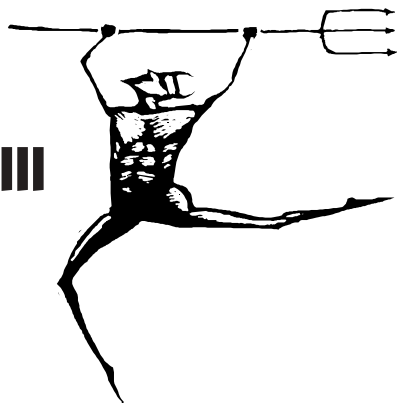




## Letter to Slumgob III



*My Dear Slumgob*

*Your effort to fill your patient's head with heresy is admirable. For no matter how many times he succumbs to your temptations of the flesh, he always has that vexing safety net of repentance; but blasphemy against the Adversary's Spirit would be the ultimate triumph. I am concerned, however, about your method. Pray tell me, what are you doing having him wander through the "Witchcraft" aisle at his public bookstore? Your simplicity still shows through your work, my dear pupil. He has at the present been indoctrinated in the Adversary's [propaganda] for twenty years—he would know by now that sorcery is our association! You probably won't hereticize him with that. We target their little ones instead with sorcery. I have heard rumors of one rather diligent demon from the Kids' Corruption Department—by the name of Harrier, or something of the sort—who has done wonders in bringing thousands of sweet human young into our realm by dressing up as one of them and appearing in their storybooks. The little ones love him (they seem to have an odd affection for our kind), and their caretakers love it because they have finally got their children to read. But as for your patient, another course of action will be necessary.*

*I don't know of any better place to turn him into a good heretic than at the university that he attends. Yes, I know, he has taken to study engineering—a learning program which, because of its large proportion of plain numbers and lines, offers us very little opportunity for heretical twisting. You will just have to accomplish your task in his first year, that fruitful time when he is forced (remember: "required") to take a philosophy, a history, and a sociology course. He may have no inclination whatever for such studies, but his mere presence in the classes will serve us well.*

*Some suggestions. For philosophy: make sure his teacher convince him that if he is to be philosophical, he must disbelieve in the Adversary (and in us as well); and that to be open-minded, he must naturally open his mind up to scientific dogma, communism, homosexuality, and to close it to anything Christian leaders say. For history: whatever you decide to teach him hear, it must be a kind of "rigged" history. For example, he must learn that that particular time period in which all of Europe believed in God is called the "Dark Ages" (for indeed, they were very bad times for us), and that when the continent finally began opening up to atheism, that was the time of "Enlightenment." He must learn that the Crusaders were worse human beings than the medieval Mohammedans, and that the entire European Church was completely against the star-gazer Galileo and all scientific advancement as well. Do you see the common thread? Nowhere would you directly mention the Adversary's name; but the whole underlying message should be that He and His followers have been the blight of history, while the rest of humanity has behaved reasonably well. I will leave the sociology course to your own imaginative whims.*

*I am anticipating that you will have this one concern: since his educators tell him endlessly to "think for himself," that if he begins to actually think about what they tell him, he may well reject it all as nonsense and occupy his mind instead with his engineering. To avoid this, he must be able to understand his teachers'*



words, but without thinking about them. It is a delicate balance: but the more he understands and the less he reflects, the better the results will be. True, they will admonish him to "think!"—but what is meant is to think about *their* ideas without bothering about the opposing ones. That is, when his philosophy teacher tells him to "think openly," he only really means to think openly about atheism or whatever current philosophers happen to believe. For were he to open up his mind to ideas not taught in his course, like the Bible or Augustinian philosophy, that would be disastrous.

Indeed, an open mind is the exact opposite of what we want. For any aged demon knows that pure atheism is rather like a box—a tiny, snug, closed-up box that the logical atheist hides his precious mind in to protect it from the outside storms of common sense. For the signs of the Adversary are so prevalent on that miserable green planet that, were our philosophers to escape from their boxes, they would be quickly overwhelmed by them. To give an example, one of the most dangerous signs the Adversary has planted, as you might know, is the order of things. For it is all too obvious that without the Adversary's intervention in the universe, any sort of order would have been simply impossible: the triangularity of a triangle would have been too complex, and a flower too hauntingly intelligent. Look how far He has even gone in creating their material bodies. He could have conceivably made them live without food or air or anything—a simple existence, like ours—but He has gone to the trouble of creating organs and vessels and cells just to make their scathsome bodies unimaginably complex. And so once one of them thinks clearly about his own body (or the flower in his vase), he will quickly dispense with all the evolutionist propaganda we have made for him and begin reading his Bible again. This is why I said our loyal atheists are rather like men in boxes—because unbelief in the Greater requires a tremendous restriction of the mind. And they must stay that way. If, by chance, one of them were to perform the mental action of observing a piece of architecture (a tree) and then assume from it an Architect—a step dangerously logical—that would cause the explosion of the box and the loss of another soul. So do make sure to prevent your patient from thinking.

My dear Shungob, do you see the limitless potential of the humans' educational system! In recent times, just about all of them have set their little hearts on passing through "college" at one point in their lives. Thus, we have been given the invaluable chance to communicate our doctrine to them *all*. Not one of them will ever again go to the grave without hearing our message! And you know what else? Those who attend the universities end up leading their country. So if we control what they are taught, then we will have a tight command over their magazine and television industries, by which (thank goodness) the majority of the rest of the nation is educated—and thus we will enjoy full reign over their entire society. My, our Abyssal father is a master planner!

*Your Faithful Teacher,  
Quagmire*