



REFLECTIONS OF AN OBSERVER

NEW SERIES

— Been Thinking About Peer Pressure & “The Golden Handcuffs” —

If you've concluded that DEMOCRATS have a monopoly on group think, your observations may've been, so far, too narrow. It's easy to observe those folk – many evil but most naive – regurgitating their centrally-prescribed, memorized talking points du jour and marching consistently in lock-step. What you may have yet to discover is that such characteristics are also true of groups that work really hard to maintain the smoke screens they've erected to conceal that from most of us.

Got five examples for you to chew on, but there are lots more examples for those who'll observe closely...and objectively. My intent, here, is not to list all the rationale for these conclusions, but I am prepared to cite more of them to folk who can convince me that their curiosity is both sincere and benign: www.Link1.info/contact-us—

- ❶ Theologians and clerics hold one another accountable to their respective sectarian "what 'we' believe" franchises. Like for all the rest of us, human nature (a.k.a. the sin nature) drives the thinking and the behaviors that enable them to "fit in" with their peer groups. Like in all other professions, "the golden handcuffs" play a major role in the strong enforcement of the written rules and the unwritten ones, too; e.g.: "Step out of line and risk having to take up a brand new career!"
- ❷ Wealthy donors hold politicians of all political parties accountable to their respective self interests. Recognize "the golden handcuffs" phenomenon there, too?
- ❸ There is at least one group for whom "the golden handcuffs" may not be the most obvious tool for keeping its peers "in line." For career academic professionals, that "tenure" thing yields a buffering zone. That aside, what percentage of tenured college and university professors dare to step outside the prescribed neo-liberal rhetoric box...even when their relative cognizance is clearly dissonant? For those professionals, after gaining tenure, peer pressure becomes the primary motivator. Some readers may be surprised to learn that peer pressure is arguably much stronger for adults than it has ever been for children.
- ❹ The *scientific* "climate change" community holds its members accountable to the extant donor-then-politician-prescribed talking points. Yep; "the golden handcuffs" are an easily observed primary motivator for those folk: "Step out of line and kiss your government grant dreams goodbye!"
- ❺ But what of "the smartest people on Earth?" Are scientists, mathematicians, astronomers and physicists (etc.) really "kept in line" by peer pressure? I've saved this example for last on purpose...to expose the under-reported, uncommonly fascinating Albert Einstein example. I'll bet you've heard that dear Albert's religion was Atheism. What you may not have recognized is that he must've been constantly "in knots" about that. The prescribed faith of his peer group was and is Atheism or, at least, Agnosticism or Secular Humanism.

Those are classic religion. Doubt that? What other religious group is more aggressive in its evangelism—enlisting the courts to force its inflamed dogma down the collective throats of all the rest of us foolish infidels? What other religious group would dare to infiltrate publically-funded universities to systematically proselytize our impressionable kids?

Here are five Einstein quotes that clearly betray his cognitive dissonance—

- ✓ "Before God we are all equally wise – and equally foolish."
- ✓ "My religion consists of a humble admiration of the illimitable superior spirit who reveals himself in the slight details we are able to perceive with our frail and feeble mind."
- ✓ "Science without religion is lame; religion without science is blind."
- ✓ "As a child I received instruction both in the Bible and in the Talmud. I am a Jew, but I am enthralled by the luminous figure of the Nazarene. No one can read the Gospels without feeling the actual presence of Jesus. His personality pulsates in every word. No myth is filled with such life." —in the October 26, 1929, edition of the *Saturday Evening Post*
- ✓ "At any rate, I am convinced that he [God] does not play dice."

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