



# INTRODUCTION

(personal notes)

1. Say “hello” to “audience”
2. Don't glare at Pastor Jordan!!!
3. Smile even though it's pointless

# THE GROWTH OF LIBERTY

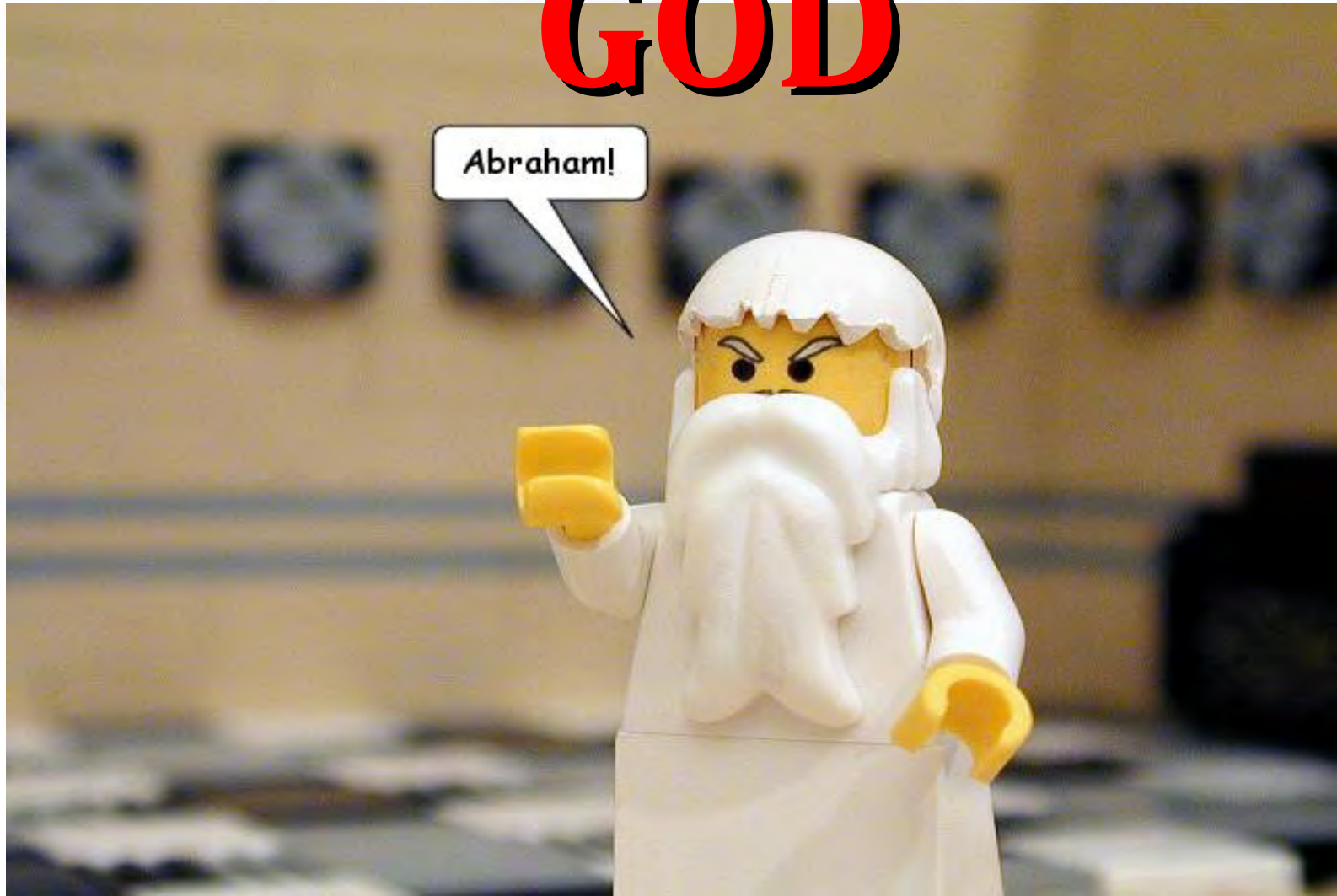
(Or, why I think Dead Brits are awesome)

# Disclaimer/Defence

- If you don't believe in...

# GOD

Abraham!

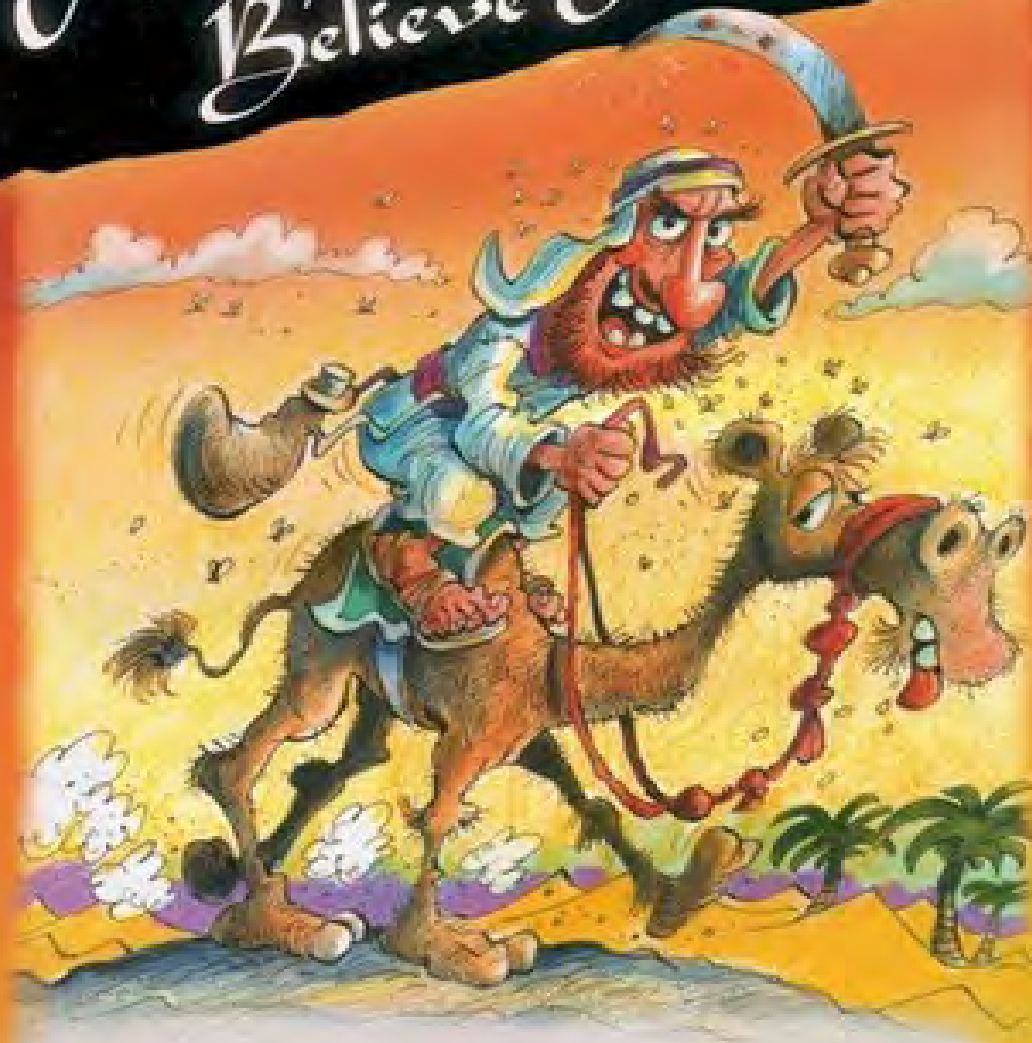




# GOD

Sometimes he really is laughing at you

*Mohammed's  
Believe It or Else!*



*By Abdullah Aziz*

# Disclaimer/Defence

- No “god” or religion in title??



# Disclaimer/Defence

- Reason for conference
- Reason for immediate action

# OUTLINE (before)

- John Stuart Mill (1806-1873)
- Bertrand Russell (1872-1970)
- AC Grayling (1949 - forever)

# OUTLINE (after)

- John Stuart Mill (1806-1873)
- ~~Bertrand Russell (1872-1970)~~
- ~~AC Grayling (1949 - forever)~~

# John Stuart Mill

## *background*

- 3 – Learning Greek
- 5 – Read Herodotus, Xenophon, Lucian and Isocrates
- 6 – Written History of Rome
- 7 – Reading Plato (in Greek)
- 8 – Reading Sophocles, Thucydides, and Demosthenes
- 9 – Reading *The Iliad* 20 times

# John Stuart Mill

- 11 – Aristotle's logic
  - Editing *History of India*

# John Stuart Mill

METHODOLOGY NOT CONTENT

*How* he learnt; not *what* he learnt

# John Stuart Mill

## SOCRATIC METHOD

“The tradition that tradition must be fought”  
- Peter Jones, *Vote for Caesar*

# John Stuart Mill

## *On Liberty*

How much or how far is a government allowed to interfere with the actions of a fully rational adult, whilst maintaining autonomy in general?



**VERY LITTLE**



# John Stuart Mill

*On Liberty*

For humanity to flourish it needs freedom

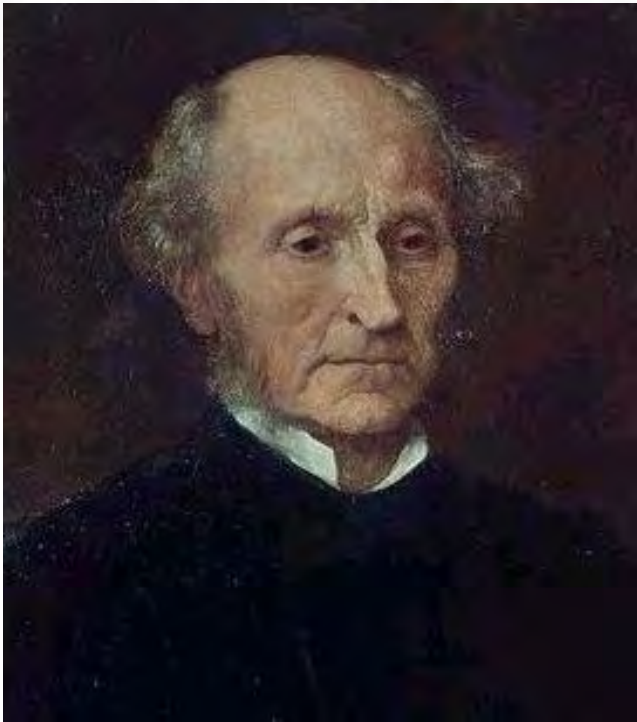


**LIBERTY**

# John Stuart Mill

Government may NOT interfere with the actions of a fully rational adult (paternalism)

# John Stuart Mill



“A State which dwarfs its men, in order that they may be docile instruments in its hands even for beneficial purposes – will find that with small men no great thing can really be accomplished.”

*On Liberty* (1859)

# John Stuart Mill

Purpose of government is to aid its citizens to flourish - not impose restrictions to live according to a particular doctrine.

# John Stuart Mill

Flourishing occurs by letting men and women pursue their own paths, engaging them equally with passions and duties

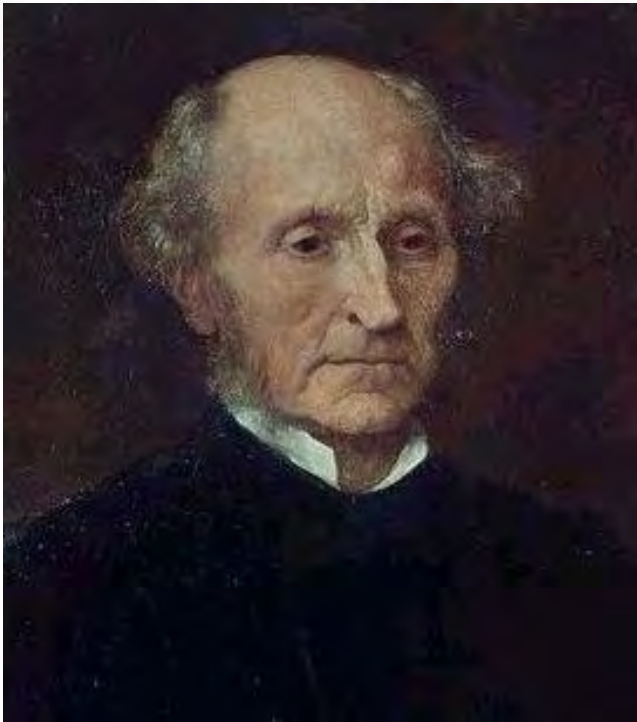
# John Stuart Mill

Non-interference in the private choices of adults,  
regardless of what those choices are

**UNLESS OTHERS ARE HARMED (The Harm  
Principle – too technical for this discussion)**



# John Stuart Mill



“[T]he only purpose for which power can be rightfully exercised over any member of a civilised community, against his will, is to prevent harms to others.”

*On Liberty* (1859)

# John Stuart Mill

The Problem of the Sadistic Man (Feinberg)

# John Stuart Mill

People can only achieve individuality, self-fulfilment and happiness in a society that does not arbitrarily rescind their rights

Unobstructed and the opening of paths = liberty

# Liberty Today

## MODERN LIBERAL DEMOCRACIES (ideals)

- Equal suffrage
- Equal access to jobs
- No discrimination based on sex, race, sexual orientation, religion (or lack thereof)
- Free speech, expression and alternate press coverages
- Access to information
- Education for all

# Meaning of Liberty

MODERN LIBERAL DEMOCRACIES

*opposed by religions*

- ***Women's freedom***
- Free speech
- Scientific advances (from Galileo to stem-cells)
- Gay marriages
- Adultery
- Abortions

# Meaning of Liberty

BASICALLY...

ANYTHING THAT ALLOWS MAN TO CHOOSE FOR  
HIMSELF HOW BEST TO BE HAPPY

# Meaning of Liberty

MODERN LIBERAL DEMOCRACIES  
(not fully realised)

- All drugs should be legalised (marijuana, cocaine, heroine)
- Prostitution should be legalised
- Free speech still not recognised (Jewel of Medina)

# REMEMBER...

## POWER REMAINS IN *OUR* HANDS

- Living under democracy does not mean we are ruled, we are governed
- Like Greeks, we should all be “active citizens”





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2<sup>nd</sup>

# ACTION PHILOSOPHERS!

By Fred Van Lente and Ryan Dunlavey



## PLATO!

WRESTLING SUPERSTAR  
OF ANCIENT GREECE!

with:



**BODHIDHARMA**  
Master of Kung-Fu!



**NIETZSCHE**  
The Übermensch!

# PLATO



“One of the penalties for refusing to participate in politics is that you end up being governed by your inferiors.”

# OUR PRIMARY TASK

THE EMANCIPATION OF WOMEN,

ALL OVER THE WORLD,

FOR ALL TIME

# Liberal Connection

## Works

Mill's "The Subjection of Women"

Russell's "Marriage & Morals"

Grayling's "Toward the Light"

# A.C. Grayling



“The major reason for the slow pace of development in the Third World is the subjection of women there. Elementary education sufficient to make women basically literate and numerate is known to reduce rates of childbirth and infant mortality in Africa, to enhance the prospects of their children receiving education, and to reduce the rate of HIV infection among the women themselves.

When women are allowed to own property (as opposed to merely being property) HIV infection rates are lower, too, because there women are not simply handed from father to husband, and from the graveside of husband to another, but can if orphaned or widowed choose to make shift for themselves and their children autonomously.”

- *Towards the Light*

# A.C. Grayling



“If the world is to have a future, it lies in the hands of women.”

- *Towards the Light*

**THE END**  
(stop talking, Tauriq)