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175

Assassins creed is probably my favorite game on religion.

(self.atheism)

submitted 2 years ago by surfingrools

So it occurred to me today while searching for tattoo ideas (Thinking of borrowing the A from the assassins creed logo and using it for something a little more atheist feeling since I like the look so much) just how anti religion the assassins creed series can be. And it made me realize that I have 2 super religious friends that really like the games and have probably never even realized the message the game delivered at times. I stumbled upon that gem of a quote from Altair in the first game and and im thinking about getting the last paragraph along with the assassins "A" logo for a tattoo. http://www.gereth.net/blog_irene/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/assassins-creed.jpg[1]

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Planning on coming out to your religious parents?

I have studied the ancient pagan faiths that came before this more recent obsession with a single, divine creator. They seem to have focused more on the fundamental forces at play in the world around us and less on arbitrary moral rules...

The sun rises in the morning and sets in the evening. The tides ebb and flow. Grass grows, withers, dies, and then in time, emerges from the ground once more. The air turns warm then cools and back again. Some hidden energy keeps us fitted to the ground and pulls us back when we attempt to leave it.

Each of these movements was represented before by a god or goddess. Each force given face, but recognized as something distinct and powerful. Which is not to say there were not connections between these forces - a pantheon of individual spirits - of rules. Invisible hands guiding the progress of the world around us.

And so here there was an attempt to categorize, study, explain, and understand the way things work - even if it was flawed. But no more. Now we are asked to succumb to a far more simplified explanation. How naive to believe there might be a single answer to every question. Every mystery. That there exists a lone divine light which rules over all. They say it is a light that brings truth and love. I say it is a light that blinds us - and forces us to stumble about in ignorance.

I long for the day when men turn away from invisible monsters and once more embrace a more rational view of the world. But these new religions are so convenient - and promise such terrible punishment should one reject them - I worry that fear shall keep us stuck to what is surely the greatest lie ever told.

~ Altair

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[–] Ignostic **not_jamesfranco** **19 points** 2 years ago

The more I thought about Assassin's Creed, the more I began to appreciate the Assassins, and the statement the game was trying to make.

Especially after reading on the history of the Templars, it's pretty obvious how they've characterized religion, capitalism, and order as tools used by the power-hungry to gain control. Looking at the theocracy of Saudi Arabia, or the personality cult of North Korea, that's pretty darn accurate.

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[–] **[deleted]** **37 points** 2 years ago

Don't get an entire paragraph tattooed on you. There are so many shorter but equally great lines you could use

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[–] **Hi_Im_OP** **8 points** 2 years ago

DO IT!

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[–] **FerralWombat** **0 points** 2 years ago

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4938 points · 490 comments
Made me happy to see this in a Salt Lake City newspaper

Like, "Give me names and I'll give you blood!"

Actually I came here to say what you said, hopefully I can help enforce it. Anyone who thinks a paragraph is a good idea has never gotten a text tattoo before. Not to mention, no one is going to stand there and read your essay on your arm.

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[–] **ExternalInfluence** **13 points** 2 years ago

Although I agree with your assessment, don't tattoo a paragraph on yourself. Change it a bit and put it somewhere that isn't always showing. I can get behind a chest or back tattoo, or really upper arm.

Shorten the last paragraph a bit. "Brevity is the soul of wit..." said a time ago, Shakespeare did.

I'd go for, "I hope a day comes when men turn away from invisible monsters promising horrible punishment, but I worry that fear will ground us in the greatest lie ever told." It shortens it up quite a bit, maybe still a little to long for a tattoo, and is witty and catchy enough to be an effective catch phrase-esque tattoo.

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[–] **dpalz** **10 points** 2 years ago* (last edited 2 years ago)

How about "Nothing is true, everything is permitted" with some nice art features .

Edit: Keep the entire paragraph idea with artwork and finish at the bottom with:
TL;DR "Nothing is true, everything is permitted"

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[–] **[deleted]** **13 points** 2 years ago

But get it in Chinese characters obviously because that's the law about tattoos.

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[–] **ackthbbft** **18 points** 2 years ago

Good luck with that! ;) http://imgur.com/6ZEDEt1

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[–] **Daxion** **2 points** 2 years ago

Penny thought it meant "courage."

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[–] **FedaChaney** **2 points** 2 years ago

I don't see whats wrong with this. Does soup not equal love in the horrible place you live?

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[–] **dpalz** **2 points** 2 years ago

bathe in my love soup

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[–] Agnostic Atheist **megalurkeruygcxrtgbn** **1 point** 2 years ago

That's actually a thing in a China. The same way we get random Chinese characters, they get random letters.

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[–] Secular Humanist **Shaneosd1** **1 point** 2 years ago

It actually means Ass Monkey

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[–] **angleeeat** **9 points** 2 years ago

Mine is Final Fantasy Tactics. The whole story revolved around how the corrupt church covered up its past sins and how a branded "heretic" saved the world from an evil god.

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[–] Strong Atheist **KaynanK** **4 points** 2 years ago

Not to mention FFX, with the corrupt church ruled by murderous undead sacrificing people to appease a demon god.

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[–] **climbermat** **3 points** 2 years ago

Didn't they even say in that game that St. Ajora was considered a threat by the government at the time and had 12 disciples?

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[–] **science_diction** **2 points** 2 years ago

My favorite part is where they discovered St Ajora was actually a violent frothing at the mouth zealot who was in no way holy.

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[–] **[deleted]** **0 points** 2 years ago

You know that is how Jesus was viewed by the Jews....

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[–] **science_diction** **2 points** 2 years ago

Except St. Ajora's followers in FF Tactics are a demons from hell. So, except that.

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[–] **[deleted]** **1 point** 2 years ago

Jesus is not known for stopping the plans of demons. Actually he is.

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[–] Secular Humanist **mrwiffy** **5 points** 2 years ago

Thinking back to playing these games I can't help but realize that they probably played at least a small portion in my deconversion. They're some of my favorite games.

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[–] **JJRimmer** **5 points** 2 years ago

Don't get paragraphs. They go real blurry after 10 years.

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[–] **science_diction** **4 points** 2 years ago* (last edited 2 years ago)

For me it was Xenogears. There's no real one way to sum up this game, so I'll just try:

- God is a human manufactured bioweapon which exists to grow and foster human life to the point where it can consume said biomatter to launch itself towards a new planet where it can mindless repeat its function over and over again.
- Human beings are genetically limited creatures (by the design of the bioweapon god) who do not comprehend their full potential.
- The doors of the mind are only barely open. What we will achieve psychologically in the future will be incredible.
- Religion is an abusive lie used to control people and destroy beings it deems as unworthy.
- Reincarnation is made a scientific reality due to rewriting RNA. (heck - four of the characters in the story are the *SAME PERSON*)
- Psychotropic drugs used to control soldiers
- A city in the sky dominated by hubris completely disconnected from the reality below (extreme classism)
- Denial of evidential truth in this case that humans are not native to the planet Xenogears takes place on becuase there is no fossil record of them before a certain point
- Another city in the sky ruled by people who want nothing to do with the rest of the world.

And I'm just recalling part of it.

OP: What did you think of "THE TRUTH" in Assassin's Creed 2? I thought it was incredible science fiction.

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[–] **Finnyous** **2 points** 2 years ago

Was just going to write something similar, that game is amazing.

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[–] **max2407** **7 points** 2 years ago

I don't know about you, but I immediately started worshiping Juno as soon as I finished AC 3...

you know... just in case.

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[–] Anti-theist **Vallkyrie** **3 points** 2 years ago

I noticed this too. A lot of my friends that played and loved the series never really picked up on it, for some reason, but I felt it was always in your face. It wasn't outright anti-religion, but it really didn't do religion any favors either. A lot of the religious figures in the games end up being power hungry, or just absolute dicks.

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[–] Agnostic Atheist **MacDouggal** **2 points** 2 years ago

BRB, seeing what the price of the first two games is on steam.

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[–] **Russian_Bear** **2 points** 2 years ago

Unless you absolutely have to buy them now(even though the steam sale probably gave you a bunch of games to play). I suggest waiting a bit on the purchase. The first creed was pretty repetitive with all its missions, so you had to take breaks from the "grind" to get to the storyline. Now the second eases you in a bit more with puzzles and whatnot, i believe they keep the same formula from then on. There is one catch though. You should really play them 1

into 2 because characters and storyline transfer over to creed 2 and continue from there. I just looked them up on steam and creed 1 is still 20 dollars(i think it should have been cheaper by now, especially on steam; since in my opinion it's not as good of a game as 2, and it's also much older), wait till it's on sale possibly packed with creed 2, i think this is how I got them both.

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[–] **The_Juggler17** **2 points** 2 years ago

yup - if you're going to play any game, play Assassins Creed 2.

It's ok to play it first and just skip AC1. The first game was really unique at the time, and took the "open world" style to an extreme. But it was really repetitive and became boring by the end of the game.

You could just read about the story while you're playing AC2.

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[–] Agnostic Atheist **MacDouggal** **1 point** 2 years ago

I only bought Dawnguard this sale.

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[–] **[deleted]** **2 points** 2 years ago

I got 2 and Brotherhood for <$5 last week. Haven't played them yet so I don't know if they're any good but be aware the first one is extremely repetitive and fairly boring.

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[–] **science_diction** **2 points** 2 years ago

The first game is terrible mechanics wise. I'd just start with #2 which is a masterpiece. #2 fills in what you need to know from #1 anyway as the story progresses.

Plus #2 has... THE TRUTH...

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[–] **imnewhere90** **1 point** 2 years ago

Can anyone explain the bad guys and the good guys? I've only played 2 but got bored of it.

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[–] **[deleted]** **1 point** 2 years ago

When does he say this? I must have missed it.

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[–] Secular Humanist **aaqucnaona** **1 point** 2 years ago

I think its from his memoir.

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[–] **[deleted]** **1 point** 2 years ago

Do you have a link?

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[–] **Lankey** **2 points** 2 years ago

Here you go. This is his entire codex you find in the 2nd game, the quote is about half way down the page.

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[–] Strong Atheist **The_Mad_Malk** **1 point** 2 years ago

Both groups at their core (at least those in the "know") still fall into the range from deist to atheist. but their Orders aren't religious in nature or anti religious. The Templars believe that humans need a guiding hand and why not them? The Assassins believe no one can be trusted with that power, the best they can hope for is to teach the true meaning of self determination.

The Creed "Nothing is True. Everything is Permitted." to me says that for example "thou shall not kill" is not a true statement. Of course you can kill. but you will need to certain in your actions because they all have consequences.

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[–] **KamFox** **1 point** 2 years ago

The line in the first one where the two debunked the "God only helps those who help themselves." by stating that it was not in the bible, but actually a line from Aesop's Fables, then finally pointing out that the bible says the complete opposite of that... really well done!

It was an eavesdrop mission in Acre on the second target in the middle district I believe.

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[–] **L4t3r41u5** **1 point** 2 years ago

The paragraph might be a bit too long unless you going to go full rib piece. In that case all you would need is a font that is easily read but looks fancy. In my case, I don't like super script fonts because it can get too hard to read sometimes. And also take in to account size because the text will shrink/grow depending on weight loss/gain

Here is what I have, still work in progress http://imgur.com/67A10N8

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[–] Other **burgov_VI** **1 point** 2 years ago

Just get the "I long for the day when men turn away from invisible monsters and once more embrace a more rational view of the world" line. Seems to sum up the several paragraphs, and isn't several paragraphs worth of text.

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[–] **KTFlaSh96** **1 point** 2 years ago

dont get a whole damn paragraph lol. a one liner carl sagan said is just as effective :P

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[–] Agnostic Atheist **Styot** **1 point** 2 years ago

Over all it's romanticising paganism, it had some major problems too, Socrates was put to death in part for questioning if the gods existed, and human sacrifice was somewhat common in a lot of pagan religions.

But I guess the last paragraph is pretty good.

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[–] **Finnyous** **1 point** 2 years ago

My favorite is Xenogears, but Bioshock infinite might be a close second. The imagery and music are great and unique in gaming.

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[–] Anti-Theist **GalakFyarr** **1 point** 2 years ago

I found AC3's ending absolutely brilliant, where Desmond (if he chose not to save the world) would become the new "Jesus" trying to help everyone on earth to survive and live better, but in the end his words would get distorted and abused.

It was also a big hint that it was what actually had happened before, where some survivors of Those Who Came Before tried to guide the survivors of the first cataclysm, and well christianity happened.

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[–] **DumDumDog** **1 point** 2 years ago

I love DOTA2 as you get to be Zeus.

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[–] Secular Humanist **Shaneosd1** **1 point** 2 years ago

On religion I think its interesting, but it still strays into crazytown with the Ancient Astronut theory etc. But of course, it markets itself as fiction, not the basis for destroying anyone who doesn't pray to his mightiness Altaïr Ibn-La'Ahad

I do love that quote though, very true

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[–] **surfingrools** [S] **1 point** 2 years ago

Thanks for all the comments and suggestions! Most of you are probably right for saying "Dont get a paragraph".....Whatever I end up doing it will be my first tat and I definitely want it to be something really good. Maybe leaning towards something along the line of this http://assassinscreedswitzerland.com/images/Logo-assassinscreed-swiss-3.gif

drag to resize or shift+drag to moveLoading of image http://assassinscreedswitzerland.com/images/Logo-assassinscreed-swiss-3.gif failed. Click to view directly

I know I would still definitely like to get something to do with Chris Hitchens as well, but holy crap theres so many good thing about him it hard to pick out one thing to go with.

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[–] **surfingrools** [S] **1 point** 2 years ago

How cool would getting a candle burning at both ends be for hitchens :)

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[–] **[deleted]** **1 point** 2 years ago

Rofl

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[–] **wilyquixote** **-2 points** 2 years ago

It's my 2nd favorite game on religion, behind *Call of Duty: Mohammed Warfare* but beating out *Halo: Combat Evolution*.

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