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Religion in RPGs

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Date Posted: Apr 21, 2003 #1

I've realized something that seems to be common. I'm not willing to dismiss it as coincidence though. Nearly every RPG I've played that has an established religion in the game, ends up showing that religion in a bad light. Either the religion has a negative impact, or it ends up being the very source of the evil in the game's story. I'll name a few...

****SPOILERS BELOW**-**Highlight to read(I tried to keep them to a minimum)

Breath of Fire 2-Pretty clear here. St. Eva's Church ends up being the source of power towards reviving an evil God.

FFTactics-St. Ajora who is the basis of the religion ends up being another actual evil being. And the members of the church themselves attempt to gain power to their own selfish ends.

MegaVolt67
16-bit Mod

Joined: Jun 7, 2001
Messages: 17,402

FFX-The whole Yevon religion ends up being a treacherous setup for manipulating everything. The cycle of Sin continued because of a faulty system that those in charge of were too stubborn to change.(And afraid too)

Xenogears-The Ethos religion ends up being a fake setup for the manipulation of the poor -Lambs-(land dwellers) by Solaris. Not only that, but some in the Ethos tried to become as bad as their masters.

It almost seems like all of these games are a criticism of judeo-christian ideas. Or perhaps a criticism of religion itself. Is it coincidence? Or by design? Could it be that the intention is to influence through these games...?

What do you think?

MegaVolt67, Apr 21, 2003

Gutts
Noob

Joined: Nov 10, 2000
Messages: 13,791

Date Posted: Apr 21, 2003 #2

Grandia II is another game where religion plays an important part...

Gutts, Apr 21, 2003

J_Conrady
Meh...

Joined: Jul 17, 2001
Messages: 14,808

Date Posted: Apr 21, 2003 #3

With the maturity of RPGs over the years, its been more opportunistic for storytellers and game designers to tackle larger issues rather than "Wow, it's a sword. It's my destiny to save everyone."

Religion is a good topic to take on. But I don't think it's so much religion itself (believing in a god or gods) as much as it is having false ideologies. Some take a head-on approach, such as Xenogears, in relation to modern day faiths. Others are more subtle, such as Lunar or Final Fantasy X. The themes are still present, but I don't think the latter two have as much commentary regarding current issues as a Xeno title or even Grandia II.

Often times, especially recently in videogames, it's important to not only tell a good story, but also make a statement. The audience has matured since the days of crystals and exiled villagers. It's not so much criticism of religion as it is wanting to say something through the narrative about the human desire in seeking something to believe in. However, I don't think it's any coincidence that most games with religions that are similar to current

western religions tend to be less enlightening than if a religion in a game is based on eastern beliefs. That likely has to do with culture and location of where the gamemakers are.

J_Conrady, Apr 21, 2003

Bucko57
Noob

Joined: Sep 2, 2000
Messages: 2,310

Date Posted: Apr 21, 2003 #4

It's in a lot of Japanese RPGs, and I simply think that it comes down to regional differences. Christianity, Judaism, and Islam are not popular there. Buddhism and Hinduism rule that part of the world. I think Buddhism is the big religion of Japan. Anyways, a religion like Buddhism focuses on the self instead of on a greater diety. So I think that's why a lot of Japanese RPGs have a "finding god within yourself theme" as opposed to a "find god within an institution" theme.

I have my own beliefs, and I practice a religion. But when it comes down to it I think the only true religion would be a mixture of all of them. They all seem to hit the target in some way, but not hit the bullseye.

Bucko57, Apr 21, 2003

-Lenin-
Noob

Joined: Apr 23, 2002
Messages: 18,711

Date Posted: Apr 21, 2003 #5

It is because people who are technologically adept tend to question religion more often than those who are not.

Especially gamers, and computer geeks.

-Lenin-, Apr 21, 2003

Game_lover69
Noob

Joined: Feb 7, 2002

Date Posted: Apr 21, 2003 #6

I've noticed that too lots of games end up killing 'god' too

Game_lover69, Apr 21, 2003

Messages: 10,412

ShadowSora
Guest

Date Posted: Apr 21, 2003 #7

I don't think Japan is attacking western religions with their games, lol. The whole "questioning the faith" theme wouldn't really work with Buddhism.

ShadowSora, Apr 21, 2003

DarkJad
The Jaded Gamer

Joined: Dec 2, 2002
Messages: 12,188

Date Posted: Apr 21, 2003 #8

I don't know about Japanese games attacking other religions, but they are (or at least some names) influenced by religion.
Take Final Fantasy for example. Shiva is a Hindu God.
Odin is one of the most powerful Gods in the Norse Mythology before Ragnarok (when the Gods battle the giants), and Ragnarok happens to be the name of a powerful sword or other item (spaceship)

Wild Arms 3 has a lot of Norse references in it, including Gungnir, Asgard, Nidhoggr, Yggdrasil, and a few other references.
See my thread at

http://boards.ign.com/message.asp?topic=36783836&replies=6

for a little more info. Obviously, there are spoilers to Wild Arms 3.

Either the translators are running out of names for characters & weapons, (so they use names from religions) or the japanese designers are trying to say something.

DarkJad, Apr 21, 2003

ShadowSora
Guest

Date Posted: Apr 21, 2003 #9

Or maybe they just think the names are cool.

ShadowSora, Apr 21, 2003

Bucko57
Noob

Joined: Sep 2, 2000
Messages: 2,310

Date Posted: Apr 21, 2003 #10

Mythological references have always been in RPGs. That's not what Megavolt was talking about.

Edit:

Bucko57, Apr 21, 2003

DarkJad
The Jaded Gamer

Joined: Dec 2, 2002
Messages: 12,188

Date Posted: Apr 21, 2003 #11

I know that. I read his post, and all of the posts after that. I just decided to add a little bit of extra information.
And I didn't have anything valuable to add to the conversation that other people already said, so I just gave a little bit of extra information.

DarkJad, Apr 21, 2003

Gutts
Noob

Joined: Nov 10, 2000
Messages: 13,791

Date Posted: Apr 21, 2003 #12

Conrady, I dont appreciate the obvious berating of secret of mana! : P

I think that religion is a topic that is quite easy to tackle anymore. With so many RPGs aiming at how religion turns out false and the source of evil, it has almost become trite. There are very times that I play a game that has that sort of involvment with religion and dont instantly compare it to Xenogears....

Anyways, I understand the idea, and think it is pretty badass when they do it, but I think that might be a bit more because it is something I can relate too. I'm not a religious person, so when I read or study the crusades, I always inevitably ask myself "Was such action necessary?"

Gutts, Apr 21, 2003

MegaVolt67
16-bit Mod

Joined: Jun 7, 2001
Messages: 17,402

Date Posted: Apr 21, 2003 #13

Is back Hey, thanks for the cool responses guys. Yes, I've noticed that the common theme nowadays is the idea that humans must "find their own destiny". They make rule by the concept of a single god seem like a bad idea. I was playing Xenogears yesterday and Verlaine told Billy spoilers, I suppose) What? Did you think that by acting righteous and being faithful that you'd receive an answer from some God eventually?" And then he goes on talking how God was a concept created for the purpose of ruling the masses. Something like that. Anyways, that hit me pretty hard. Probably because that's something I've always thought about. What if it really is just a method for controlling human will and consciousness? Anyways, it's like these games are suggesting that such attempts at reaching for a greater power are foolish. Which of course goes back to the "look within yourself" approach. And of course the fact that eastern ideas are different. But I haven't yet seen a game where a western religion plays a truly **positive** role. Neutral maybe, but never positive. Then again, if it was positive, it'd be labeled as preaching. Interesting. Everything seems to serve the purpose of promoting eastern philosophies in a seemingly unintentional fashion. Unless it's because their stuff makes more sense...no, I can't make such a decision! I still need more information. Nothing is certain.

Man, I feel horrible. Sometimes I wonder if the only reason I fear letting go of God is the "Burn in Hell for eternity" punishment. Also, I think there's a part of me that wants to believe that I'm special somehow. This existence has to mean something.(Sorry if I'm a bit OT here)

MegaVolt67, Apr 21, 2003

The_Amish_Bartender
Noob

Joined: Jul 16, 2001
Messages: 4,327

Date Posted: Apr 21, 2003 #14

i know they all involve many pagan religious themes as well as judeo-christians anyone with two eyes can see all the religous influences in rpg's i don't know what the motives are though. i've thought about it alot and it seems the designers never mention it but the same themes always show up especially in final fantasy i see so many pagan gods/creatures shiva for example they're everywhere

The_Amish_Bartender, Apr 21, 2003

legacyAccount
Old Account

Joined: Nov 10, 2011
Messages: 4,475,527

Date Posted: Apr 21, 2003 #15

Obviously satan is behind it.

legacyAccount, Apr 21, 2003

timmyjoe012345
Noob

Joined: Aug 21, 2002
Messages: 15,764

Date Posted: Apr 21, 2003 #16

"Man, I feel horrible. Sometimes I wonder if the only reason I fear letting go of God is the "Burn in Hell for eternity" punishment. Also, I think there's a part of me that wants to believe that I'm special somehow. This existence has to mean something.(Sorry if I'm a bit OT here)"

I felt the same way megavolt. But as I thought about the existance of a diety it became more fictional in my mind. The whole idea of being ruled by a supernatural being just seemed too trivial to be true. That is what made me make my desision. I am an athiest. I became one not too long ago. And because of that I was able to overcome the closed mindedness the christians imposed on me. I have a greater understanding of life, which has made me more happier in the end.

timmyjoe012345, Apr 21, 2003

legacyAccount
Old Account

Joined: Nov 10, 2011
Messages: 4,475,527

Date Posted: Apr 21, 2003 #17

I felt that way a long time ago. The more I though about god and his rules though, the more it didn't make sense. God is the biggest hypocrite in history. Half the bible doesn't make sense and is mostly just little stories. I havn't met a christian yet that could give me feasable proof that there is a god.

legacyAccount, Apr 21, 2003

Date Posted: Apr 21, 2003 #18

timmyjoe012345
Noob

Joined: Aug 21, 2002
Messages: 15,764

THere are a lot more atheists in this world than I thought. I haven't told anyone that I'm a athiest. My mom doesn't know, no body does. Except you guys. I try to give hints to my friends, talk about atheism joke and act like I'm an athiest, but so far they are too stupid to relize it. I'm not sure what my mom would think if I told her.

timmyjoe012345, Apr 21, 2003

-Lacan-
Noob

Joined: Sep 24, 2002
Messages: 11,561

Date Posted: Apr 21, 2003 #19

I havn't met a christian yet that could give me feasable proof that there is a god.

To be fair, I haven't met an Atheist who could give me feasable proof that there is no god.

-Lacan-, Apr 21, 2003

atgthegreat
Noob

Joined: Sep 9, 2001
Messages: 3,671

Date Posted: Apr 21, 2003 #20

Yeah, the whole "religion as a means of a control over an entire world or population" is a running theme through RPGs, and fiction in general. FFX and Xenogears both have a religion that is used to control the populous. And the Roman Empire adopted Christianity to gain control over their people. Personally my thoughts on spirituality and a perfect being (God) is that one has to exist. There are too many things unexplained in this universe. The idea of a higher being in a transcendent reality is one that I accept. Whether or not it is the God of Christianity, Hinduism, or whatever... I don't know. But to quote Kevin Smith's Dogma: "I have an idea."

atgthegreat, Apr 21, 2003

Date Posted: Apr 21, 2003 #21

I agree with Lacan. All the proof for the existence of a god, is the lack of proof against it.

Edit: And vice versa. That's what makes it such an interesting debate.

Bucko57, Apr 21, 2003

Bucko57
Noob

Joined: Sep 2, 2000
Messages: 2,310

Date Posted: Apr 21, 2003 #22

Thanks for sharing that with me, Timmyjoe! It's ironic that the very logical mindedness that comes from being conservative is what is causing me to question those typical conservative ideas. I fear commiting to any option though. It's true as BrianSpangler said that a lot of it makes no sense. I guess I feel like as long as I remain indifferent, that I'm not really being bad towards anything. Unfortunately, I get hit with that common statement: "If you're not serving God, you're serving Satan." That's not fair. It's blackmail!

MegaVolt67, Apr 21, 2003

MegaVolt67
16-bit Mod

Joined: Jun 7, 2001
Messages: 17,402

Date Posted: Apr 21, 2003 #23

" logical mindedness that comes from being conservative"

....*cough*

theunentitled, Apr 21, 2003

theunentitled
Level 9999

Joined: Feb 20, 2002
Messages: 20,299

Date Posted: Apr 21, 2003 #24

I'm an Atheist, but I don't try to get others to not believe in god. I just let people believe what they want to believe.

X-pert74
cute

Joined: Feb 27, 2002
Messages: 71,248

X-pert74, Apr 21, 2003

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timmyjoe012345
Noob

Joined: Aug 21, 2002
Messages: 15,764

Date Posted: Apr 21, 2003 #25

Your right, a lot of christians won't try to see the person you really are if you have different beliefs then them. They automatically think you are evil and have no place in their life. Even though I am an atheist, I am still open to the ideals of others. None of us truly know what is true. All we have is what we think. I may think I have a pretty good idea of what really is going on, while another person is thinking the exact opposite. Christianity often times closes your mind to the rest of the world. The is what finalized my choice. There is a major flaw in christianity and that is the, no offense, ignorance they plant in people's mind. The reason christains are so hypocritical is because a all-powerful diety will upset the natural boundries the universe has already set. In the bible it says the world was created in seven days. I don't see how that can happen given the slow pace the universe already works.

timmyjoe012345, Apr 21, 2003

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mikel
Prime Member

Joined: Jul 5, 2001
Messages: 2,708

Date Posted: Apr 21, 2003 #26

"*I havn't met a christian yet that could give me feasable proof that there is a god.*"

Well, I'm not going to get into it here; religion vs atheism threads always get locked. But if you really want to talk about it, you can PM me (I'm not on the boards much, so it may take me a few days to get back to you... if at all).

Regarding the main topic: J_Conrady said it pretty well, but I'll throw in another point or two. One of the main things that video game plots tend to do, is to give you something to relate to, get you to believe it's definitely true, and then at the last second show that it's false and show how this

affects the characters. Since most people can relate to religion and can easily accept it, it's a good thing to twist to surprise the player.

mikel, Apr 21, 2003

MegaVolt67
16-bit Mod

Joined: Jun 7, 2001
Messages: 17,402

Date Posted: Apr 21, 2003 #27

I agree with Lacan. All the proof for the existence of a god, is the lack of proof against it.

The idea is that only things that are proven by science are absolutely true, I guess. But to believe something that I can't see, hear, or feel? I might as well be asked to believe in Goblins. These ideas may as well have been made up by some human many years ago. How am I supposed to know? How can I be asked to commit to something written in a book for which I have no solid proof? To commit my entire life to something like that? I need 100% proof before I can do that. To demand otherwise and punish for not doing so is irrational, unreasonable, and illogical. It's just not a fair expectation. The usage of faith to back up that which cannot be proven strikes me as hollow. Surely anyone could claim belief in anything by faith then. And yet...this consciousness; this awareness seems pointless if we just die and disappear.

MegaVolt67, Apr 21, 2003

jal311
Noob

Joined: Nov 11, 2002
Messages: 314

Date Posted: Apr 21, 2003 #28

"To commit my entire life to something like that?"

You do realize religion isn't hard. They all teach pretty much the same thing, the golden rule. Devoting your life to being respectful towards others isn't the hard task you make it out to be. Is it so horrible to have systems of faith that cause you to be nice to others

jal311, Apr 21, 2003

Date Posted: Apr 21, 2003 #29

To theunentitled: Morality came from religion...regardless of whether many liberals have adopted it or not. Humans need freedom, but they also need to be controlled. Like it was said in MGS2, humans abuse their freedom. Boundaries have to be set, or chaos will prevail. But we should retain the free will to decide some things for ourselves. Just how to balance this out is something that humanity has struggled with for all time.

MegaVolt67
16-bit Mod

Joined: Jun 7, 2001
Messages: 17,402

MegaVolt67, Apr 21, 2003

---

timmyjoe012345
Noob

Joined: Aug 21, 2002
Messages: 15,764

Date Posted: Apr 21, 2003 #30

A lot of people proclaim they love "god". This is only because they were bred to belive this way. They grow up with his name constantly in their ears and they fall into a false love. You can not love something you can not experience for yourself. You may say it, but it is not true. I remeber years ago I was persecuted by my own family for admitting that I loved my mom more than "god". I was confused, how could they be mad at me? My mom was always there, making sure I was okay, and where was god. He was supposedly there for me all along. I couldn't feel his presense. I had no proof he was there. Just the constant badgering and persecution my family offered me.

timmyjoe012345, Apr 21, 2003

X-pert74
cute

Joined: Feb 27, 2002
Messages: 71,248

Date Posted: Apr 21, 2003 #31

I agree with Megavolt and timmyjoe. But, I don't want this thread to be locked, so I'll drop it. I know 2 RPGs that weren't about religion: FF3 and Super Mario RPG.

X-pert74, Apr 21, 2003

Bucko57
Noob

Date Posted: Apr 21, 2003 #32

This is really getting off the topic. Oh well.

"I guess. But to believe something that I can't see, hear, or feel?"

Can you see, hear, or feel radio waves? How about gamma rays? These are real light waves that you can not feel, see, hear, or smell. Just because your senses can't detect these light rays doesn't mean they aren't there.

Joined: Sep 2, 2000
Messages: 2,310

And please stop with the "christians are hypocrites" thing, because when it comes down to it all men are hypocrites. That is a fact my friend.

Bucko57, Apr 21, 2003

Talraen
Noob

Joined: Aug 24, 2000
Messages: 486

Date Posted: Apr 21, 2003 #33

I don't think most games that have to do with religion can really be seen as anti-western-religion, simply because the corruption in the religion often goes past the top and the actual deity or object of worship is evil. I don't think game makers are trying to say the Christian God exists and is evil. Now, if a game had a corrupt religious hierarchy but the deity either didn't exist or was not evil, that might be an attack on an actual religion, IMO.

On another, sort of related note, I think the atheism reaction to religion is kind of silly (having been there and done that). Just because you don't believe in an organized religion doesn't mean you can't have faith in *anything*. I personally cannot believe that all of existence is here for no reason. That's just my opinion, of course, but don't confuse not being religious with having to be an atheist - atheism is, after all, a "religion" in most senses of the word itself. Makes me wonder when someone will make an RPG where the dominant "religion" is atheism and *they're* evil.

Talraen, Apr 21, 2003

MegaVolt67
16-bit Mod

Joined: Jun 7, 2001
Messages: 17,402

Date Posted: Apr 21, 2003 #34

What makes it hard is the part where they say: "Do as you're told or you will be condemned as a servant of evil." When you have 10 groups each telling you that their specific way is right, how do you choose? Some will say, "Choose the one that's right for you." What kind of crap answer is that? I don't want the one that's right for me. If there's only 1 truth, then such an idea is horrible. I want to follow the one that's **right** period. If such a one exists.

MegaVolt67, Apr 21, 2003

Date Posted: Apr 21, 2003 #35

Nothing about religion can be proven one way or another. We're pretty much all just floating around until we die without this knowledge. As much as Christians believe they're right, Muslims believe just as strongly that they are right. There is no answer yet. That doesn't mean the issue

theunentitled
Level 9999

Joined: Feb 20, 2002
Messages: 20,299

shouldn't be explored; it's interesting. I had no problems with Xenogears or FFTactics because of the fact that they tried to mimic life, and religion is an issue dealt with worldwide. I'd rather not get preached to unless said preaching is about "trust" like the dual angel statues in Xenogears. If a game can avoid proselytizing, which they do unless you're playing that old NES game about the Ark, go for it.

And morality did certainly not come from religion. There are moral atheists. What came from religion is "Do this or you'll be punished."

theunentitled, Apr 21, 2003

ShadowSora
Guest

Date Posted: Apr 21, 2003 #36

Deep stuff man...

Me, I don't really like to call myself an athiest. To me that would make it sound like I was part of some kind of "kill God" group or something. I'm just not a religious person.

My main beef with religion is the consept of fate. I don't like the idea of some all-powerful parental figure spinning us around in his little hampster wheel even though he knows exactly what's going to happen to us anyway. It makes existance itself seem like some kind of cruel joke. What's the point in living and dying if your whole existance is preordaned (sp)?

Besides, the bibles were written thousands of years ago, back when the earth was flat. People just wanted a way to explain how the world worked. This is why I don't see any big difference between religion and mythology.

But it's like I always say: Beleive what you want because we're probably all wrong anyway.

ShadowSora, Apr 21, 2003

MegaVolt67
16-bit Mod

Date Posted: Apr 21, 2003 #37

That's a cheap shot Bucko, and I saw it coming. I guess you had no problem with the rest of that post. Anyways, I hope you know what I mean. We're talking eternal consequences here. I don't see the little dust mites on my bed, but it's not something relevant to my "salvation".

And please stop with the "christians are hypocrites" thing, because when it comes down to it all men are hypocrites. That is a fact my friend.

Joined: Jun 7, 2001
Messages: 17,402

I hope that wasn't towards me. I didn't say anything of the kind...

MegaVolt67, Apr 21, 2003

jal311
Noob

Joined: Nov 11, 2002
Messages: 314

Date Posted: Apr 21, 2003 #38

Which language is the "true" language?

There isn't a true one because there all different ways of approaching the same thing, communication.

The same way different religions just take different paths to the same destination. this is how Ghandi saw it, me too pretty much.

jal311, Apr 21, 2003

mikel
Prime Member

Joined: Jul 5, 2001
Messages: 2,708

Date Posted: Apr 21, 2003 #39

Meh, this thread turned into a "religion" thread anyway, so here we go:

<u>Common arguments against Christianity:</u>

- "What makes you think *your* God is true, and not, say, Allah?"

The Bible is the one and only religious book that has been scientifically proven to have been written by many many different writers over many different periods of time. There are... I can't remember the exact number, but I think somewhere around 100-300 *very specific* prophesies in the Old Testament that are clearly and wholly fulfilled in the New Testament, as verified by many eye-witnesses. The Bible is also the only book that does not contradict itself (if you disagree, I can likely prove you wrong).

- "God is a hyppocrate(sp?)"

We are limited by our mortal minds. If you study deeply into the and deism of God, you can see that it is our stupidity, not God's, that makes him seem to contradict himself.

-"Why should I believe these eye-witnesses of the Bible (and the other historical sources that back the Bible)? Why should I believe them if I can't see it for myself?"

How do you know Antarctica exist? have you ever *been* there (maybe you have, but work with me)? No? Then how do you know it exists? Oh, you trust other witnesses or second-hand information... I see...

-"Why doesn't God perform miracles anymore? Science can measure every affect, so why bother praying?"

I believe miracles are all around us. Just because you can measure them through science doesn't make them any less miraculous. I define science as the measuring of the hand of God.

Arguments for theology/Christianity:

-Did the universe just *decide* to create itself in all these intricate patterns? Oh wait, that would require an intelligent creator...

-The twelve disciples were said to have seen Jesus after he had risen. They had seen the open tomb, and then the risen Jesus. basically, they either knew Jesus was a fake or for real. One might argue that they lied and just *said* they had seen him to keep christianity going for some ulterior motive. The problem is: all the disciples ended up dying horrible deaths for their beliefs. Now why would they die for something unless they knew it was true?

I'll post more stuff as I think of it...

mikel, Apr 21, 2003

Bucko57
Noob

Joined: Sep 2, 2000
Messages: 2,310

Date Posted: Apr 21, 2003 #40

That second thing wasn't directed towards you, but if you think about it you'll find that it is true.

Anyways the point that I was trying to make was that your senses are not always dependable.

Bucko57, Apr 21, 2003

timmyjoe012345
Noob

Date Posted: Apr 21, 2003 #41

I think it was toward me and brianspangler. I have witnessed more christian hypocrits than of other people because of the fact that it is hard to follow the comandments without being tempted to do wrong. I have a english teacher that keeps preaching in class and when I say something she gets mad and starts yelling at me. She's starting to piss me off. My family doesn't want me to complain to the office because they don't want her to get in trouble, but if she keeps offending me then I'm going to do it anyway. That will be when I tell my family and friends.

Joined: Aug 21, 2002
Messages: 15,764

timmyjoe012345, Apr 21, 2003

Talraen
Noob

Joined: Aug 24, 2000
Messages: 486

Date Posted: Apr 21, 2003 #42

This post will probably be lost in the religious debate that's a-brewin', but what the hell. If you want to play an RPG that handles "religion" in a *very* interesting way, and one of the greatest RPG's of all time to boot, go get yourself a copy of the Ultima Collection and play Ultima VII. (And if you actually do, Google for Exult so you can play it on a modern computer.)

Talraen, Apr 21, 2003

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theunentitled
Level 9999

Joined: Feb 20, 2002
Messages: 20,299

Date Posted: Apr 21, 2003 #43

Debate? I doubt that. People are going to voice their sides, ever louder. Please lock this, someone. There are places to go for it.

theunentitled, Apr 21, 2003

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timmyjoe012345
Noob

Joined: Aug 21, 2002
Messages: 15,764

Date Posted: Apr 21, 2003 #44

I like talking about religion on message boards. If this thread is destined to be locked then at least keep it unlocked for a little while longer so we can hear more opinions from different people.

timmyjoe012345, Apr 21, 2003

mikel
Prime Member

Joined: Jul 5, 2001
Messages: 2,708

Date Posted: Apr 21, 2003 #45

Debate? I see no debate. I was just posting my input. If anyone wishes to argue, they can do so through PM. Hence, no debate.

mikel, Apr 21, 2003

MegaVolt67
16-bit Mod

Joined: Jun 7, 2001
Messages: 17,402

Date Posted: Apr 21, 2003 #46

"Moral Atheists"? Well, if you say so. But neither of us know enough about history to really say where the original concepts of morality originated. What I do know is that relgion has strengthened them, but they've done so in the wrong way perhaps. Forcing someone into something will ALWAYS leave a bit of resentment, regardless of the intentions.

I'm sure that the simpler wrongdoings should be obvious to anyone with common sense, but the Golden Rule doesn't always apply.(Sorry, the upcoming example always comes to mind) Yeah, so do unto others the way you would have them do unto you or something like that. It usually works well. Of course, you want to have some hot lovin with that babe in your classroom, and you would'nt mind if she tried it on you. But she might not want it. Oops, Golden Rule broken. Sometimes someone wants to be treated differently from the way you expect to be treated. So a standard of morality had to be set to try and make everyone happy. Religion has tried that with varying degrees of success. I suppose maybe the Government does a better job. Heh, maybe because the consequences for breaking the rules are a bit more immediate and clear... (Electric chair? That's obvious and real for sure. Heh, I don't think anyone wants that fate.)

MegaVolt67, Apr 21, 2003

ShadowSora

Date Posted: Apr 21, 2003 #47

It's a discussion. And who cares? At least it's an inteligent one, as aposed to "who's hotter?".

ShadowSora, Apr 21, 2003

Guest

-Lacan-
Noob

Joined: Sep 24, 2002
Messages: 11,561

Date Posted: Apr 21, 2003 #48

Nothing about religion can be proven one way or another. We're pretty much all just floating around until we die without this knowledge. As much as Christians believe they're right, Muslims believe just as strongly that they are right. There is no answer yet. That doesn't mean the issue shouldn't be explored; it's interesting. I had no problems with Xenogears or FFTactics because of the fact that they tried to mimic life, and religion is an issue dealt with worldwide. I'd rather not get preached to unless said preaching is about "trust" like the dual angel statues in Xenogears. If a game can avoid proselytizing, which they do unless you're playing that old NES game about the Ark, go for it.

Best post in this thread. You cannot prove God exist and you cannot prove he does not. It's impossible.

-Lacan-, Apr 21, 2003

Talraen
Noob

Joined: Aug 24, 2000
Messages: 486

Date Posted: Apr 21, 2003 #49

What the hell, here's my two cents on the whole morals and religion angle. Presume, for a moment, that there is no God of any kind and the universe exists for no purpose. (FWIW, I don't believe this, it's just a form of argument I find useful... bear with me.) Now, let's say some very wise men got together a long long time ago and said "Hey, if everyone followed certain rules, the world would work a whole lot better. But how can we get everyone to follow seemingly arbitrary rules?" - and then they realized that threatening the people with an omnipotent being who would punish them for wrongdoing in the afterlife would keep them in line, provided they got the people to believe in this "God" they created.

Anyway, that seems like a quite plausible scenario to me, and if it were true, it could explain *many* questions about religion. Now, I'm not saying that's what happened, I'm merely trying to show that there are possible origins of religion *other* than God speaking to people, which fit the evidence just as well. That's one reason I question religion, myself.

Talraen, Apr 21, 2003

Date Posted: Apr 21, 2003 #50

I think that we should all be open minded about other religions. It's no use fighting over. Some people want to believe in God and some don't. It's up to them.

sickboarder39, Apr 21, 2003

sickboarder39
Noob

Joined:	Apr 10, 2002
Messages:	14,909

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