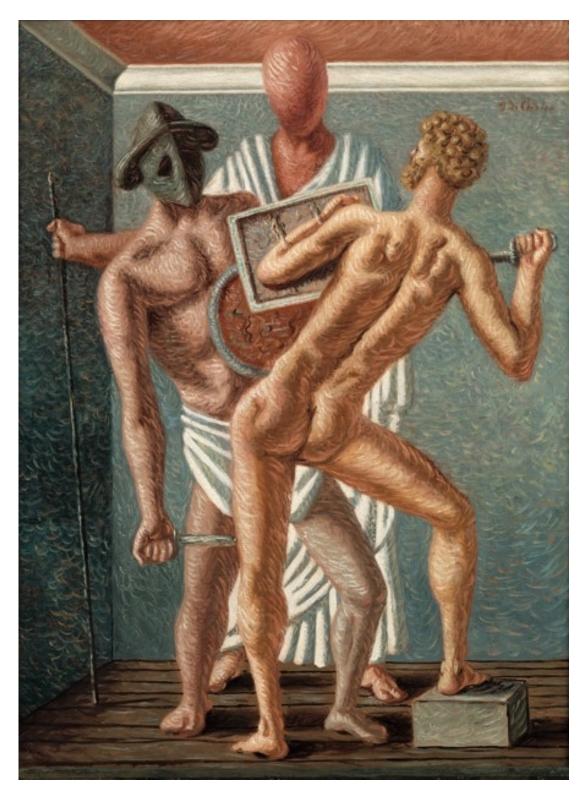
Three Types of Atheism

by <u>Sean Haylock</u> (August 2020)



Gladiateurs, Giorgio de Chirico, 1928

Speaking Objectively

Once in America there lived A dour guru who believed The virtuous man a psychopath Who scorned the weak, and never laughed. Habitually she was inclined To knocking back amphetamines And overfond of cigarettes She strung out all her acolytes. She styled herself a brilliant sage And worshippers of her image Declared her mind second only To the unmatched Aristotle (It seems doubtful that they'd read him). They promised a new paradigm To clear the medieval mist And thwart that wretch called Jesus Christ. With brave self-love (Man's noblest trait) They called pity degenerate, And showing serious chutzpah,

Pronounced their slogan, "A is A."

Their error was to have forgotten

(Effectively declared verboten)

The truth: our need for mother's teat;

We're each of us a parasite.

The Bitter Quietist

Every variety of abject hell Confirms that man's a cruel confounded ape And history's blundering course is how I tell That fate has each of us gripped by the nape. I've scorn to pour upon morality, Which certain theorists say is a game. I'd sooner side with them than I'd agree That God calls everything by its true name. The parties of firm principle have shown There's nought to pick the noble from the petty So I'm content to sound a righteous groan And stage a march with black pills for confetti. Our only hope's to see things as they are

And wean ourselves off wine of Paul's terroir.

Squint at Ben Stiller

That comely Grecian urn:

It's your brain.

A longing to return:

It's your brain.

The smell of sun-warmed earth:

It's your brain.

Joy at your child's birth:

It's your brain.

Enchantment in a tune:

It's your brain.

Sheer rapture on a spoon:

It's your brain.

Shakespeare, Tolstoy, and Proust:

It's your brain.

Chablis, champagne, vermouth:

It's your brain.

My heart grows weary, mouthing this refrain,

But I remind myself you can't be blamed.

You weren't designed for reason; you're a brain.

«Previous Article Table of Contents Next Article»

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