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@! The Herd !@
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Today I thought I would take time to write about the Herd. As with many things about which I write, I feel strongly about this topic. When I refer to the Herd, I refer to the Human Herd. The 'masses,' if you will. Of course, we've all heard the term 'masses' used before, but I think that it bears much more meaning than people want to attribute. People generally hate being called part of the Herd, and often times try to pretend that they are totally indifferent to the opinion of other humans. This, to me, appears to be one of the greatest defects in the human machine. Generally speaking, humans hate being called an animal of the Herd, but frankly love being part of it nonetheless. They say ignorance is bliss. I say ignorance is ignorance, bliss is bliss; maybe I'm just more intelligent -- I don't know. But I will say this, I believe in defying the trend and subverting the paradigm.

So let's look at what it means to be part of the herd. For ages, political leaders and philosophers have referred to the people of their land (or earth) as the masses, the mobs. What is meant by this? Well, let's look at the definition of herd from Webster's dictionary. I like this one: "a number of animals of one kind kept together under human control." But I also think it is important to note this definition as well: "the undistinguished masses." I think this says it all. It appears to me that those people who refuse to think for themselves, to think freely are only contributing to the herd. They are becoming part of it. And it seems the more members in the herd there are, the more new members it gets. Often times we refer to the masses as people who all look and act the same. But what is important here is understanding the reason that they act the same. Much of this I attribute to Faith, religion and belief. Not to mention that fact that popular culture today leans towards conformity, closed-mindedness and a retardation of mental and intellectual growth.

I don't consider myself to be part of the herd. And I don't go out of my way to prove to people that I'm not part of the herd. Being part of the herd is a state of mind (if you can say these people think at all...). It is the outward expression of this mentality that one notices most. But let me ask you a question. Say I was a Christian who preferred to wear Tommy Hilfiger and Abercrombie and Fitch clothing (I'm not.) Would you say that I am part of the herd? Most people who are outside of the herd would say yes, those part of the herd would say no because humans don't like to acknowledge that they're stupid. But appearances are usually deceiving. The person described above might not be part of the herd at all, as his outward expression may not reflect his mentality. It is perfectly possible that he is a Christian and wears trendy clothes because he sincerely believes they are the best. Does this constitute a member of the herd? It depends on why he believes what he believes. People have a habit of deluding themselves into thinking the best of their beliefs. If he is a Christian because it answers life's hardest questions for him and requires him to do no extra thinking and if he wears trendy clothes in order to better fit, then I would say this poor animal is part of the herd.

But let's think about something even more interesting. The definition of herd included that the animals were controlled by some human. I love this. But it is also a hard thing to try to answer. Who or what controls the human masses? I

think the root of all herd instinct comes from religion and morality. That is, after all, the root reason why these people all come together. It is a common belief in ignorance and the evilness of man which causes these people to become like a flock to the rest of man. That's right. The masses are the flock, and we few freethinkers are the shepards. Unfortunately, it seems, someone had the dumb idea of creating the flock in the first place, and the world has never been the same.