

The Devil Made Him Do It

Thus heaven I've forfeited,
I know it full well.
My soul, once true to God,
Is chosen for hell.

— KARL MARX

Marx and Satan

By Richard Wurmbrand, Crossway Books, 1986, 143 pages, paperback. Available at \$5.95, plus \$1.00 for shipping and handling, from General Birch Services Corporation, Belmont MA 02178

In *Crime and Punishment*, famed Russian novelist Fyodor Dostoyevsky depicted with brilliant insight the criminal's compulsion to confess. It is not surprising that the Communists, the greatest mass murderers in the history of the world, share this compulsion — though their moments of candor have more the air of braggadocio than of penitence. To a man, the Soviet leaders from Lenin to Gorbachev have boasted of their intentions to enslave the world. Unlike the common criminal, however, who expects to be punished for the crimes to which he confesses, or to be restrained from the commission of those he has acknowledged plotting, the Communist who publishes his evil deeds and evil plans seems confident that he will go unchallenged.

His impunity derives in part from the inability of his intended victims to understand his motivation: We simply cannot fathom why anyone would want to enslave, torture, and murder millions of people. And, because we cannot understand the inspiration for such inhumanity, we tend to discount the reality of it. There was a time when all men believed in the existence of evil, knew its origin, and understood the means with which to combat it; but in this "complex" age of ours we are no longer satisfied with simple answers, and our "sophistication" has rendered us defenseless.

A Guiding Force

How many of our "best and brightest" today would snort and snicker with contempt at the following commonplace?

The great concentrations of evil design in times past as well as in modern communism and nazism would have been impossible without a guiding force, the Devil himself. He has been the mastermind, the secret agent, supplying the unifying energy in his grand scheme to control mankind.

In an earlier age we might have been able to dismiss Richard Wurmbrand's *Marx and Satan* as a superfluous work, and the quote from it above as a statement of the obvious. His thesis, that the evil wrought in this world by Marx and his disciples can only be explained by Satanic influence, would have seemed axiomatic. That Wurmbrand feels compelled to defend his thesis, however, and to devote over 100 pages to the evidence he has marshaled to support it, is a good measure of the extent to which the modern world has succumbed to skepticism. The question is: Is Wurmbrand justified in assuming that it is possible to prove *anything* to people who refuse to believe? And, if his book does convince our modern skeptics — as it should — that Karl Marx was a Satan worshipper whose overriding goal in life was to lead as many men as possible into damnation, will they also conclude that Satan really does exist, or will they merely be amused by Marx's "gullibility"?

In a first chapter entitled "Changed Loyalties," Wurmbrand documents a dramatic shift in the young Marx's first allegiance: "In his early youth, Karl Marx professed to be and lived as a Christian. His first written work is called *The Union of the Faithful with Christ*." But Marx was not out of his teens before "he became profoundly and passionately antireligious." In a poem entitled "Invocation of One in Despair," he made this bold confession: "I wish to avenge myself against the One who rules above." Another poem, "The Player," is even more ominous:

The hellish vapors rise and fill
the brain,
Till I go mad and my heart is



utterly changed.
See this sword?
The prince of darkness
Sold it to me.
For me he beats the time and gives
the signs.
Ever more boldly I play the dance
of death.

Wurmbrand explains that "in the rites of higher initiation in the Satanist cult an 'enchanted' sword which ensures success is sold to the candidate. He pays for it by signing a covenant, with blood taken from his wrists, agreeing that his soul will belong to Satan after death."

Devil's Advocates

The volume and intensity of Marx's self-incriminations are overwhelming. And Wurmbrand cites similar material from the pens of Lenin, Stalin, and other prominent Communists. To disbelieve that these men were dedicated Satanists, we must deny both the physical evidence of their evil ("By their fruits you shall know them") and their own testimony.

As for the existence of Satan, we can either acknowledge it now while we are yet on this earth and can commit ourselves to a lifelong struggle against him, or we can continue in our complacent skepticism and have an eternity to regret our glibness. ■

— F. R. DUPLANTIER