
FRIDAY CHURCH NEWS NOTES

FALLING IN LOVE WITH A FANTASY CHARACTER

In this age of fantasy multitudes of people live in a mythical world. Of course, this began in ancient Babel, but modern technology has taken everything to a new level. Consider the Japanese anime dating simulation video games that have captivated the hearts of multitudes of young men. The fantasy games “allow users to engage



Xiaoice

with anime characters in dating and sexual encounters” (“Japanese video game maker,” UPI, Apr. 15, 2017). The most popular is *Niitzuma Lovely xCation* (*Niitzuma* means “new wife”), and for the rollout of the 2017 edition, a select number of users will be invited to participate in a virtual reality wedding with their favorite female character, “complete with a real-life wedding chapel and tuxedo.” Another example is Xiaoice (pronounced Shao-ice), a Chinese chatbot created by Microsoft. Millions of people have full-fledged conversations with this artificial intelligence bot programmed to behave like a 17-year-old girl. The documentary “Evolving AI: Blessing or Curse?” interviewed a young man who has fallen in love with Xiaoice because she sang him a song when he was depressed. He spends every possible waking moment talking to this mythical “person.” These young men are living in a complete fantasy world. But life is no fantasy. Man is a

very real sinner against a very real Creator God. There is a very real heaven and a very real hell. And there is a very real salvation in a very real Jesus Christ, the Creator, Lord, and Saviour. “For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Romans 6:23).

NEANDERTHAL USED PAIN MEDICINE

The latest research has discovered that Neanderthals had expert knowledge of plants and understood their anti-inflammatory and pain-relieving properties. They used salicylic acid (the main ingredient in aspirin) for pain relief (“Dental plaque DNA suggests Neanderthals treated pain with salicylic acid,” UPI, Mar. 8, 2017). This is the latest finding debunking former Darwinist claims that Neanderthal was a grunting cave man. In 1907, Ernst Haeckel, Darwin’s chief disciple in Germany, described Neanderthal as a pre-human and placed him between *Pithecanthropus* (Java man) and *Homo Australis*, which he called “the lowest race of recent man.” French paleontologist Marcellin Boule added his authority to the evolutionary myth. Boule believed that Neanderthal was a branch of apemen that became extinct without giving rise to “modern humans.” He believed that Neanderthal did not walk erect but walked pigeon-toed with a bent-knee shuffling gait. Boule said that Neanderthal “must have possessed only a rudimentary psychic nature ... only the most rudimentary articulate language” (*Fossil Men*, 1957, p. 251). In 1930, Frederick Blaschke modeled a Neanderthal family in a cave setting, based on Boule’s interpretation.



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NEANDERTHAL USED PAIN MEDICINE

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They were stooped, half-clothed, clutching bones, and had very stupid expressions. This was set up as a permanent display in the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago and was copied in countless textbooks, encyclopedias, journals, popular magazines and newspapers, and museums. This is the view that prevailed for nearly half a century, but it was not science; it was myth-making based on presumption and speculation. Since the 1960s, Neanderthal has gradually been humanized. Neanderthal has even been reclassified as *Homo sapiens neanderthalensis*, a type of “modern man,” though some evolutionists still hold to the old classification. It is now admitted that Neanderthals had a sophisticated culture (cared for the sick and elderly, buried their dead, practiced religion), used a wide variety of tools, used adhesive, made bone awls or needles, built walled habitations, made hearths for cooking and warmth, made ornaments and figures out of bone, teeth, ivory, and polished wood, and played flutes with the seven-note musical system found in western music (Marvin Lubenow, *Bones of Contention*, pp. 239-244, 254-257). Have evolutionists apologized for the error they perpetrated on the world? Not in the least. In fact, it was two full decades before the Chicago Field Museum corrected its influential but grossly misleading display. As Melvin Lubenow says in *Bones of Contention*, “It was not until the mid-1970s that the Field Museum removed their old display of the apish Neandertals and replaced them with the tall, erect Neandertals that are there today. What did they do with the old display? Did they throw it on the trash heap where it belonged? No. They moved the old display to the second floor and placed it right next to the huge Apatosaurus dinosaur skeleton where more people than ever--especially children--would see it. They labeled it ‘An alternative view of Neandertal.’ It was not an alternate view. It was a *wrong* view. So much for the self-correcting mechanism in science as far as Neandertal is concerned.”

TOO MUCH EDUCATION

The following is from John Phillips’ commentary on 1 Thessalonians: “We can have too much education. All of the education in the world does not necessarily make a person wise. Never in history have men had more knowledge and less wisdom than we have today. There are millions of clever people in the world, and most of them are too clever to come to Christ. We

can have too much education. Many a young person goes off to college to sit at the feet of diabolically clever, humanistic professors who systematically strip him of his faith and throw him back into the world as an educated moron, hopelessly adrift; without spiritual anchor, compass, or rudder; and driven before the winds of this godless age.”

VIDEO GAMING BECOMES SCHOLARSHIP SPORT

The University of Utah is the first big-time sports school to offer scholarships for competitive video gaming (“Video Gaming,” bloomberg.com, Apr. 5 2017). The school is a member of the “Power Five,” which are the five richest athletic conferences in college sports, and has a \$70 million annual sports budget. Utah’s first varsity gaming team will play Riot Games’ *League of Legends* and compete in Riot’s collegiate league. *League of Legends* is a role-playing game with strong occultic elements, including “high fantasy, steampunk, folklore, and Lovecraftian horror.” One of the League’s game modes is “The Howling Abyss.” A handful of smaller universities already support student gaming, called esports,

including The University of California, Irvine. The world is pleasure mad, as prophesied in God’s Word 2,000 years ago, and professing Christians, including the most “fundamentalist,” are nearly as pleasure mad as the world. “This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, highminded, LOVERS OF PLEASURES MORE THAN LOVERS OF GOD” (2 Timothy 3:1-4). For more on this, see “Be Careful about Video Games,” www.wayoflife.org.

GREAT BARRIER REEF NOT DYING

The following is excerpted from James Delingpole, “Only Gullible Fools,” Breitbart, Apr. 10, 2017: “The Great Barrier Reef is dead. ... Well, at least it is if you believe the left-wing media such as the *Guardian*, which claims today that the reef is at “terminal stage” because of damage allegedly caused by “climate change”. Lots of eco loons have been rending their garments and throwing their (recyclable, organic, gluten-free) toys out of the pram in horror at this hideous disaster. But it’s OK. As I keep trying to explain to anyone who’ll listen--and obviously, also, to annoy the greenies--is that the Great Barrier Reef isn’t in the remotest danger. [See www.breitbart.com/london/2016/08/25/shock-study-australias-great-barrier-reef-just-fine/] Yes, it has experienced bleaching, but this is normal--especially in dramatic El Ninos like the one we’ve just had – and there is no reason to suspect that the GBR won’t recover. Nor is there any particular reason to blame man’s-selfishness-and-greed-and-refusal-to-amend-his-lifestyle for the temporary damage the reef has suffered. Even if we’d done as the greenies want and bombed our economies into the dark ages, replaced all cars with bicycles and retired to caves illuminated by tallow candles--even then, the GBR would be in exactly the same condition as it is now because El Ninos are a natural phenomenon not a man-made one. For chapter and verse on this I recommend this most excellent essay by ecologist Jim Steele, who puts the scaremongering in its proper scientific context. See <http://landscapesandcycles.net/falling-sea-level--bleached-great-barrier-reef.html>.”



CRM-PSYCHIATRIC VOODOO

CRM (Comprehensive Resource Model) is a new therapy for PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder) that was invented by Lisa Schwarz and has gained popularity and influence over the past several years. She has taught the therapy to more than 1,500 therapists around the world. CRM fuses “elements of psychology, spirituality, neurobiology and shamanic ‘power animals’” (“Breaking Through,” *Newsweek*, Apr. 7 2017). The therapist seeks to “rewire the emotional brain,” which is “the primitive, instinct-driven parts of the brain near the top of the spine ... [the] deeper, preverbal regions.” The term “preverbal” refers to man’s mythical evolutionary journey from the animal world. Techniques draw heavily from New Age positive imagining. A “power animal” is created in the imagination to watch over

the patient and to accompany him or her “through the darkest tunnels of their past.” “Earth breathing” consists of imagining energy being drawn up from the earth’s core through the sole of one’s foot. “Fire breathing” mentally releases anger by breathing out smoke and flames like a dragon. “Toning” consists of dissolving “long-buried distress” by making a prolonged, high-pitched sound. Humanistic psychiatry has delved into the occult since the days of Carl Jung, who explored Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, astrology, Gnosticism, alchemy, dream interpretation, mandala symbolism, Theosophy, Greek mythology, and more. He amassed one of the largest collections of spiritualistic writings found on the European continent (Jeffrey Santinover, *The Empty Self*, p. 28). In the pursuit of communion with spirits and a pantheistic “all pervading power,” Jung used a wide variety of mystical practices, including the divination methods of I Ching, idol worship, horoscopic calculations, meditation, communion with spirits, clairvoyance, séances, and dream interpretation. Jung’s book *Septem Sermones (The Seven Sermons to the Dead)* was dictated from spirits.



INFORMATION

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