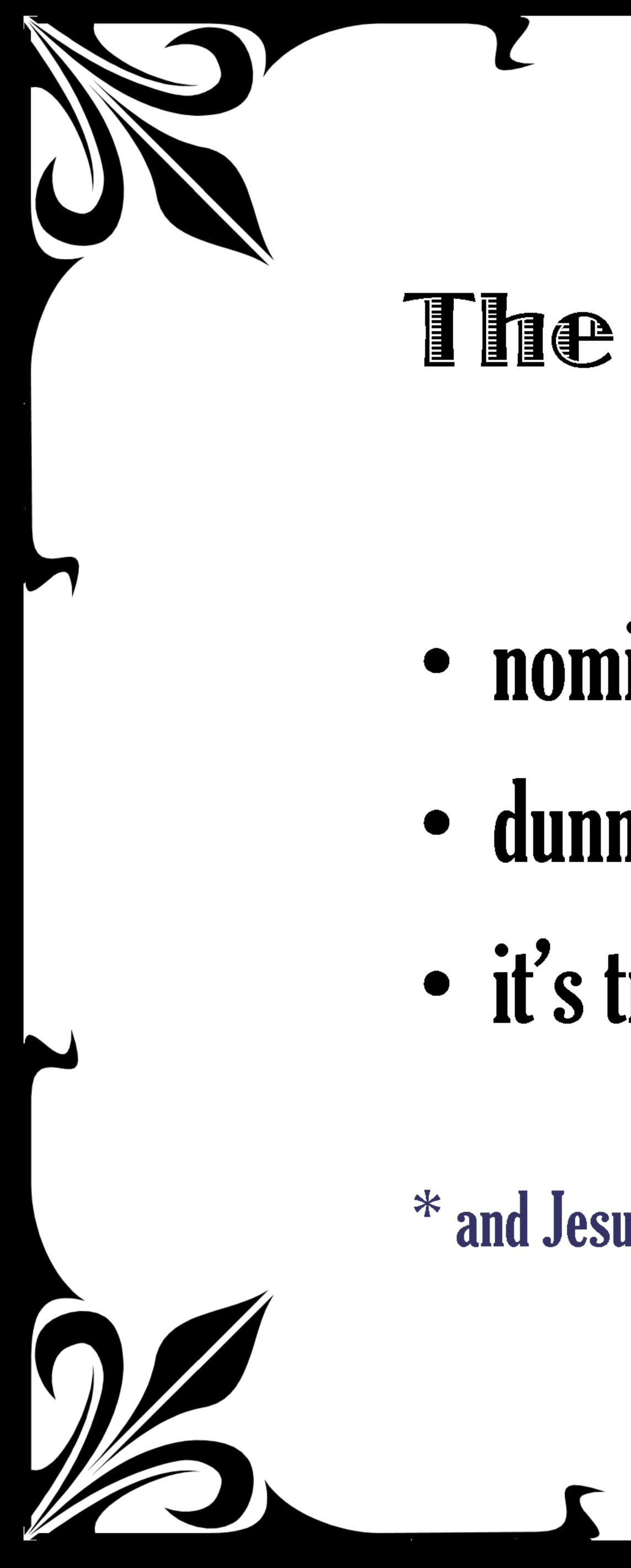
All that Eve stuff is baloney. But I still have an imaginary friend who magically manipulates the world for me, and he also magically impregnated a woman two thousand years ago, and she bore him a son who underwent an ancient ritual of blood sacrifice in order to dispel a curse laid upon me, thus ensuring I will be immortal.*



* although I've never seen this work for anyone else before







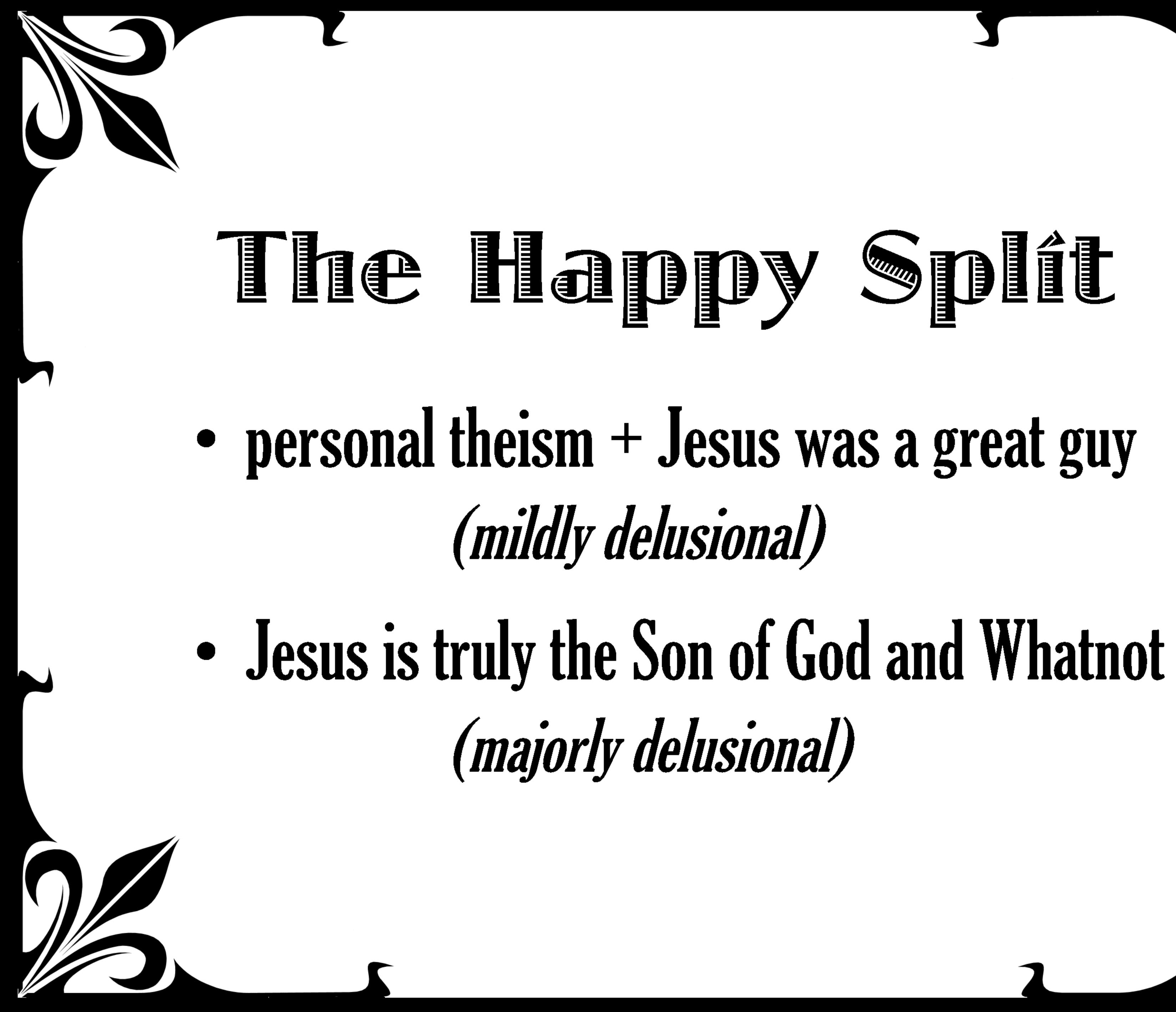
Varieties of Being IIISLE

• nominal / apathetic • dunno / sort of a metaphor or something • it's true as told *

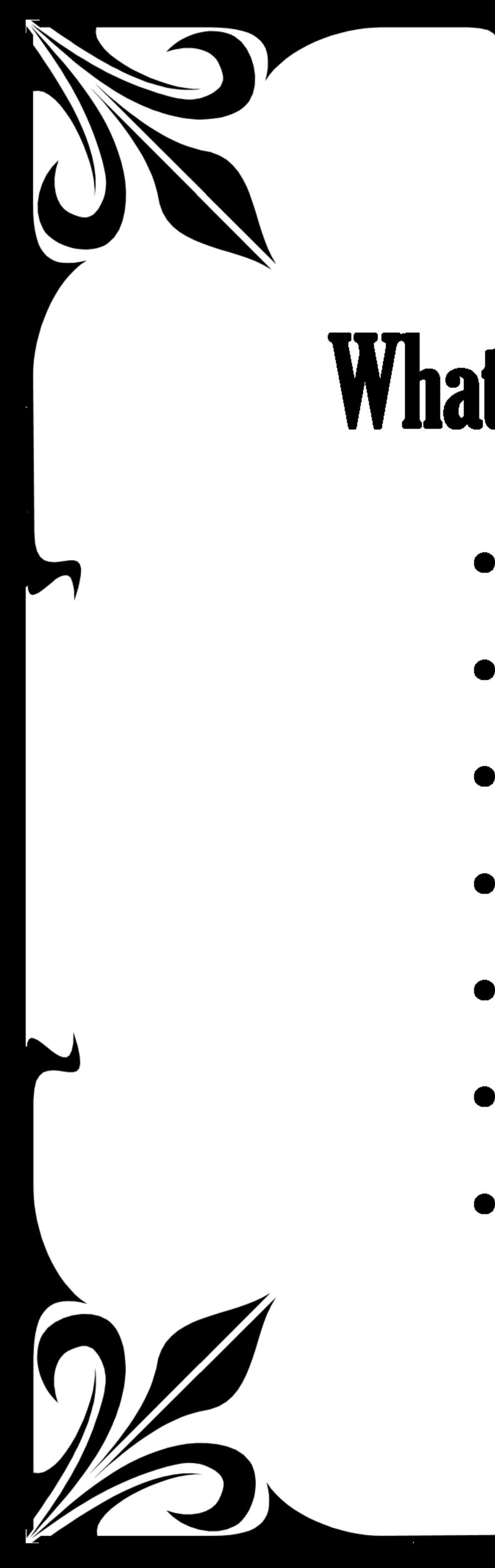
* and Jesus is coming from outer space to kill you soon (40%)











What if someone came up to you and said... • they have an imaginary friend named Zalmoxis • who they insist is really real

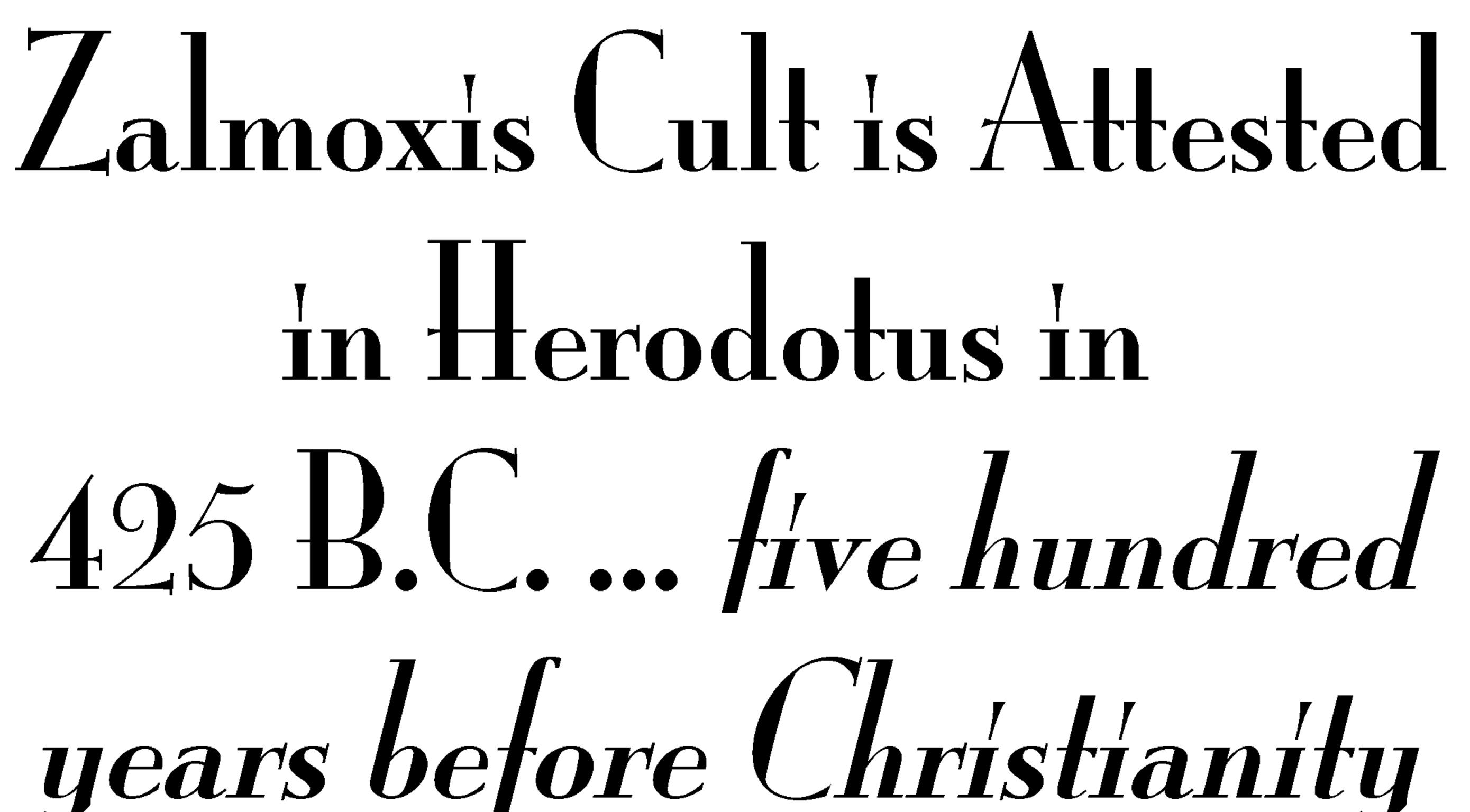
• and they'll never die • because this ancient demigod • cleansed their soul with blood magic • which grants them the power of living forever in a magical place no one can see



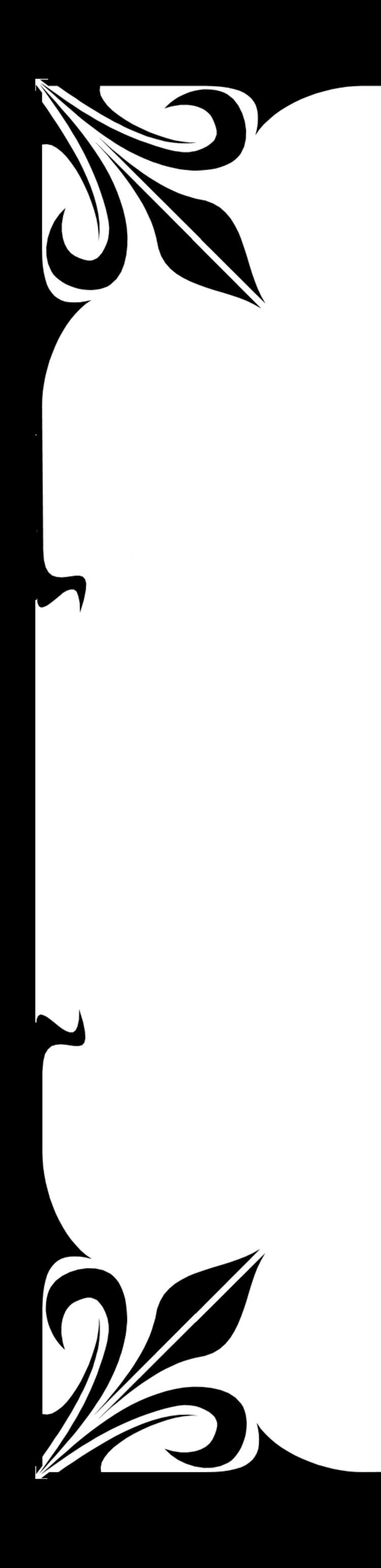




in Herodotus in years before Christianity







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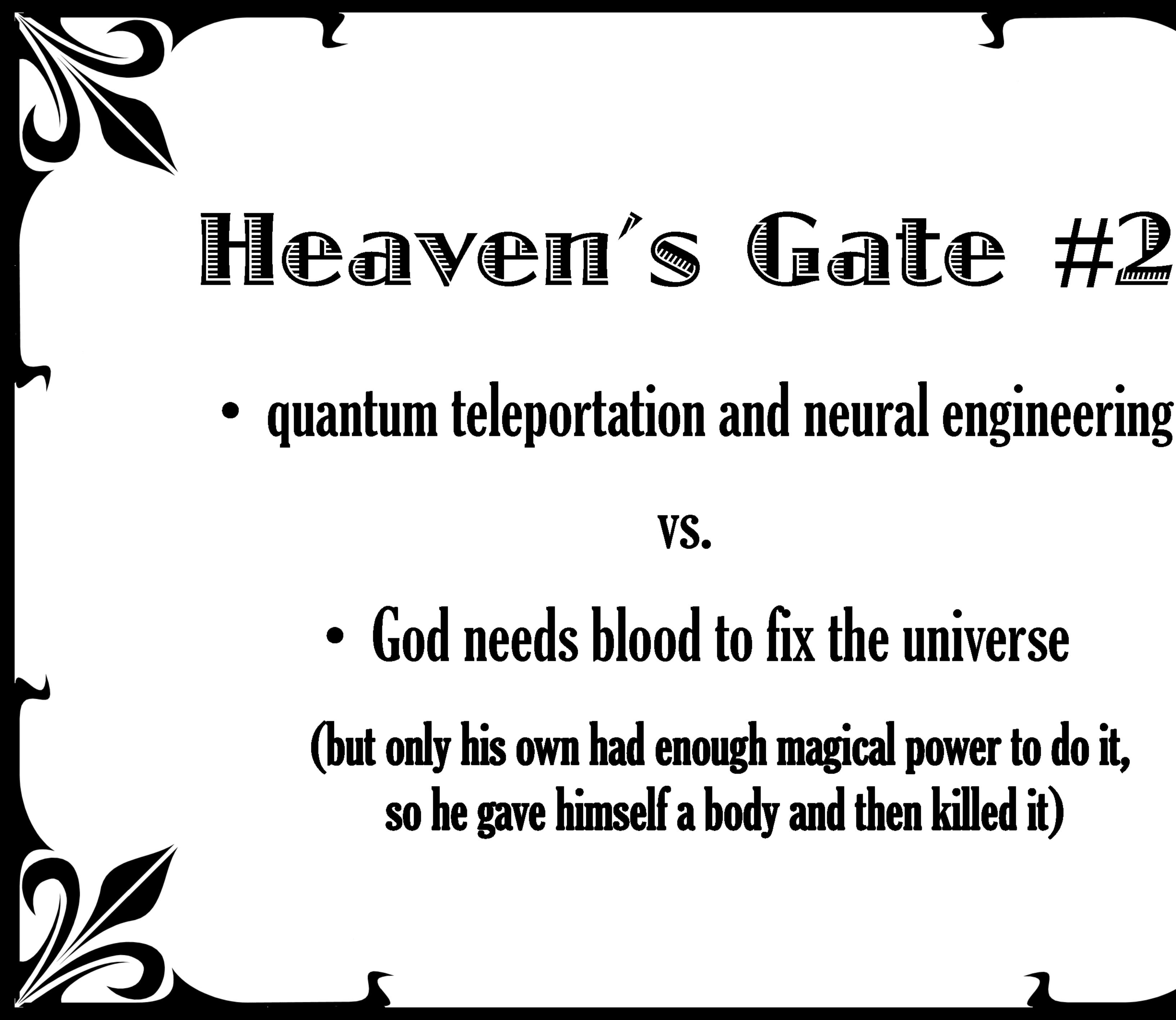
Think About It











• quantum teleportation and neural engineering VS.

• God needs blood to fix the universe

(but only his own had enough magical power to do it, so he gave himself a body and then killed it)





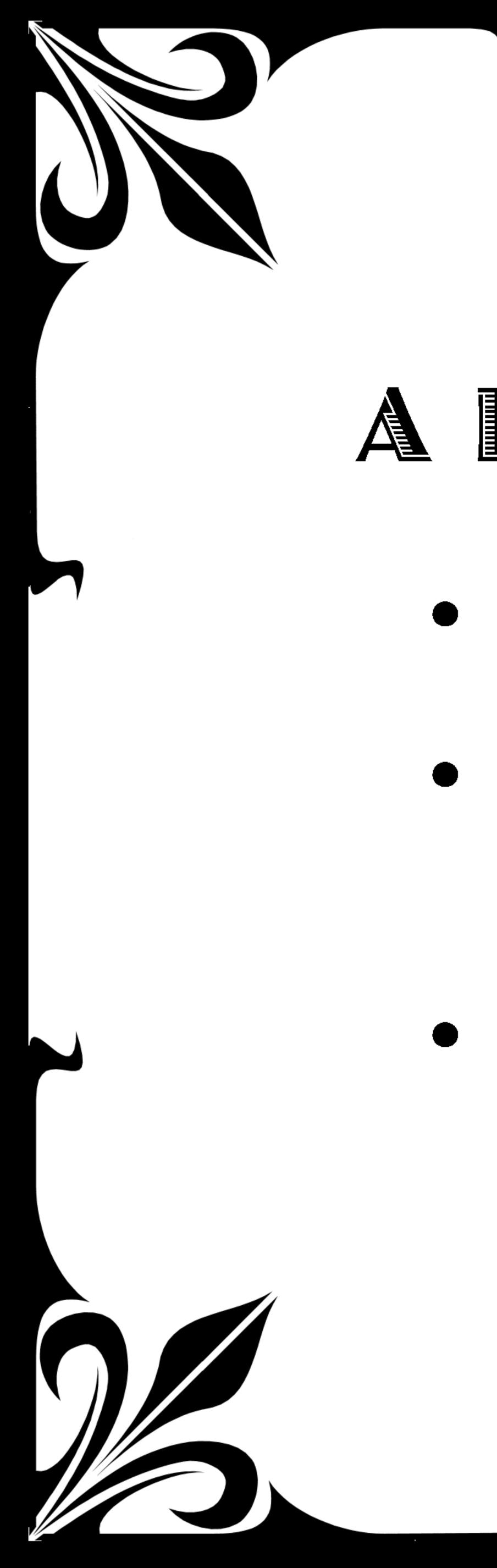


If the Zalmoxíans and the Heaven's Gaters were delusíonal, so are Chrístíans











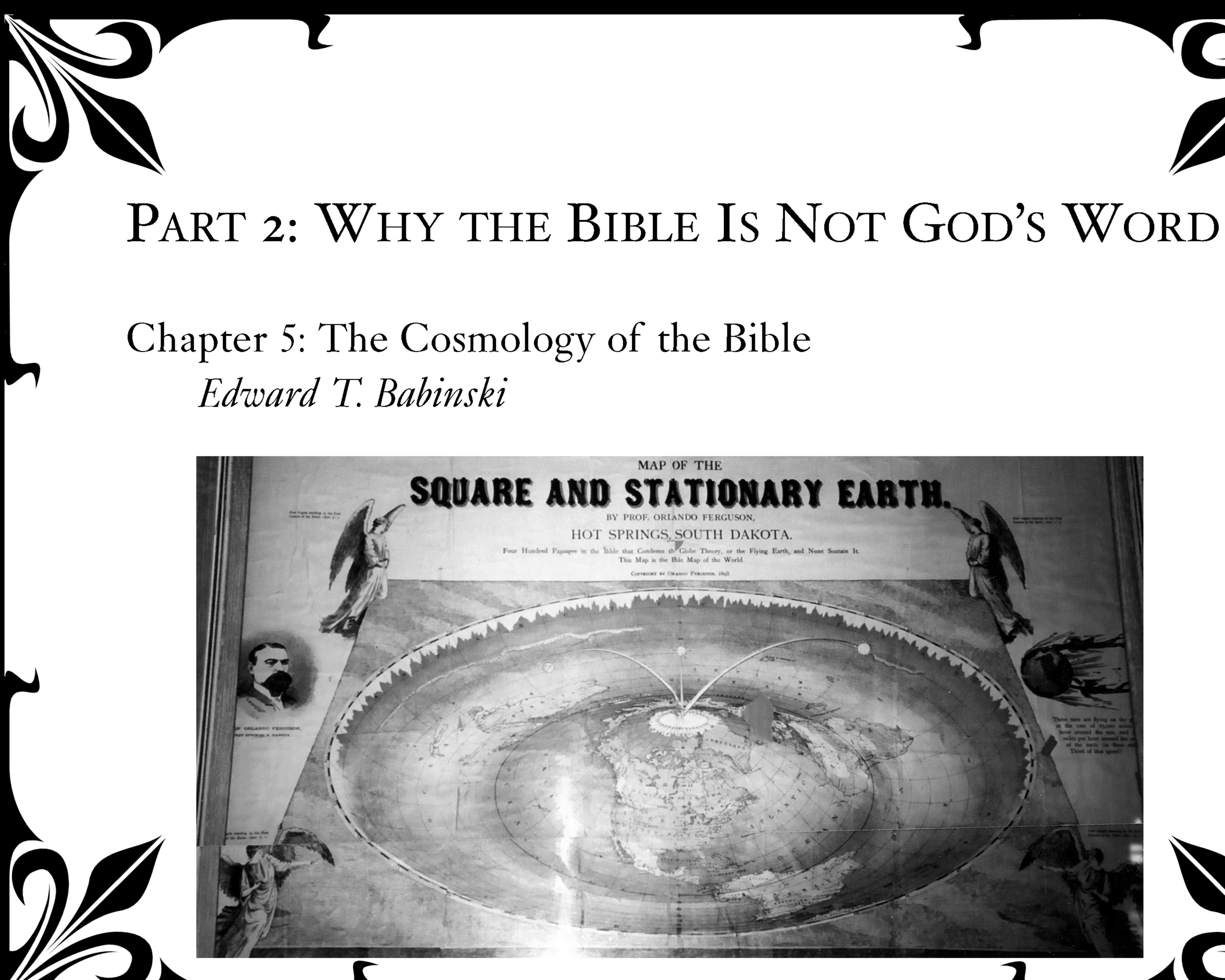
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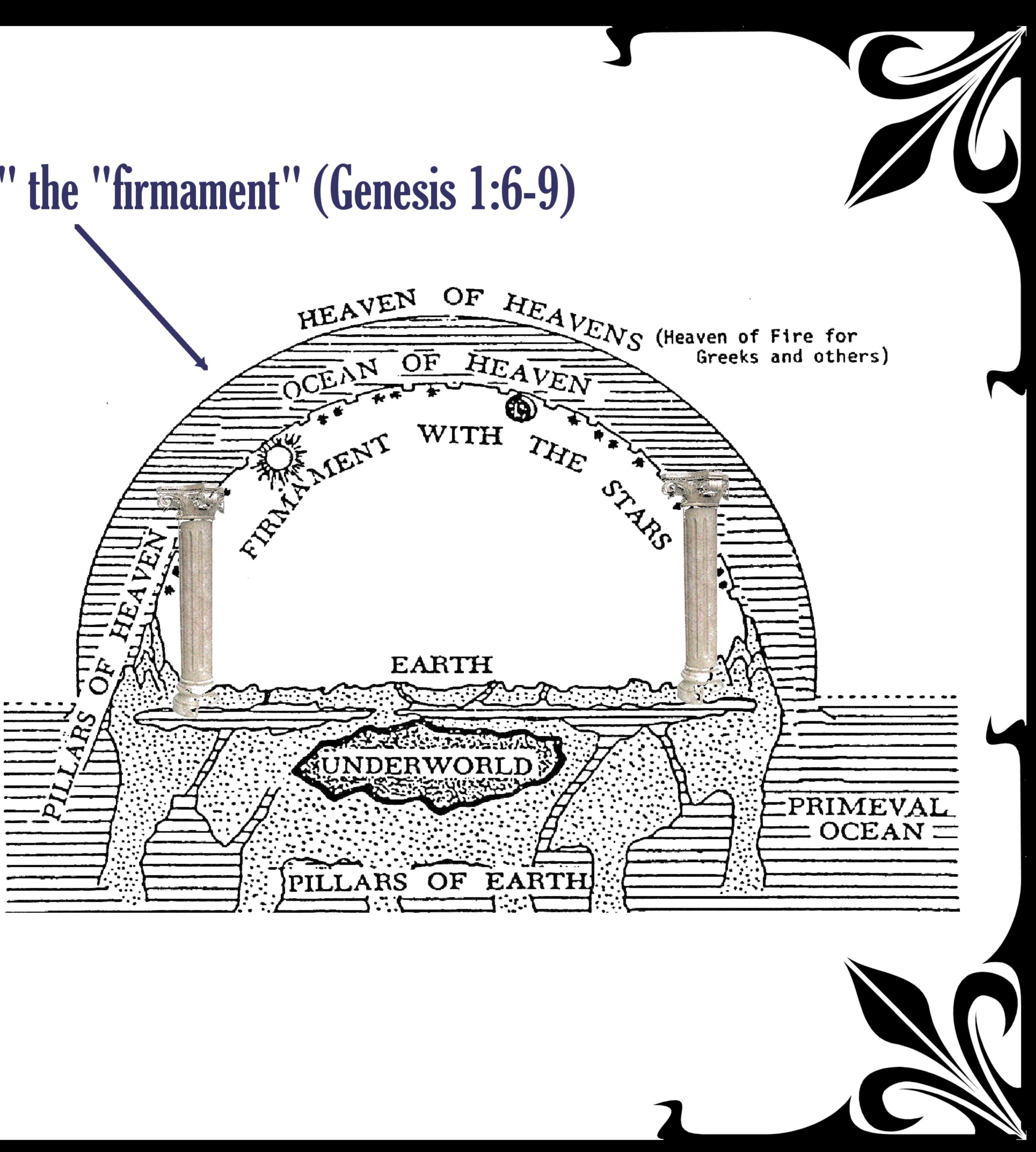


Egyptian Babylonian Sumerian Bible

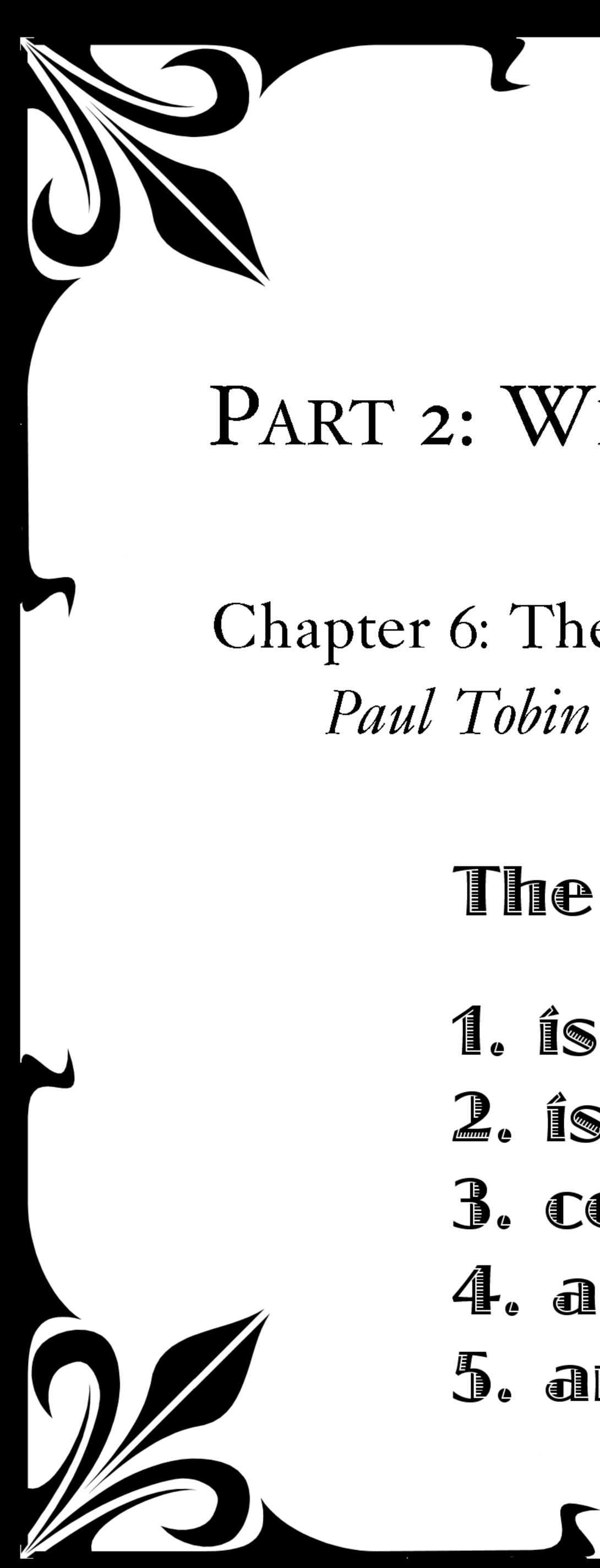




Waters "above" the "firmament" (Genesis 1:6-9)







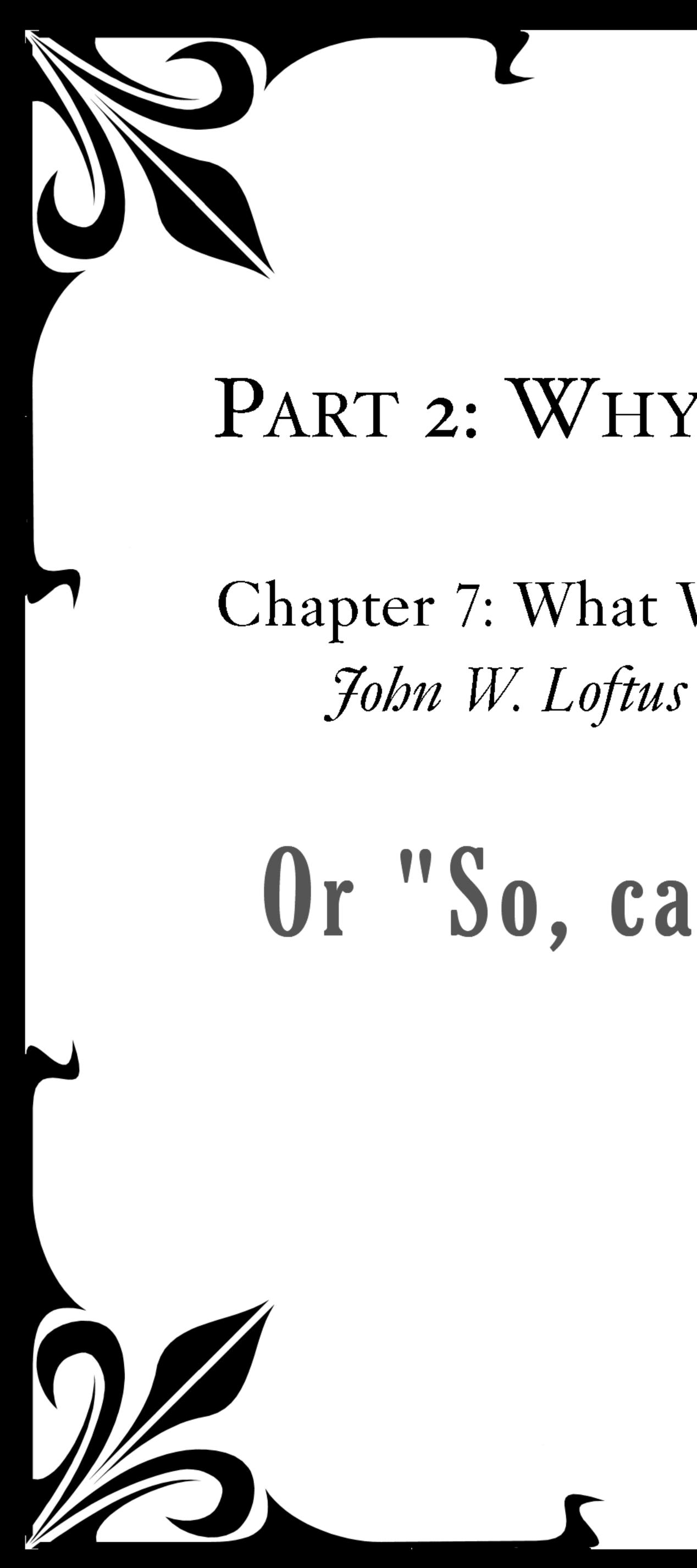
PART 2: WHY THE BIBLE IS NOT GOD'S WORD

Chapter 6: The Bible and Modern Scholarship

The Bible (Old and New)... 1. is inconsistent with itself 2. is not supported by archaeology 3. contains fairy tales 4. and failed prophecies 5. and many forgeries







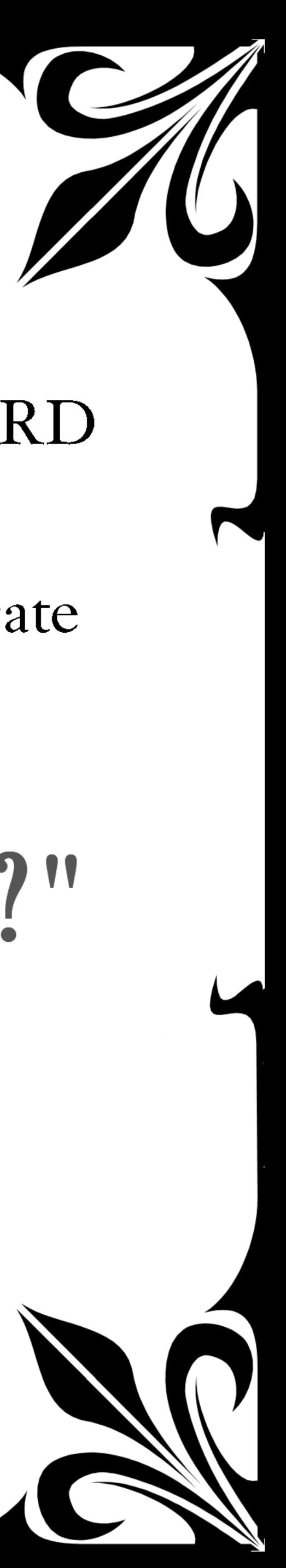
Part 2: Why the Bible Is Not God's Word

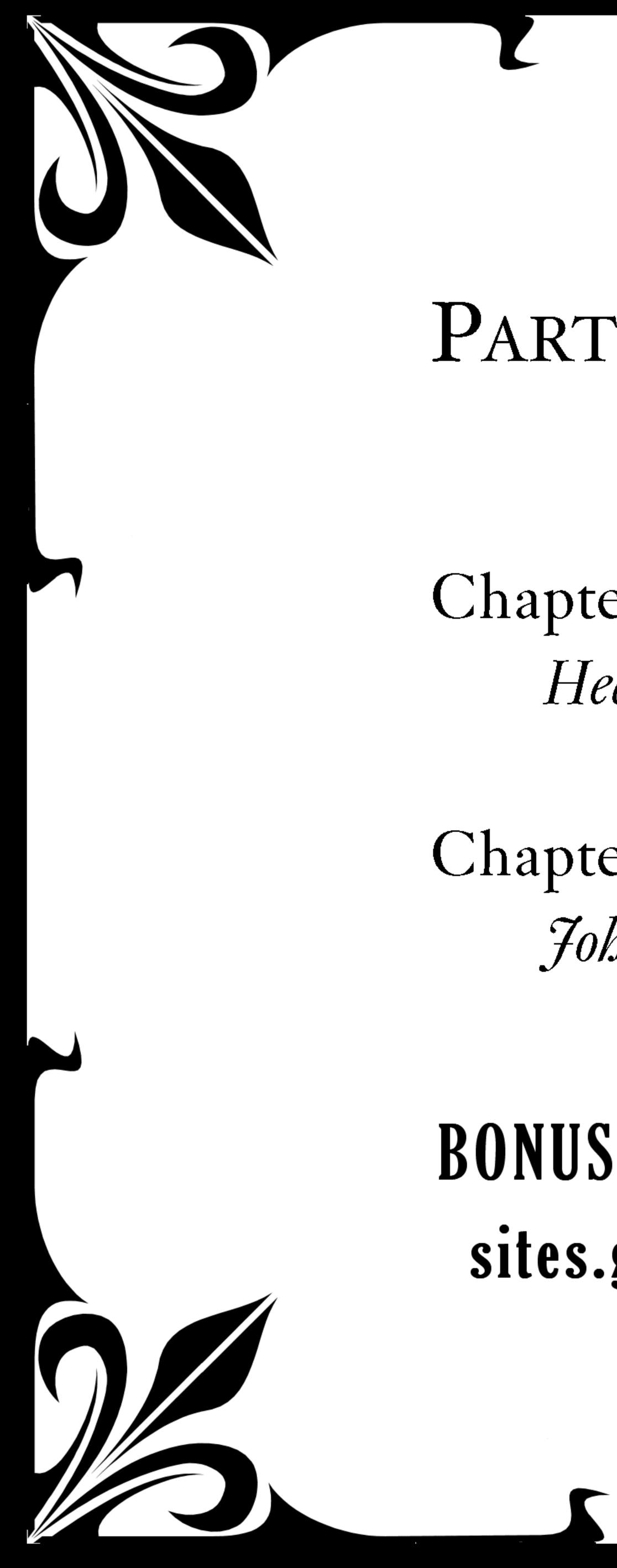
Chapter 7: What We've Got Here Is a Failure to Communicate *John W. Loftus*

Or "So, can I have sex slaves or not!?"

Leviticus 25:44-46 Deuteronomy 21:10-12 Numbers 31:15-18

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PART 3: WHY THE CHRISTIAN GOD IS NOT PERFECTLY GOOD

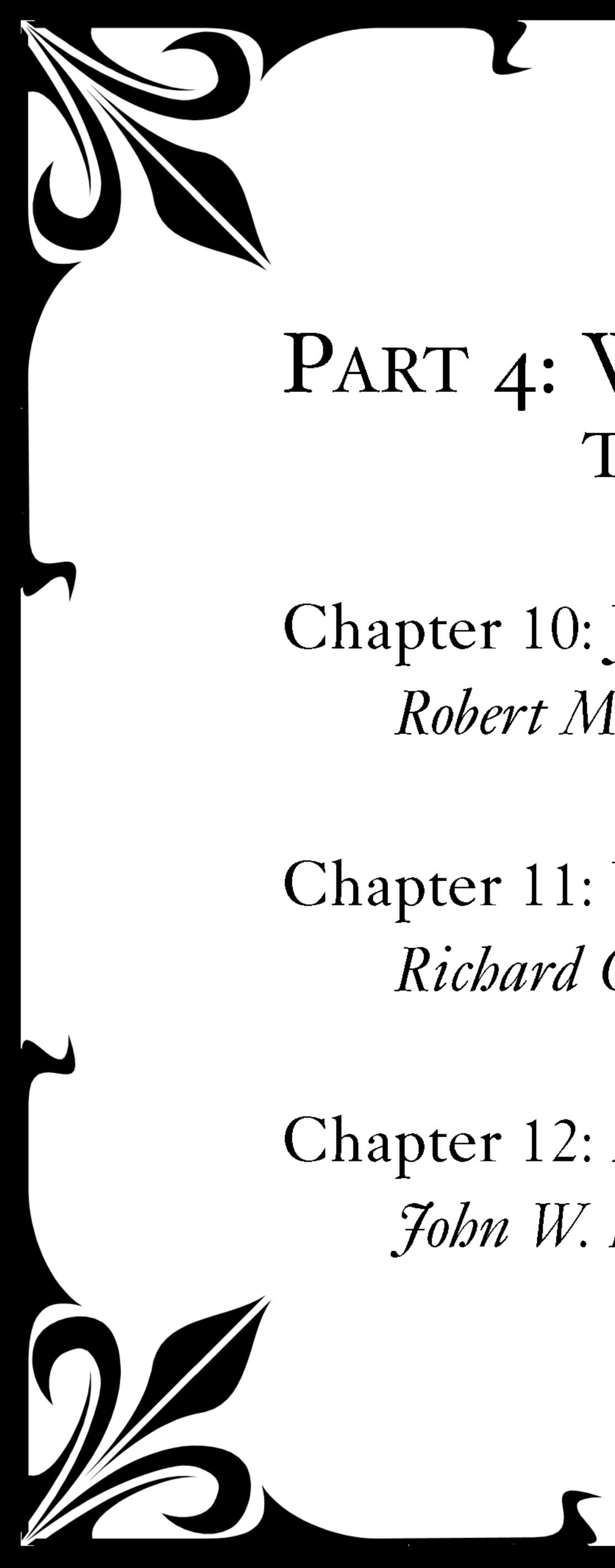
Chapter 8: Yahweh Is a Moral Monster Hector Avalos, PhD

Chapter 9: The Darwinian Problem of Evil John W. Loftus

BONUS: "The Will of God" by Richard Carrier sites.google.com/site/thechristiandelusion







Part 4: Why Jesus Is Not the Risen Son of God

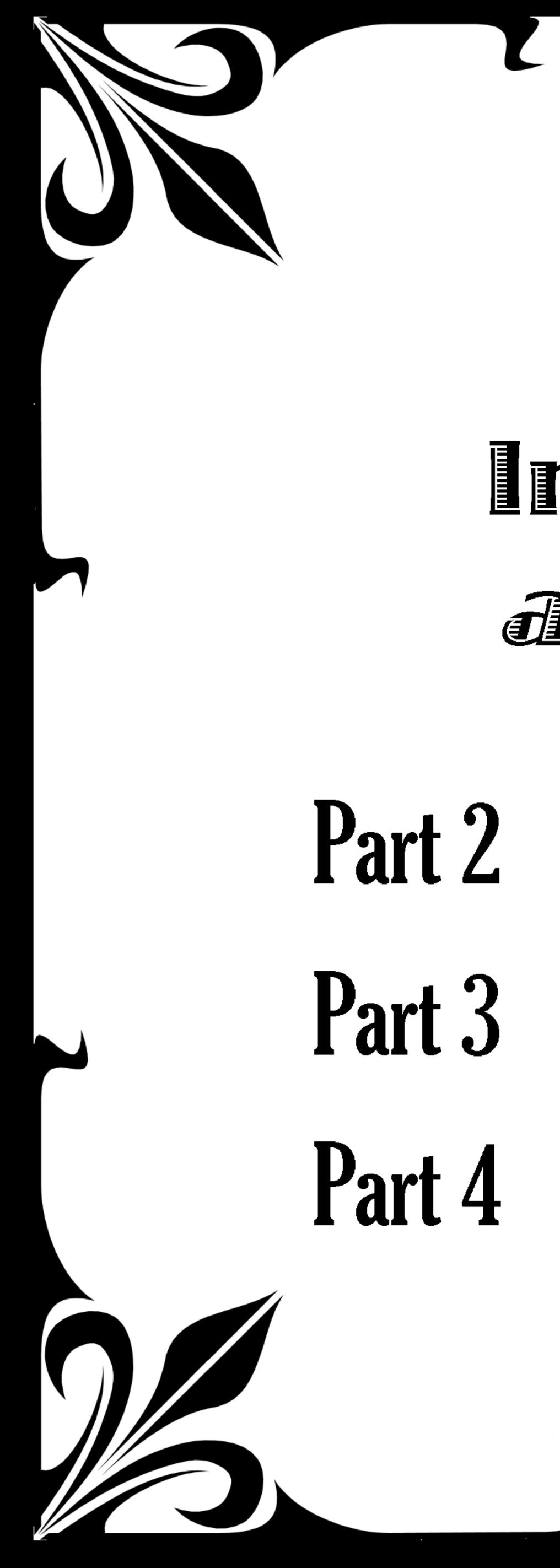
Chapter 10: Jesus: Myth and Method Robert M. Price, PhD

Chapter 11: Why the Resurrection Is Unbelievable Richard Carrier, PhD

Chapter 12: At Best Jesus Was a Failed Apocalyptic Prophet John W. Loftus







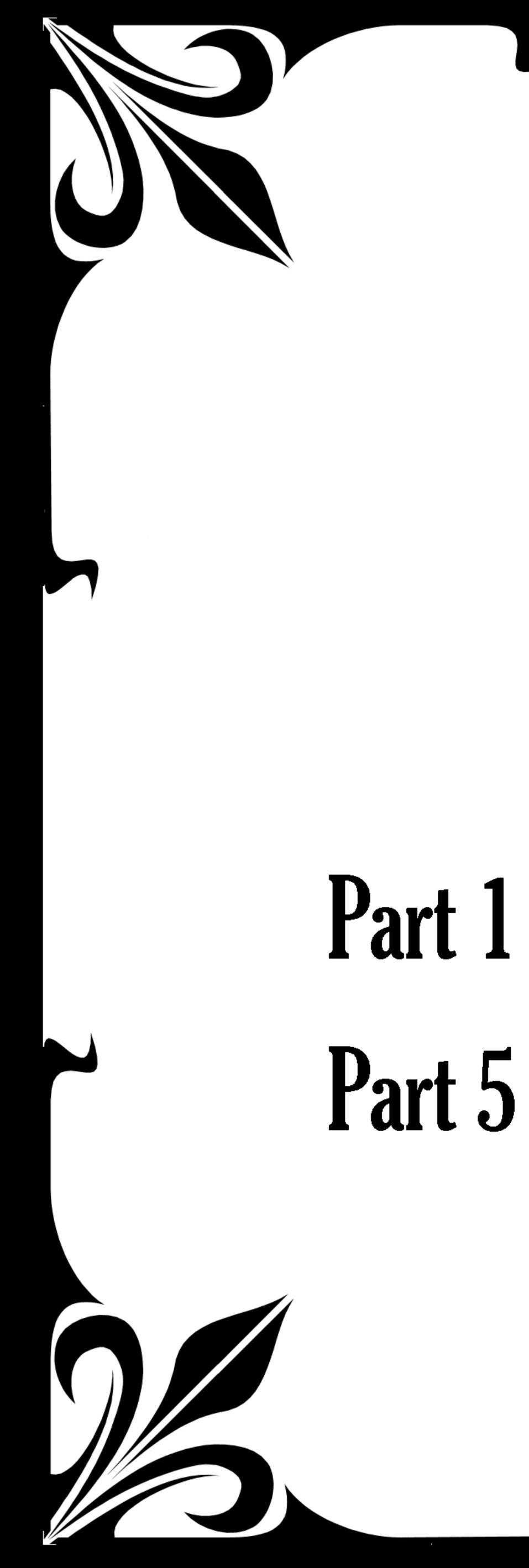
Christianity Is Implausible, Bizarre, and Patently Untrue

Part 2 The "Bible Is God's Word" Christians Part 3 >>> The "God Is Good" Christians The "Jesus Is God" Christians









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And Just for Good Measure (in case there were any Christianities left...)

Part 1>>> "I Don't Need Evidence" ChristiansPart 5>>> "But We Need It" Christians

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"God Is Good" Christians

(Nonchristian Crazies)





"Bible Is God's Word" Christians







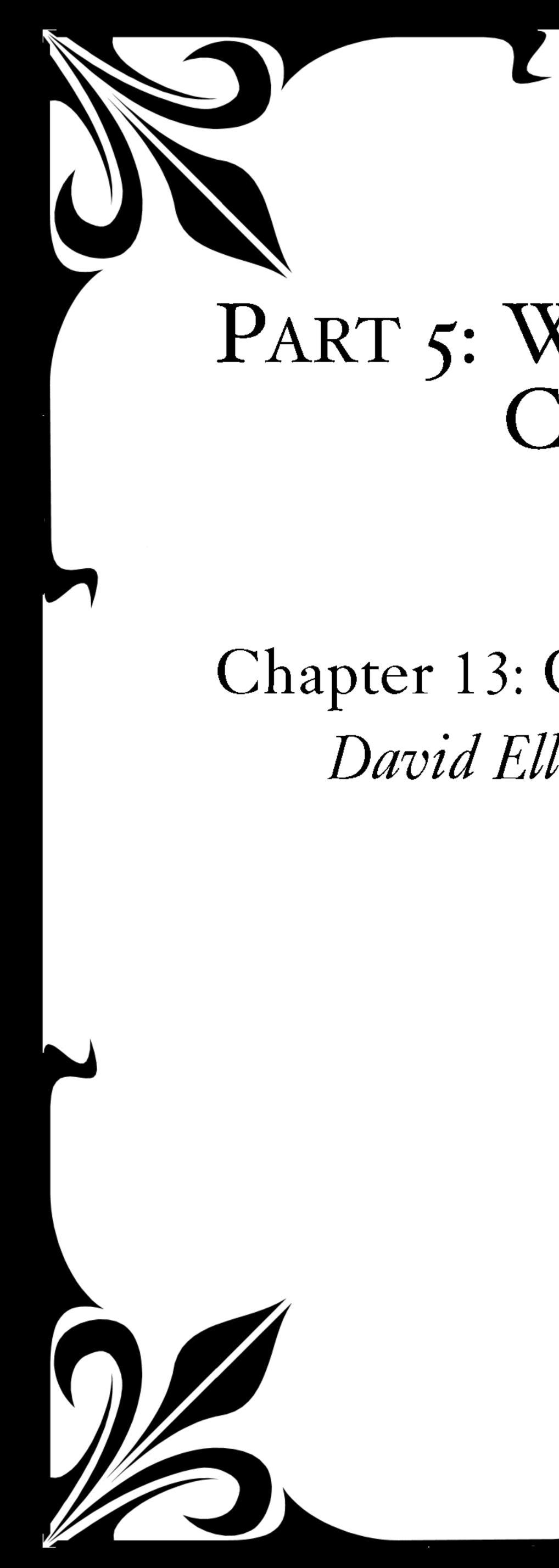
"Jesus Is the Son of God" , Christians

"I Don't Need Evidence" Christians

"But We Need It" Christians







PART 5: WHY SOCIETY DOES NOT DEPEND ON CHRISTIAN FAITH

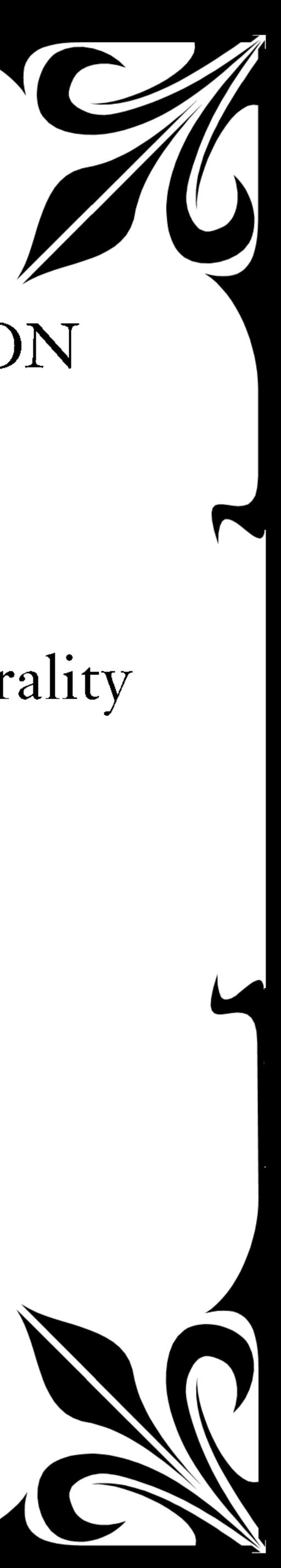
David Eller, PhD

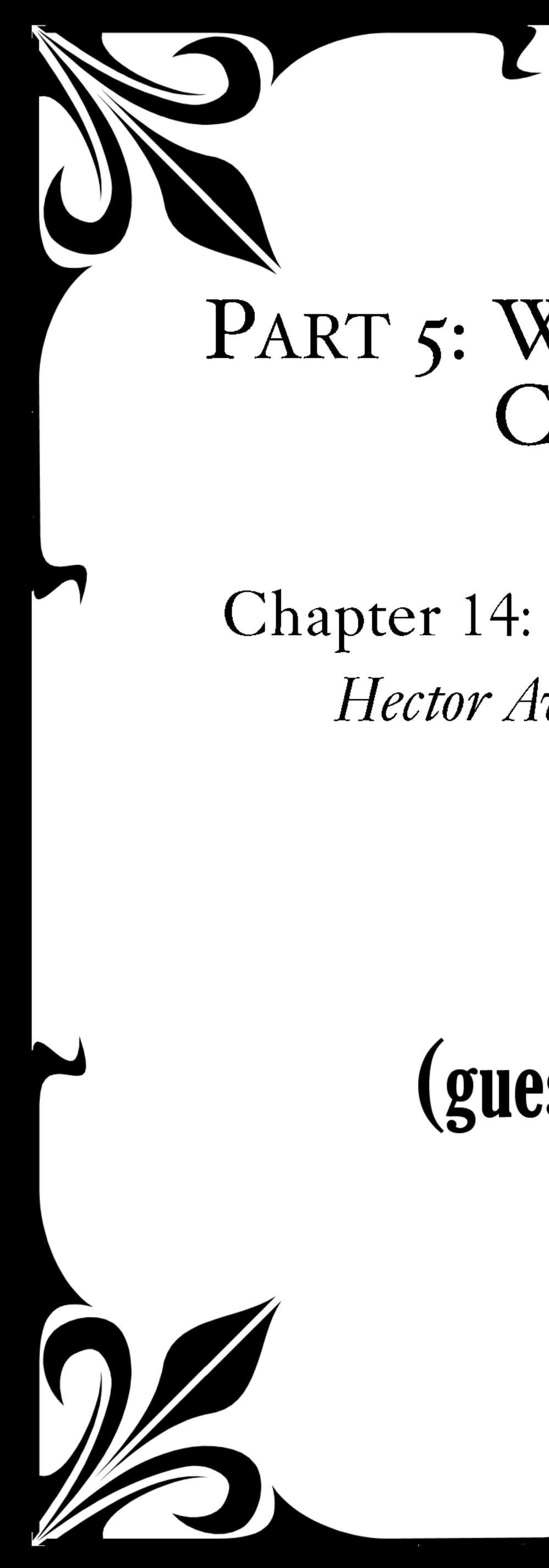
One Basis among Many (and not a very good one at that)



Chapter 13: Christianity Does Not Provide the Basis for Morality







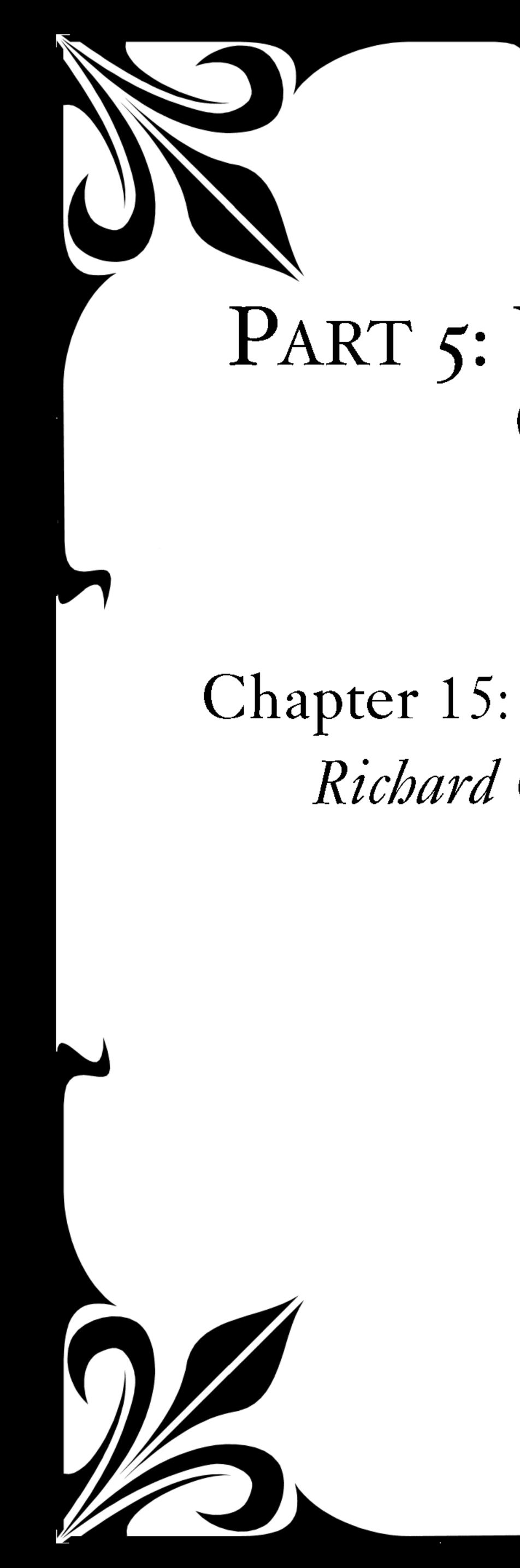
PART 5: WHY SOCIETY DOES NOT DEPEND ON CHRISTIAN FAITH

Chapter 14: Atheism Was Not the Cause of the Holocaust Hector Avalos, PhD

Darwin or Martin Luther? (guess who inspired the entire Nazi program)

* oh, yeah, and Hitler wasn't an atheist



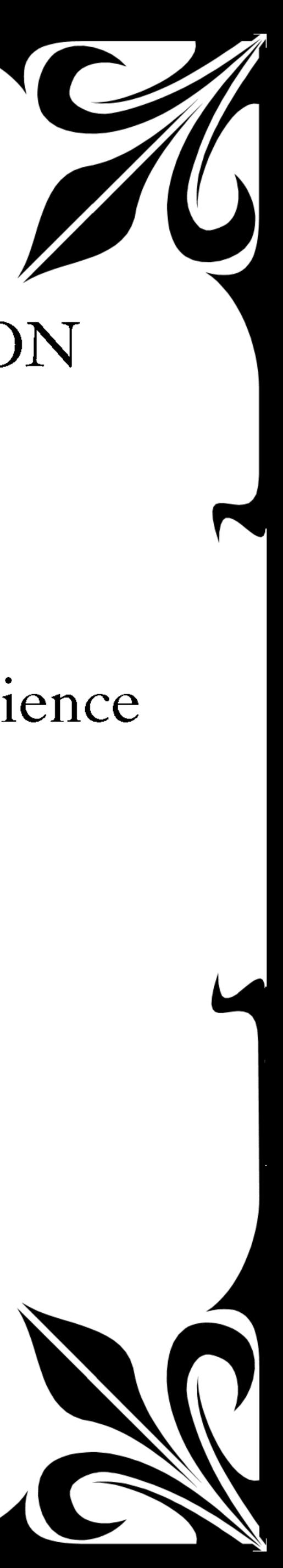




Part 5: Why Society Does Not Depend on Christian Faith

Chapter 15: Christianity Was Not Responsible for Modern Science Richard Carrier, PhD





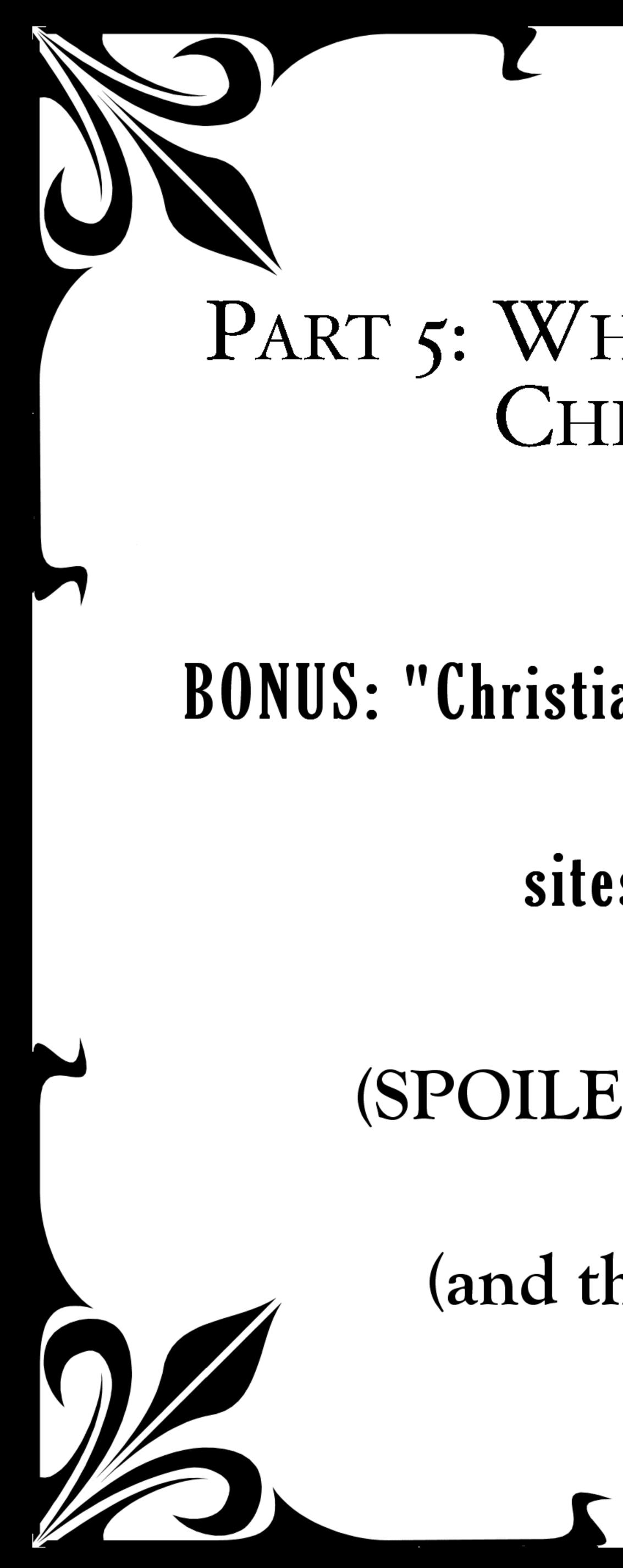


"As a new generation of historians, sociologists, and philosophers of science has proven, biblical religion was not the enemy of science but rather the intellectual matrix that made it possible in the first place. Without the key insights that Christianity found celebrated in the Bible and spread throughout Europe, science would never have happened. ... The evidence is incontrovertible: It was the rational theology of both the Catholic Middle Ages and the Protestant Reformation—inspired by the explicit and implicit truths revealed in the Jewish Bible—that led to the discoveries of modern science."

Robert Hutchinson, "The Biblical Origins of Modern Science," *The Politically Incorrect Guide to the Bible* (Regnery 2007), p. 139.

* so why aren't we teaching Christianity in science class?





PART 5: WHY SOCIETY DOES NOT DEPEND ON CHRISTIAN FAITH

BONUS: "Christianity Was Not Responsible for American Democracy" by Richard Carrier sites.google.com/site/thechristiandelusion

(SPOILER: those dirty little pagans invented it)

(and there's not a jot about it in the Bible)









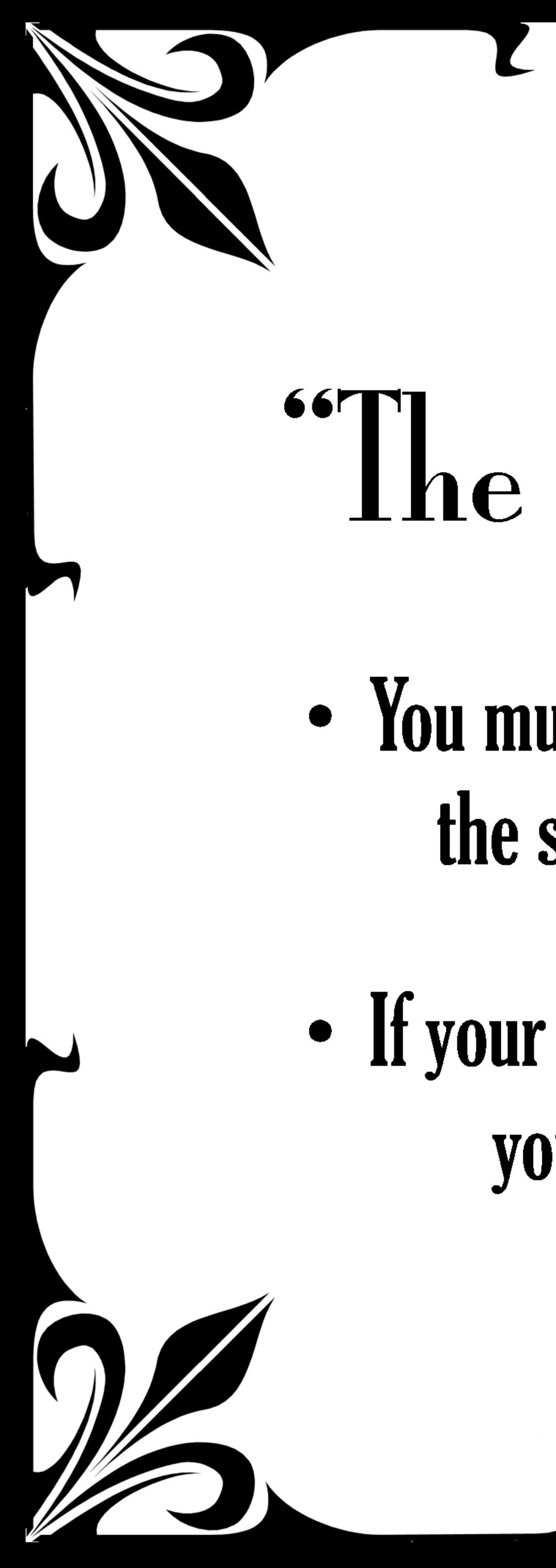
PART I: WHY FAITH FAILS

- Chapter 1: The Cultures of Christianities David Eller, PhD
- Chapter 2: Christian Belief through the Lens of Cognitive Science Valerie Tarico, PhD
- Chapter 3: The Malleability of the Human Mind Jason Long, PhD
- Chapter 4: The Outsider Test for Faith Revisited John W. Loftus









The Outsider Test for Faith"

• You must test your own religious claims and texts by the same standards you apply to other religions

• If your religion's claims and texts fare no better, then your religion is just as false as theirs is

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tetting a lue...

Choice of religious belief is positively correlated with cultural and geographic familiarity and access

Mostly Christians in America, Mostly Muslims in the Middle East, Mostly Buddhists in Asia







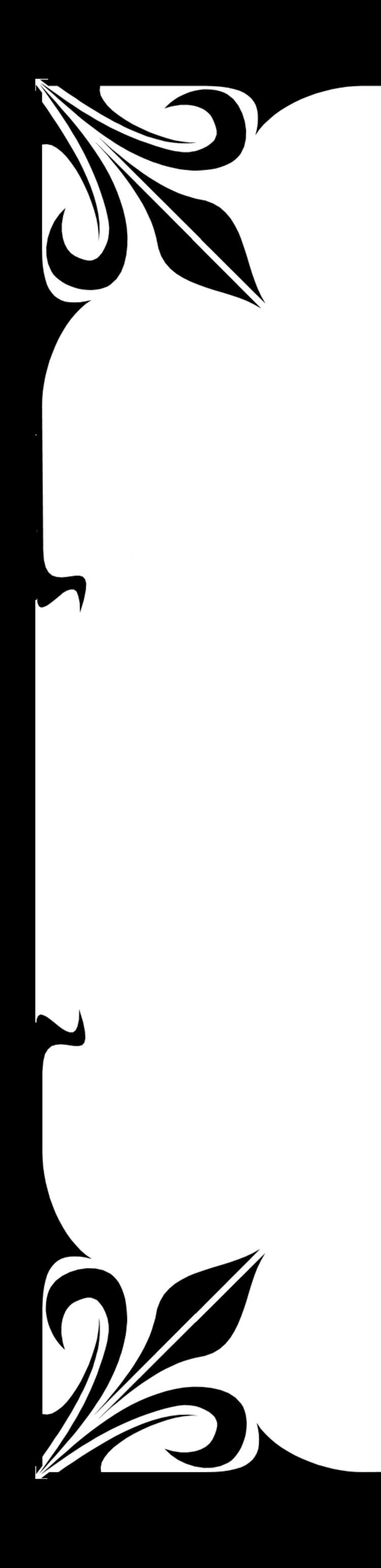
Cietting a Clue... { insert rhyming breakdance movie title here }

Religious belief is negatively correlated with intelligence, education, and self-esteem

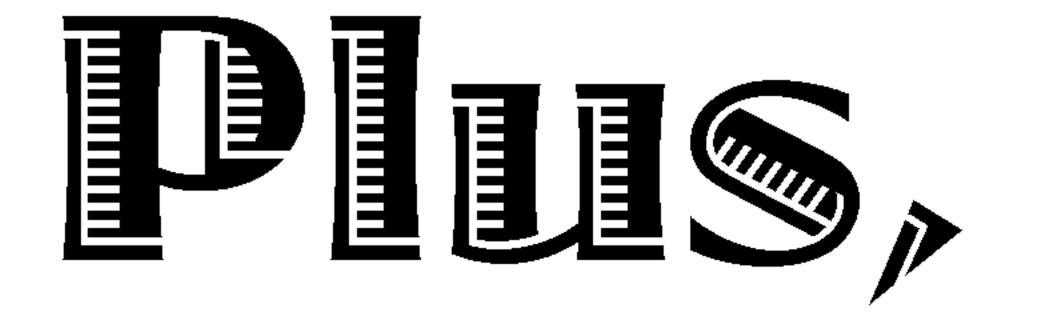
- The smarter you are = the less likely to believe
- **The more self-respect** = the less likely to believe

The more you know = the less likely to believe









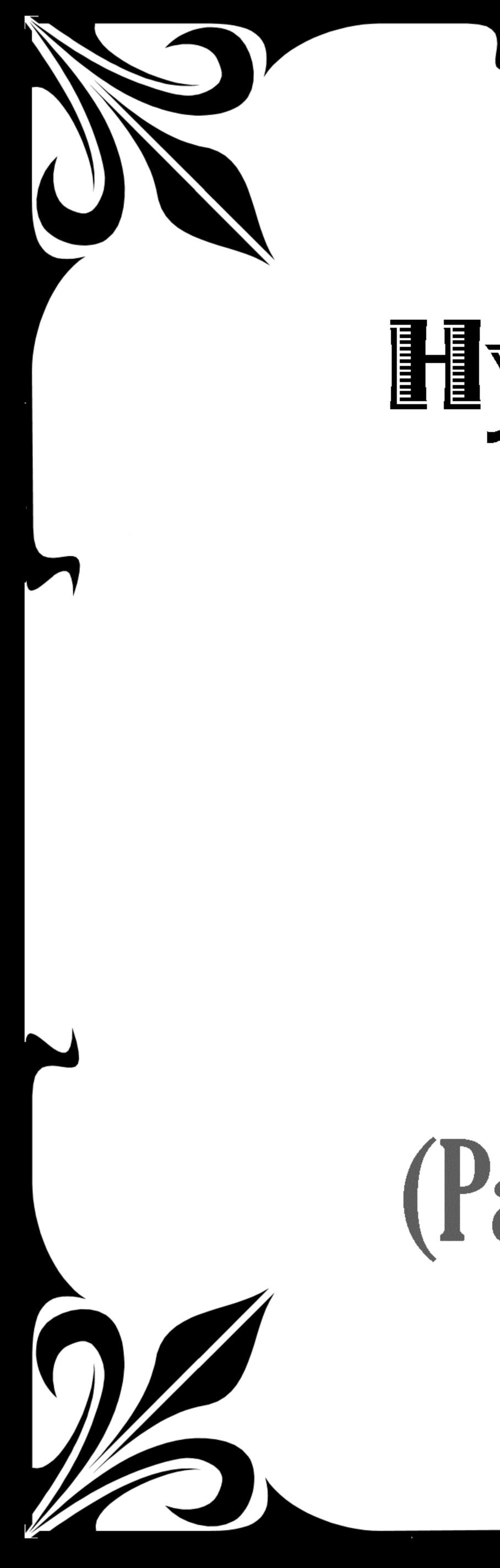












Hyperactive Agency Detection

David Eller

Valerie Tarico (Pascal Boyer, Daniel Dennett, etc.)







Jason Long

⇒ time increases confidence faster than evidence ⇒ instinctive false generalization (weaker vs. stronger) Solution → Confirmation bias is innate (only see/seek support)





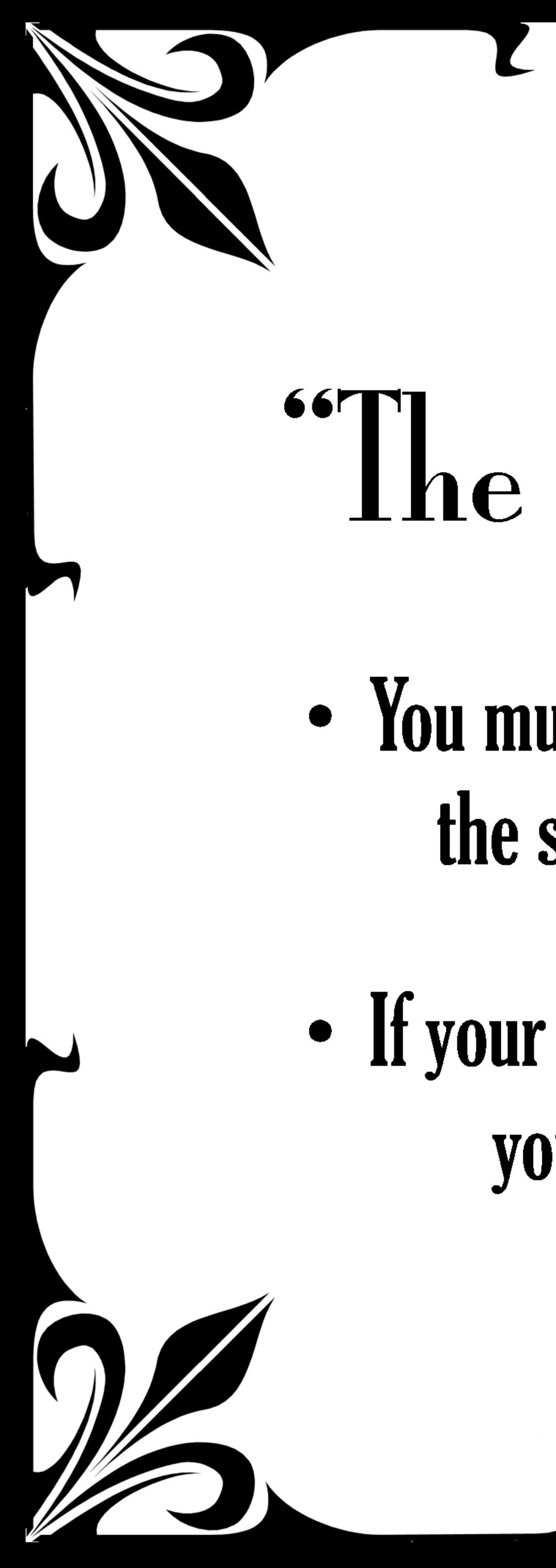
Psychology Trumps Reason: The Bad News

» avoidance behavior

(a) swallowing lousy arguments (b) avoiding exposure to opposition

fallacy of "poisoning the well" actually works (ever wonder why atheists have to be vilified?)





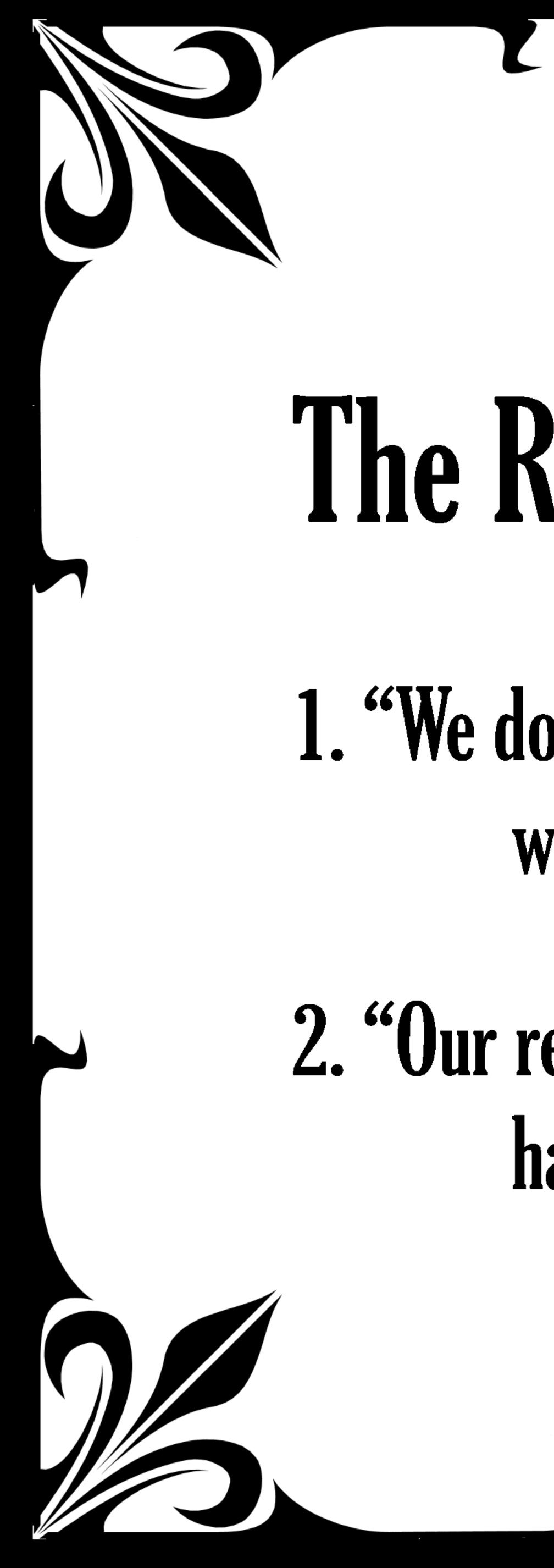
The Outsider Test for Faith"

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The Response Is...

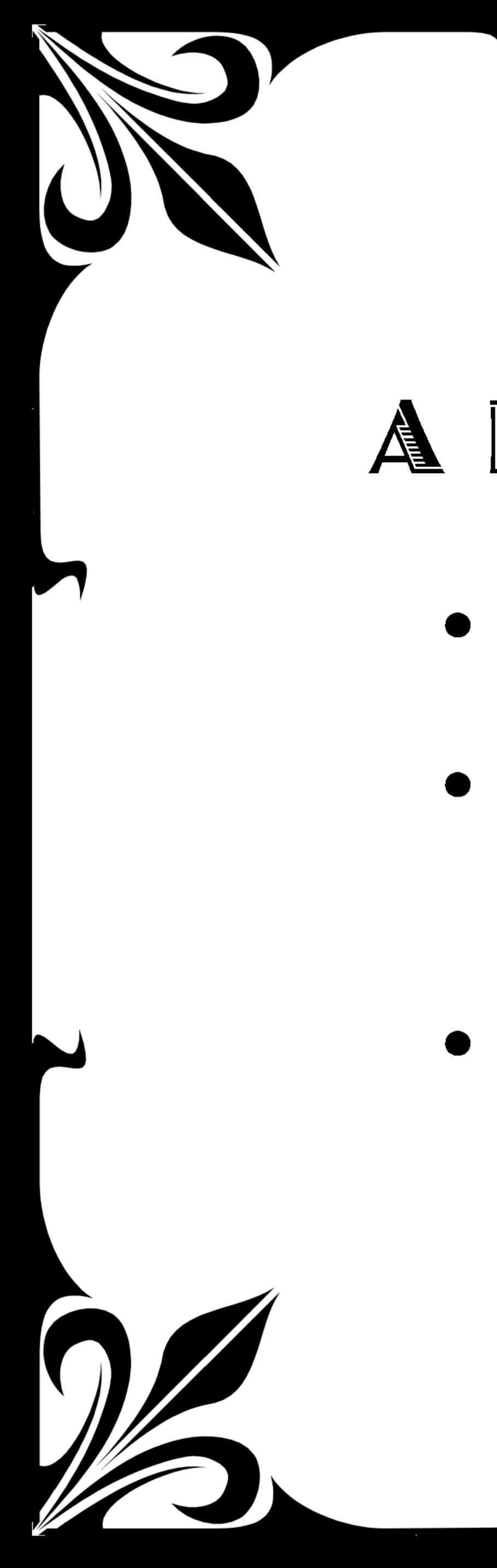
1. "We don't have to test our faith by the same standards we test others. Hypocrisy rocks!"

2. "Our religion passes the Outsider Test because we have all this awesome evidence!"











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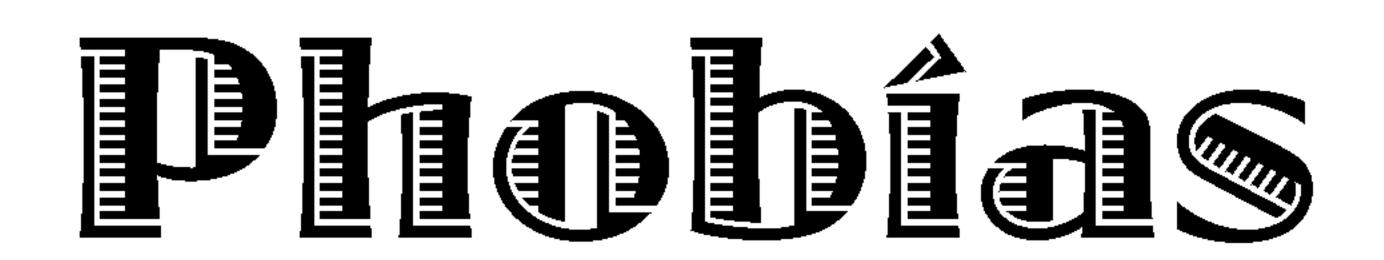
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Sam Harris, *The Moral Landscape* (forthcoming / 2010)

belief ("certainty") is an emotion we have located it in the brain it can misfire like other emotions







an intense emotion (fear) triggered by an inappropriate stimulus (flying / spiders / sour things)

There is no rational connection between the emotion or its intensity and the stimulus (flying, spiders, and sour things simply aren't that scary, nor that dangerous, thus intensely fearing them is irrational).



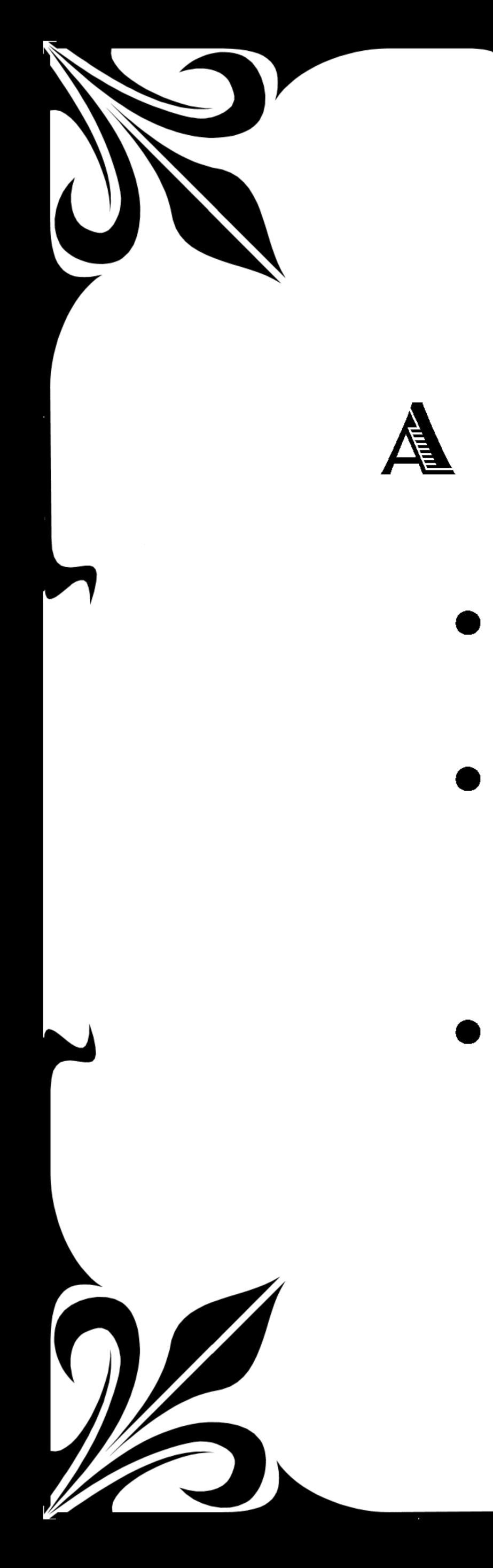




an intense emotion (certainty) triggered by an inappropriate stimulus (bizarre claims made in an old book)

There is no rational connection between the emotion or its intensity and the stimulus (the Gospel simply isn't that convincing, thus being intensely certain it's true is irrational, thus intensely believing it is irrational).

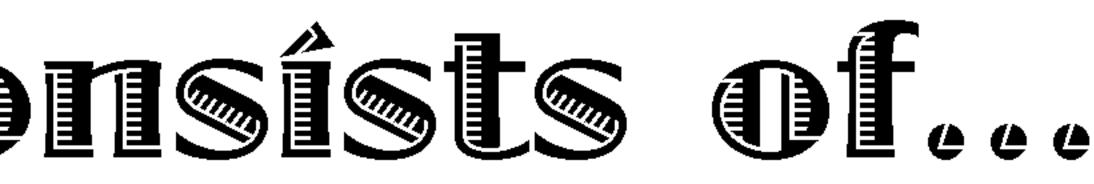




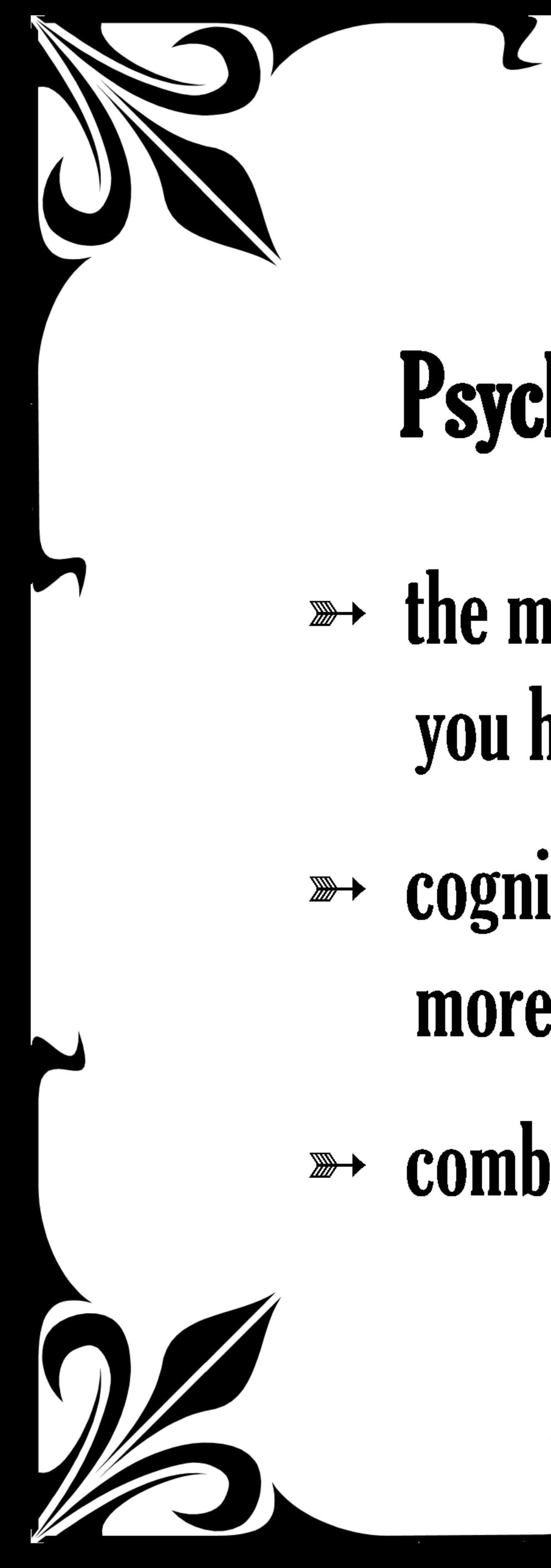


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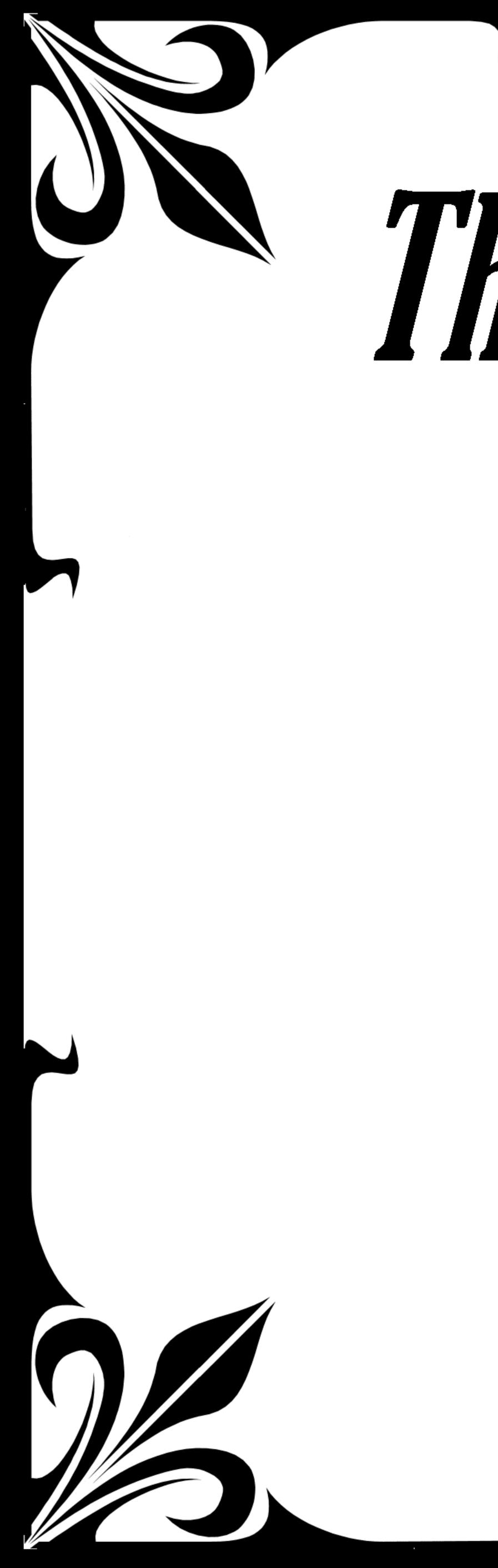


Psychology Trumps Reason: The Good News

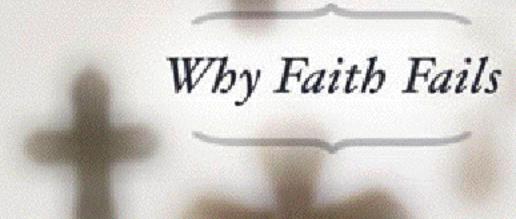
- \implies the more you are forced to defend a belief, the more you have to think about it (counteracts all previous)
- Solution → Cognitive dissonance increases the starker (and starker) more important) are the options / contradictions
- \implies combine and sustain both = effective



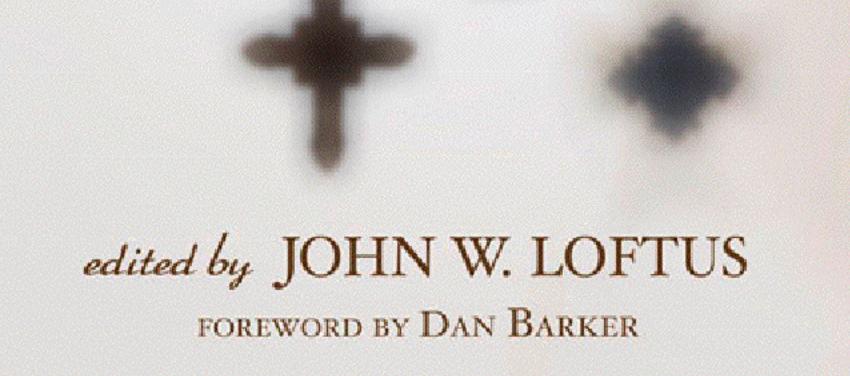




The Christian Delusion Why Faith Fails



The CHRISTIAN DELUSION

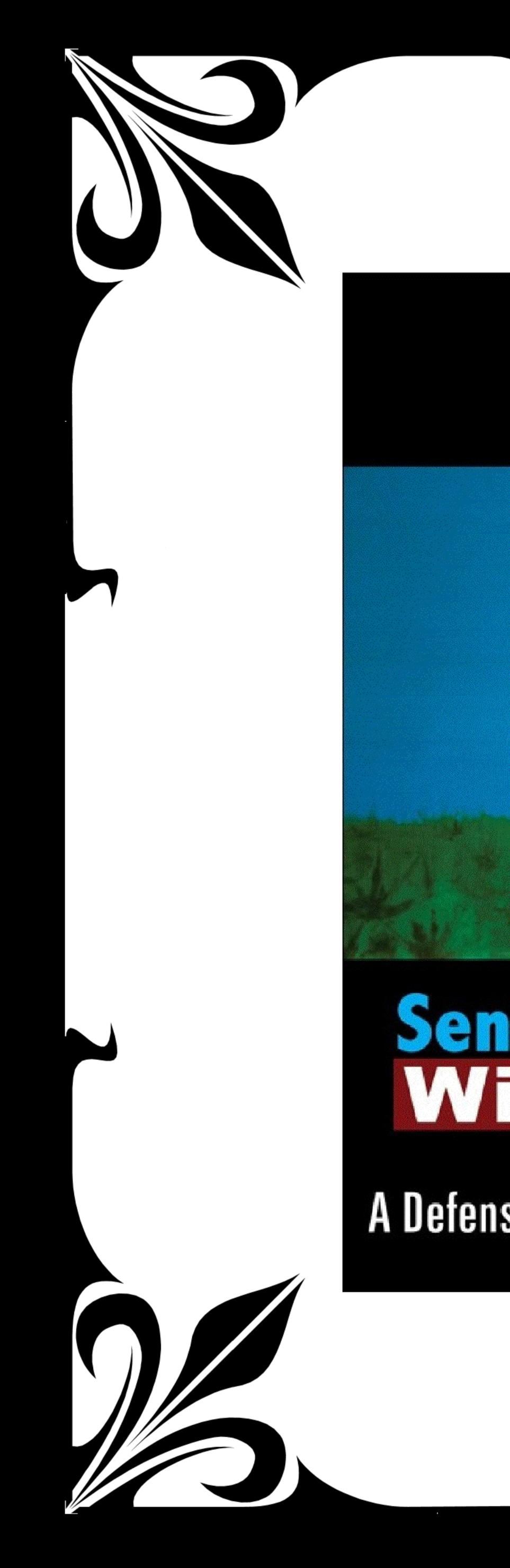






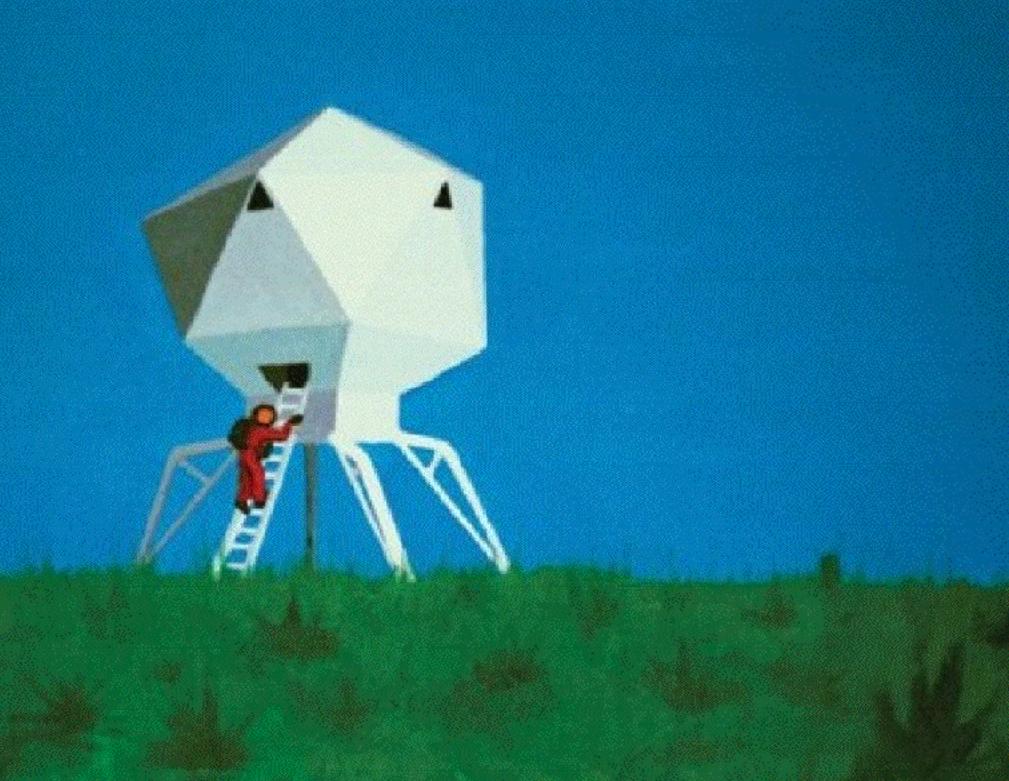








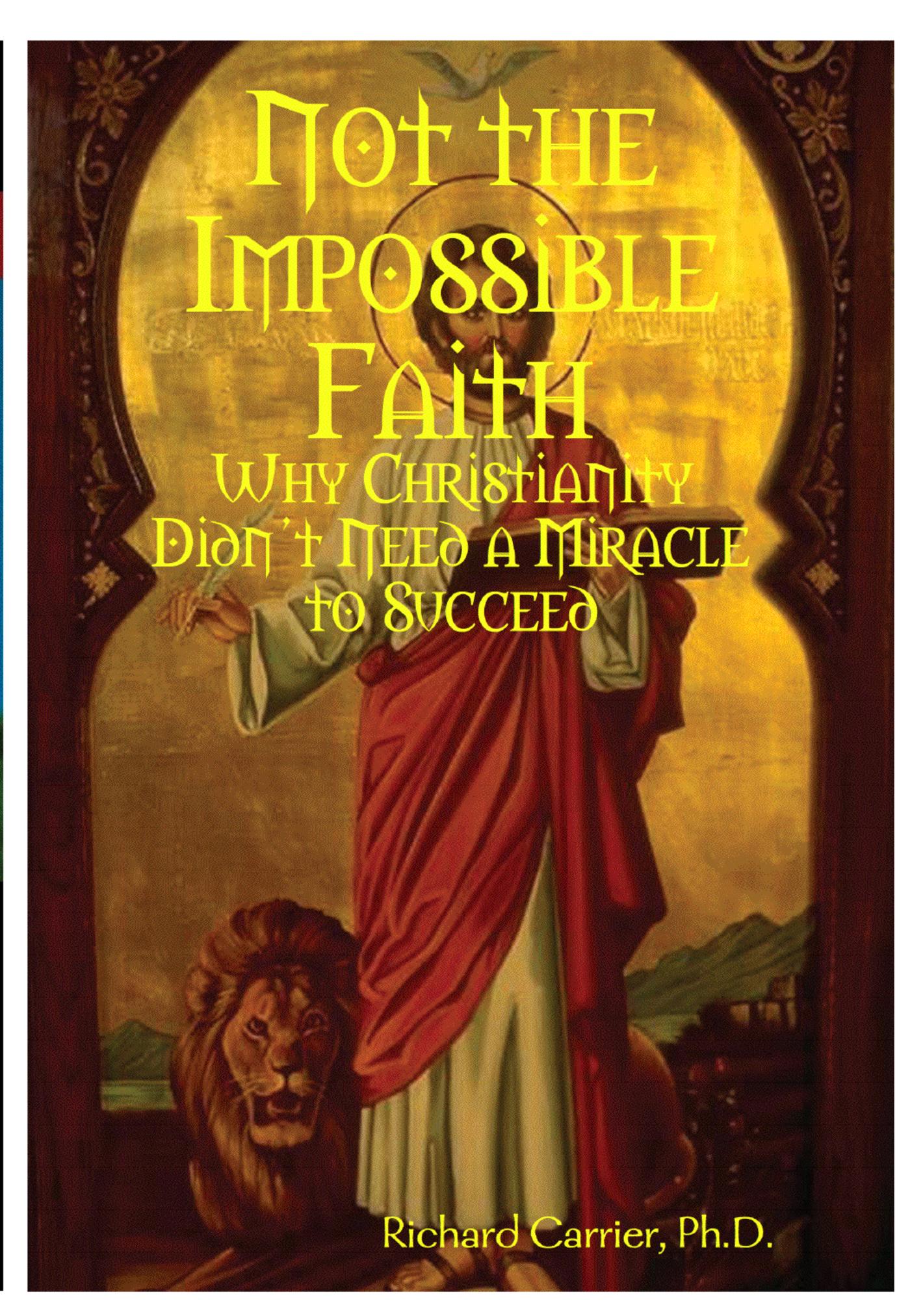
Richard Carrier



Sense & Goodness Without God

A Defense of Metaphysical Naturalism









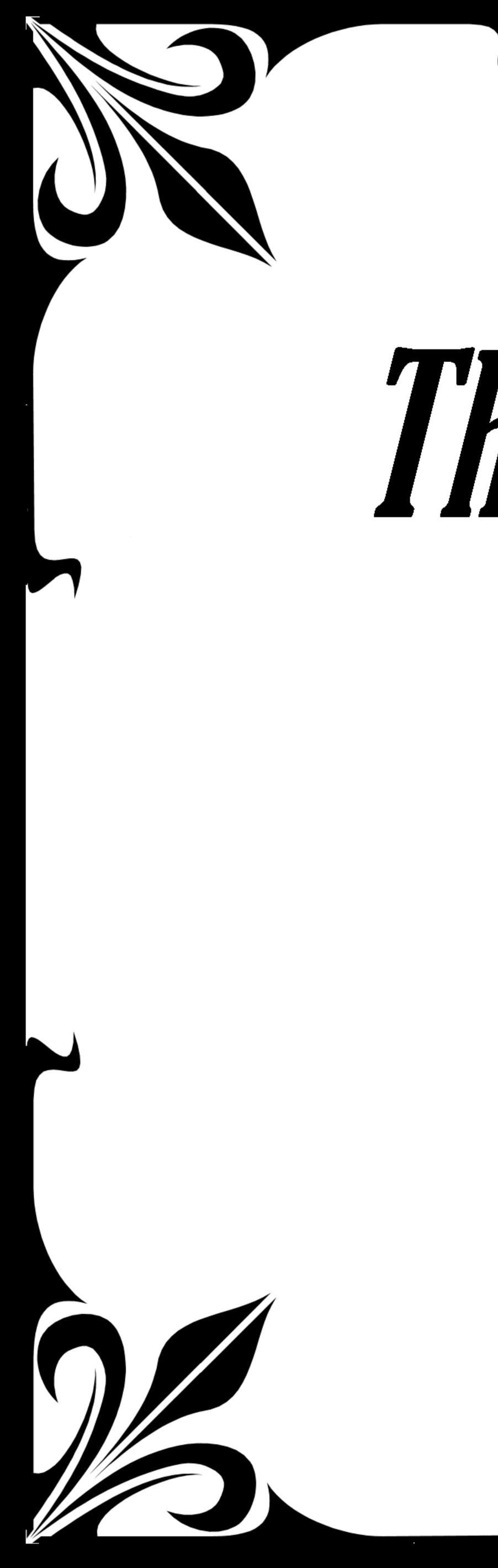












The Christian Delusion Why Faith Fails ed. by John Loftus (Prometheus 2010)

