Laughing Them Into Religion: A Comparison of the Contexts, Causes, and Effects of Jonathan Swift's A Tale of A Tub and C. S. Lewis’s The Screwtape Letters

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Abstract
Jonathan Swift and C. S. Lewis had extraordinary similarities in their lives up to their respective writings of A Tale of A Tub and The Screwtape Letters. Beyond the biographical parallels, there were great similarities in the religious, historical, and political contexts surrounding the two works, even though they were published 237 years apart. These facts have been ignored by scholars, yet more important than the similitude is what Swift and Lewis did differently in spite of it. These differences represent deliberate choices each author made and provide greater insights about them and these seminal works. Both of these brilliant men became convinced that their societies needed a rebirth of spirituality and chose highly creative religious satire to convey their respective messages and “laugh us into religion.”

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Jonathan Swift (30 November 1667 – 19 October 1745) was an Anglo-Irish satirist, essayist, political pamphleteer (first for the Whigs, then for the Tories), poet and cleric who became Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin. Swift is remembered for works such as A Tale of a Tub (1704), An Argument Against Abolishing Christianity (1712), Gulliver's Travels (1726), and A Modest Proposal (1729). He is regarded by the Encyclopædia Britannica as the foremost prose satirist in the English language, and is Jonathan Swift is known as one the greatest satirists in literature. His experience in religion, politics and science allow his works to be considered genius in the world of writing. Swift’s writing laid the foundation for several satirical successors. Swift was born in 1667 in Dublin, Ireland. One of his early satires includes A Tale of a Tub which mocks Western Christianity. Writing a piece like this was very risky for Swift to do, mostly because his position in any church would be jeopardized. The Screwtape Letters Essay Research Paper The Screwtape Letters by C s Lewis is classic work of Christian literature of the modern era Not only does this book communicate many important lessons it does it in a way that is entertaining and rich in by Screwtape Letters Essay Research Paper The Screwtape Letters by C Lewis is classic work of Christian. Fitting Screwtape into the place of the ego is slightly less clear, but it is still completely probable. Screwtape has control and manipulative power over the entire situation. Foremost they are devils, the typical biblical representation of devils with certain added traits. These characters display demonic powers such as shape-shifting which are not often under their control.