

Fool Firewalled From Reality Or Wasted In A War Already Lost?

By David Lee Burris

Self-deception alleviates stress, benefits relationships, and makes us more resilient by sheltering the ego from the storms of reality.

Costly Bubble. “Once upon a time, there lived a powerful Queen known as Catherine the Great who ruled a vast Russian empire and, over the years, conquered many new lands.

Catherine appointed her boyfriend to oversee one of those conquests – a place now called Crimea in Southern Ukraine. As time passed, he informed her the citizens were flourishing and happy. But, according to a version of the tale passed on for centuries, it was a lie.

In the legend, Catherine decided to launch an expedition, taking a barge down the Dnieper River so she could observe the thriving, joyful subjects. Her boyfriend, Gregory, was fearful his deceit would be exposed, and was eager to please his beloved. So, the story goes, he instructed minions to build fake villages along the riverfront – freshly painted facades.

The expedition, with thousands of soldiers and servants, proceeded for six months. According to popular accounts, after Catherine passed each village, the fake buildings were disassembled, placed on carts, rushed downriver and re-created for another viewing.

Catherine, in the story, was mesmerized by the achievements of her lover, Gregory Potemkin, rewarding him with an appointment as Prince of Tauris (Crimea). And, to this day, people worldwide still refer to fake news and false fronts using his name: “Potemkin villages” . . .”



“In Suzdal, northeast of Moscow, there are deteriorated buildings covered up with printed canvases of idealized, polished buildings used to impress Vladimir Putin during his visit. The unusual, colorful coverings on the buildings resemble whimsical dollhouses rather than solid structures.”

Bypassed Islands. “It's understandable that the most famous Japanese holdout was reluctant to believe the war was over. Lieutenant Hiroo Onoda remained as a combatant on the Filipino island of Lubang until 1974.

Lieutenant Onoda was unaware or unwilling to accept that the war was over. After the Philippines were captured by the Allies, Onoda became an inadvertent member of a four-man band of stragglers surviving in the jungles of the Philippines as guerillas.

In 1950, one member of the holdouts surrendered. Within days, he wrote a note to his comrades, telling them the war was over. This note was then copied and dropped over the jungle. More leaflets were dropped later and announcements that the war had concluded were broadcasted over big loudspeakers aimed into the dense jungle. The holdouts thought it was all propaganda. Lieutenant Onoda later became separated from his remaining two comrades, both of whom were later killed. Each of the three holdouts truly continued the war, staging raids on Filipino campsites and search parties and engaging in firefights with Filipino soldiers.

Onoda simply did not believe World War II had ended; he later said he assumed the attempts at contact were American efforts at tricking him into surrendering. Over time his presence as a combatant still fighting in the Philippines becoming well known, Onoda became a legendary figure in Japan. It ultimately took a wandering Japanese student who embarked on the hunt for Onoda to bring him out of hiding. In 1974, Norio Suzuki entered the Lubang jungle in search of Lt. Onoda. Suzuki found him and convinced Onoda that he had been fighting a war for 29 years after its completion.” – *Internet Search*



“Some of these holdouts simply chose to create a new life where they had been left after the war ended. . . A group of 30 Japanese soldiers and nationals, including one woman, were shipwrecked on Anatahan, a small island near Saipan. The group formed a microcosmic society, making their own clothes, hunting and foraging for food and making wine distilled from coconut milk. From 1944 to 1951, this group held out.” – *Internet Search*

*As the movie “Onoda” revealed it was the bushido concept of family dishonor in surrender along with a **fear of meaningless loss** that were for 40 years the main reasons for endurance; As the movie “Anatahan” revealed the paradise of men was not paradise for the one woman. The men drew straws to spend the night with her and half the men had died fighting for exclusivity of her affections. It was the woman who swam out to passing ship in order to escape the male paradise.*

Bypassed Develops Into Dutifully Marooned Escaping Horrors Of War

“Yet, clearly not all incarcerated men suffered resulting dramatic declines in happiness, and it may be informative to determine what distinguishes those whose happiness withers under conditions of confinement from those whose happiness increases during the incarceration period. [There were] key descriptive differences of those whose happiness declines during incarceration from those whose happiness increases. The results from this analysis are quite instructive - as **those whose happiness increases differ in only two ways from those who happiness declines. First, those whose happiness decreases were far happier before than those whose happiness increases, suggesting that the latter were not necessarily resilient but that they were so unhappy that their happiness could hardly decline further.** Indeed, these men were only three-quarters of the way from “very dissatisfied” with their lives to “somewhat dissatisfied” with them, suggesting **unusually strong unhappiness prior to incarceration.** Indeed, of the few who were considered [resilient], their increasing happiness during incarceration is likely a product of their previous misery than their resilience.” – Abstract “*Hedonic Consequences of Punishment*”

“Since the great masses of the people are in the very bottom of their hearts tend to be corrupted rather than consciously and purposely evil, and that, therefore in the view of the primitive simplicity of their minds they more easily fall a victim to a big lie than to a little one.” - Adolf Hitler



Investment In The Lie Equals Divorcement From Reality!

“Rejecting information requires more cognitive effort than simply accepting that the message is true. It’s easier for a person to believe a simple lie, than to have one’s mind changed by information that is new and novel.

The new study, led by psychologists Drs. Stephan Lewandowsky and Ullrich Ecker, highlights the cognitive factors that make certain pieces of misinformation “stick” and identifies several strategies for “setting the record straight.”

Misinformation is especially likely to stick when it conforms to our pre-existing political, religious, or social point of view, according to the researchers. Because of this, ideology and personal worldviews can be especially difficult obstacles to overcome. This means that if you believe something for political or religious reasons, it’s far harder to change a person’s mind and have them understand a fact that differs from that person’s opinion.

The report notes that efforts to retract misinformation often backfire. The research found that contrary to common wisdom, trying to simply correct misinformation actually may lead to the strengthening of an erroneous belief. The researchers found that it is extremely difficult to dislodge strongly held beliefs through rational or logical methods. This was found to be especially true for social, religious, and politically-held beliefs.” – Internet Search

The Hedonic Treadmill: Increasing Our Investment In The Lie Irrational Beliefs Encounter Require Reset/Recovery Happiness Setpoint

"The happiness **set point** is a baseline of subjective well-being that people are likely to return to after experiencing positive or negative events. It is subjective and unique to each person. Some may have higher happiness set points than others. There's some debate about whether a happiness set point remains the same, and it is possible that major life events may reset it. It has in addition been demonstrated that some life events will take much longer to return to a neutral baseline. For example, some studies suggest after the death of a spouse it **may take an average of seven years to return to a happiness set point**. It is also important to note that after any major event there may be wide variations in the amount of time it takes different people to return to that baseline."

Orwell's "Double Think" Is A Satire of The Hedonic Treadmill

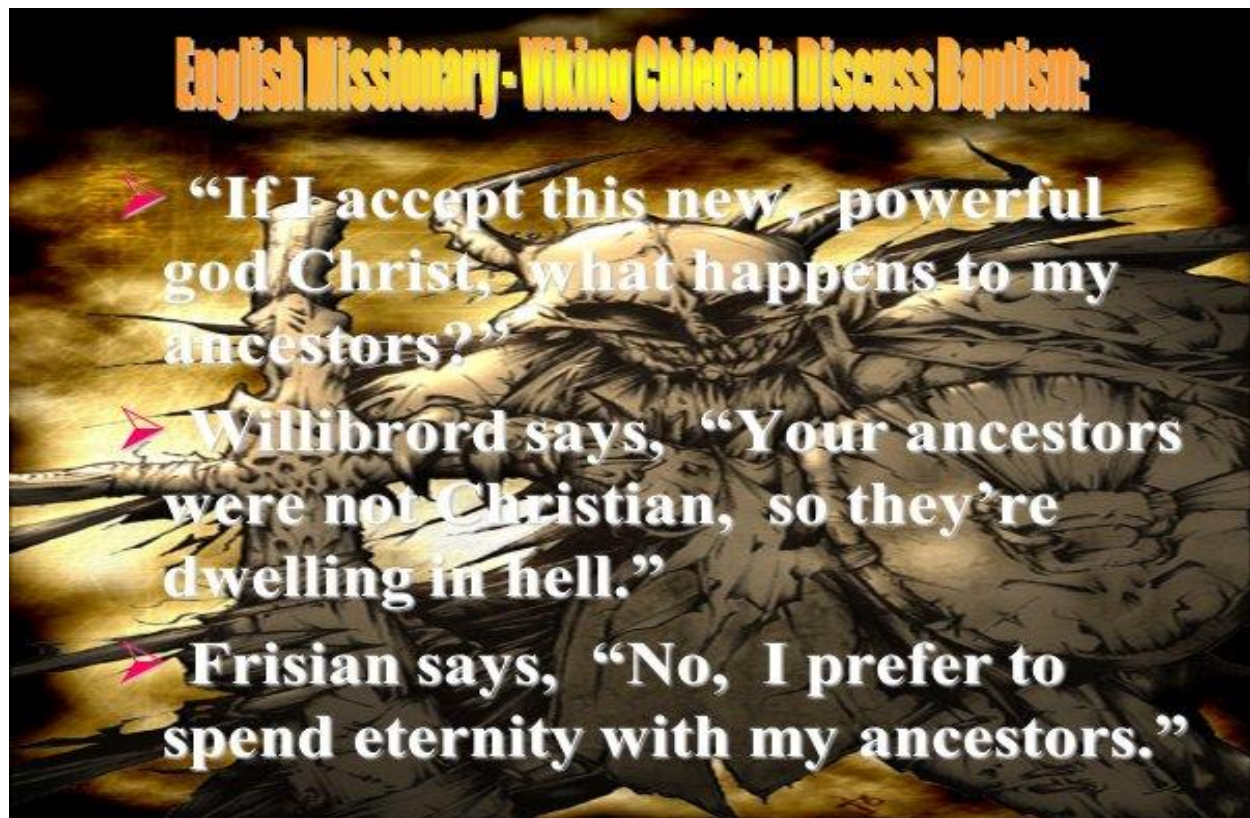
Orwell defines doublethink as - "To know and to not know, to be conscious of complete truthfulness while at the same time telling carefully constructed lies, to hold simultaneously two opinions which cancelled out, knowing them to be contradictory and believing in both of them, to use logic against logic, to even repudiate morality while laying claim to it. To forget, whatever it was necessary to forget, then to draw it back into memory again at the moment when it was needed, and then promptly to forget it again, and above all, to apply the same process to the process itself." – *Internet Search*

Tradition: The Generational Legacy of Lies

"This very obvious fact that each generation is taught by an earlier generation – must be kept very firmly in mind. No generation can bequeath to the next generation what it has not got . . . If we are skeptical we shall only teach skepticism to our pupils, if fools only folly, if vulgar only vulgarity, if saints sanctity, if heroes heroism. Education is only the most fully conscious of channels whereby each generation influences the next." – *C. S. Lewis*

WORLDVIEW: HAPPINESS SETPOINT OF PEOPLES

“Missionary Boniface tried to convert Redbad, but after an unsuccessful attempt he returned to Fontenelle. It is said that Redbad was nearly baptized but refused when he was told that he would not be able to find any of his ancestors in Heaven after his death. He said he “prefer(s) to spend eternity in Hell with pagan ancestors than in Heaven with a pack of beggars.”



Satan Wants People Embracing The Big Lie

Genesis 3:6 “Satan does not simply want Eve to eat the fruit. He wants her to long to eat it. And the rest of Genesis is a saga of the corruption of human desire.” – *Anthony Esolen*

People Of Satan’s Big Lie By M. Scott Peck

Question: “What is the cause of this *overweening* [excessive] *pride*, this arrogant self-image?”

Answer: ‘*Malignant Narcissism*’ type that is characterized by an *unsubmitted will...*

This is why they are the ‘people of the lie.’ Actually, the lie is designed not so much to deceive others as to deceive themselves. They cannot or will not tolerate the pain of self-reproach.”

People Of The Lie Aren’t Living The Dream

Circumstantial Versus Intentional Happiness

“When we connect our happiness with the ‘happenings’ around us, or connect them to the circumstances around us, we become disconnected from the source of true happiness, as well as become a slave to false happiness. Did we say ‘false happiness’? Yes, and actually we should say ‘counterfeit happiness’. ‘Counterfeit’? Does that ring a bell? [2 Corinthians 11:14](#) – “...even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.” NASU

We are to fully realize that Satan has a ‘counterfeit’ for nearly every good and true thing that God created. And this is especially true for such highly prized treasures in life, such as ‘happiness’. As Disciples of the One who is the Truth, we have come to know that any kind of ‘happiness’ that is based upon things such as favorable ‘happenings’ or preferred circumstances and such, while much appreciated, still, is not really true happiness at all.

There is a general understanding that ‘happiness’ and ‘joy’ are two different things. There is a significant difference when we are talking about circumstantial happiness, because that kind of happiness is related to those things that are ‘happening’ in your life, favorable and unfavorable. This difference is best seen highlighted through contrasting our immediate physical experiences with their long-term consequences and by comparing physical consequence with spiritual reward – the ultimate form of happiness – the ‘joy’ described in the Scriptures.

[Habakkuk 3:17-19](#)^L - *“Though the fig tree should not blossom and there be no fruit on the vines, Though the yield of the olive should fail And the fields produce no food, Though the flock should be cut off from the fold And there be no cattle in the stalls, **Yet I will exult in the Lord, I will rejoice in the God of my salvation.**”*

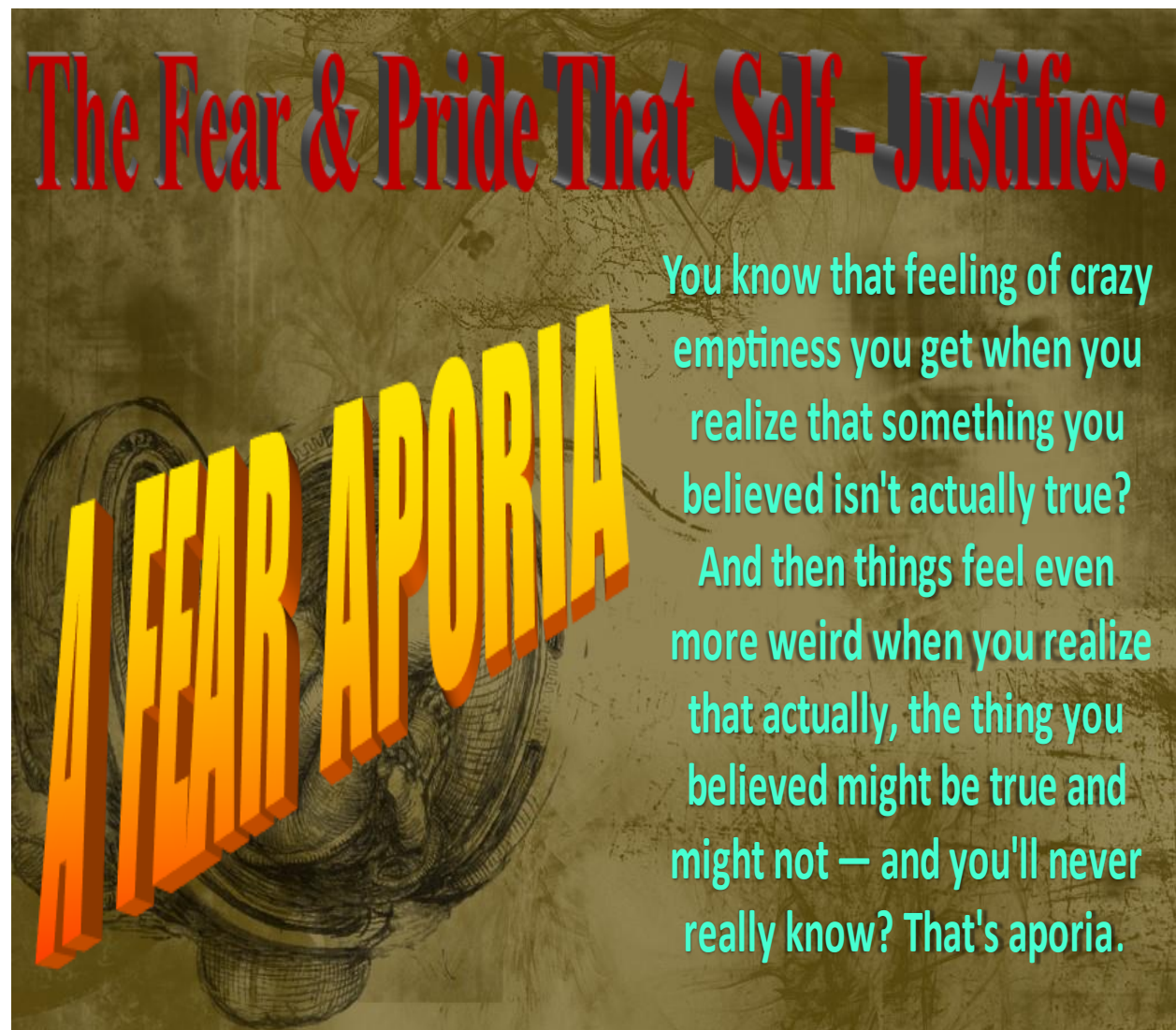
There is a world of difference between worldly happiness and Biblical joy and between the world’s counterfeit happiness and the Bible’s genuine happiness. Which brings us back to ‘Intentional Happiness’. The kind of happiness you are going to experience depends upon what kind of happiness you are looking for: Intentional or circumstantial. If you are looking to experience genuine happiness instead of counterfeit happiness you are going to have to be ‘intentional’ about it. And the most detailed passage describing ‘intentional’ and ‘genuine’ happiness is: [Matthew 5:1-12](#)^L. Notice the qualities of true happiness. The first and most important - is a humble spirit. What then is Satan’s Counterfeit Fake for Humility? **The counterfeit of humility is self-pride and self-centeredness. And the Trickster Counterfeiter makes sure that the ‘Proud’ experiences some sort of ‘happiness sensation’ with it, but he never reveals what the consequences will be from being filled with ‘self-pride’.**” – *Religious Blog [Edited]*

THE SIN OF SATAN IN FALSE WORLDVIEWS: PRIDE

1st Timothy 3:6 – Pride Caused/Condemnation Effect

‘Lest being lifted with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil’ – “That is, the same kind of condemnation which the devil fell into; to wit, condemnation on account of pride. **It is here intimated that the cause of the apostasy of Satan was pride** - a cause which is as likely to have been the true one.” - *Barnes Notes On The Bible*

**Worldview & Lifeview Compounded Investments
Of Decades Doubles Down In Defense Mechanism
– Reinforcing Ignorant Pride With Primitive Fear**



PRECIOUS LIFE PRIDEFUL WASTED **PATHETIC FIGHTING A LOST CAUSE**

Conclusion: Summary of the Salient & Significant

First, from both behavioral studies and anecdotal evidence – we have established that escapism to fantasy island is only therapeutic in the short-term. Not only that – but even in the short-term – such escapism needs to be on a short leash or very bad decisions of permanent consequence may result.

Second, in the long-term as the escape fantasy becomes self-delusion and the delusion protracted – it functions counter-productive to relieving stress from the harsh realities of life. Furthermore, as we invest more and more of our time and energy in any emotionally pleasant but fundamentally false fantasies – we double-down in our defenses - becoming irrational and less accessible to the messengers of truth.

Thirdly, because our defended happiness set-point is a by-product of both nature and nurture it must be approached at life-view which is itself individually derivative of worldview. Because all factual challenges to a strongly held life-view delusion are re-interpreted to fit the embraced worldview – friendly relationships of trust must be established – “they must know we care before they care about what we know!

ONLY THE CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW
ANSWERS TO ALL LIFE'S PROBLEMS
& FULFILLS THE NEED FOR MEANING
RESET YOUR HAPPINESS SETPOINT!
THE WAR IS OVER & SATAN LOSES!!