

## The Psychology of Mobs: Confusion at the Theater; Rejection of the 1st & 2nd Commandments by Repetition of the Lie; Truth Discerns and Rejects the Lie

A Salute to the Events of September 11, 2001:

Podhoretz, Norman. *World War IV: The Long Struggle against Islamofascism*. (New York: Doubleday, 2007), 200-205; 213-17.

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**Acts 19:32** - So then, some were shouting one thing and some another, for the assembly was in confusion and the majority did not know for what reason they had come together.

1. Back in verse 28, members of the union responded to Demetrius's speech at the union hall by shouting, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" The verb "to shout" is the imperfect tense of *krazō* which means they took up the statement as a mantra, repeating it over and over.
2. As they left the union hall and moved up the Acadian Way toward the Grand Theater, they attracted a large number of citizens, businessmen, and visitors. Mobs attract emotional people to join it. By the time they arrived at the theater there was great confusion among the majority of the people in the crowd.
3. Nevertheless, they were caught up in the heat of the moment and were shouting, another imperfect tense of *krazō*, they kept on shouting ... but they didn't know what about so they were shouting different things.
4. Whatever the various parts of the mob were shouting, they were verbalizing the lie. Emotional people are controlled by a group leader and without thought join in without reason. To continue shouting a mantra that is based on a lie does not convert the lie into truth.
5. Demetrius and the union members had become criminals who were trying to gain control over the crusaders they had recruited. The only problem is the crusaders were confused about what they were crusading about.
6. Their confusion devolved into chaos, indicated by the perfect passive participle of the verb **συνγέω, *suncheō***:
 

perfect:	Intensive: emphasizes the results or present state produced by a past action. This means the crusaders were confused from the time they joined the mob until they were ultimately disbursed.
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passive: The crusaders and the criminals are under the influence of the lie. They refused to think rationally but instead submitted to the emotions of impulsive anger, an angry mood, suppressed bitterness, and explosive anger. They are all slaves to their sinful natures run amuck.

participle: This action of confusion precedes the shouting. Only dufi congregate into a mob for reasons unknown to them and shout mantras without knowing why, much like the dufi that parade with signs at demonstrations.

7. While the mob is totally confused, the criminal element is not. Demetrius and his union boys know what they are there for but have been unable to convey their agenda to the aroused crusaders.
8. This uproar frightened the Jewish residents of the city. They were often compared with Christians because both groups worshipped an invisible God and rejected the use of idols:

**Acts 19:33** - Some of the crowd concluded it was Alexander, since the Jews had put him forward; and having motioned with his hand, Alexander was intending to make a defense to the assembly.

1. The Jews wanted to disassociate themselves from anything having to do with causing this riot and they nominated Alexander to approach the rostrum and mollify the crowd.
2. Alexander's mission was to dissociate the Jews from the trouble brewing with the Christians. He motioned his hand for silence so he could speak but the mob continued to shout its mantras.

**Acts 19:34** - But when they recognized that Alexander was a Jew, a single outcry arose from them all as they shouted for about two hours, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!"

1. Christians, such as Paul, Gaius, and Aristarchus (v. 29), and Alexander, a Jew, each believed exactly what Demetrius claimed they did in verse 26 "gods made with hands are no gods at all."
2. Both Judaism and Christianity subscribe to the First and Second Commandments found in the Decalogue that prohibit mental and overt idolatry respectively.
3. This was an affront to the greater population of Ephesus since it belittled their worship of Artemis's idol set up in the interior of her temple.
4. When the mob learned that Alexander was a Jew it began shouting the mantra, "**Μεγάλη ἡ Ἄρτεμις Ἐφεσίων!**"—"Megalē hē Artemis Ephesiōn!": "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!"

5. Again we see the psychology of mobs. With the use of an emotional stimulus the entire group begins to function as one. Here the entire throng begins a two-hour frenzy during which its members shout in unison their loyalty to a fictitious god whose image was made by men and whose replica is made by them.
6. What they begin to shout is a lie and they repeat this lie for two hours and after they finally quieted down it was still a lie.
7. How do we know without shadow of doubt that the mob's mantra is a lie? Is it our personal opinion? Is it because of traditions of men passed down to us from generation to generation? Is it religious prejudice?
8. No, none of these. It is because we have learned from divine revelation that God prohibits idolatry:

**Exodus 20:3** - "You shall have no other gods besides Me [ commandment against mental idolatry ]!

**v. 4** - "You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth.

**v. 5a** - "You shall not worship or serve them ..." [ commandment against overt idolatry ]

9. These two commandments clearly prohibit either the mental consideration of another god besides Elohim or the development of physical representations of a false god, or as Paul taught in his sermon on Mars's Hill in Athens:

**Acts 17:29** - "Being then the children of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and thought of men."

10. Nine of the Ten Commandments are reiterated in the New Testament thus confirming all but "keeping the Sabbath" as divine policy for the Church Age. The Sabbath is the last day of the week; what we refer to as Saturday. The New Testament fulfillment of the third commandment is the ongoing fellowship of the believer through the filling of the Holy Spirit. This is our ever-present and ever-available Sabbath.
11. Therefore, how is it that we identify the idolatrous mantra of the Ephesian mob as a lie? Because the mantra proclaims an idol to be the greatest god of all gods.
12. If knowledge of the first and second commandments enables us to identify the lie with regard to mental and overt idolatry, then the other mandates, principles, and doctrines of the Bible likewise enable us to identify the lie regarding other subjects.