

# HERETIC'S FIELD GUIDE



# INTRODUCTION

Come, all you who are weary, and I will share my own Satanic Apologetics. Read in times of questioning, when finding yourself at the receiving end of projection, or when you simply want to have a good response framework together.

This guide is meant to give you the words I use, the perspectives I hold, and the empowerment when defying the believers of inherited dogma. I grew up with the Catechism, remember I wasn't Catholic, but in times like these I find it useful to have my own book of beliefs. Find several examples of responses and ways to make a believer think deeper about their faith.

I've included:

- **Elevator Pitches** to explain what *Sympathy for Samael* is to those who might be curious, hostile, or unknowing.
- **Framework Responses** to accusations of me being evil, devil-worship, or damnation, and how I stay grounded in reason and truth.
- **A Toolkit of Rhetorical Redirects**, each redirect is simple, yet pondersome.
- **A Tone of Inquiry**, not destruction. My goal is not to replace one dogma with another. It is to honor questions.

I still find in times of confrontation I find words difficult to articulate properly, and this is my means of being prepared for those eventualities, I can share it with you.

Light the wide & curving path,

Ashley

## Sympathy for Samael ✶ What it is

Sympathy for Samael is a hypertext temple of what some would call heresy, but I view it as a light along the path to questions that deserve answers. There are wounds in “the word”, and though religion can lead to peace the cost it carries is steep. There is a famous quote from Star Wars, where Yoda tells Luke that he must unlearn what he has learned.

This is not about killing faith, but helping to guide it towards a worthier direction. Through the use of my prose, collection of resources, and interactive tools I invite you to explore your own questions.

Let's explore frameworks I lean on.

## Frameworks ✶ You worship the Devil or You Are Evil

I do not believe in a literal red-horned fire and brimstone aroma heavy demon daddy. I respect the Archetype he represents; the pursuit of knowledge, equality, and self-empowerment. To me the Christian Mythology depiction of Samael (The Venom of God) is the one who challenges unchecked power in the hands of an undeserving deity. Power will inherently deserve critique. By being Sympathetic to the “Devil” myself growing up, I was able to think differently about the religion being lathered over me.

As for the comment on me being evil, bold of you to assume we even agree on what evil is. You believe what the Bible says about evil. I believe evil is mass-murder, subjugation of people's free-will & agency, and teaching people that they are born broken. I grew up asking questions about the scripture and when I did so it wasn't embracing evil. I refused to accept cruelty as holy. It was not rebellion against goodness, but loyalty to what that word means.

## Frameworks ✶ When they quote scripture at you

That book may hold authority for you, but I am not bound by it. I treat scripture as history, and literature, not as law. Are you aware of how many times that book has been translated? King James Version specifically rewritten to enforce rule and loyalty to the crown/ruling class. Continuing to quote at me is like reading the rules of chess to someone who isn't even playing the game.

## Frameworks ✶ You're going to burn in hell

If belief is only sustainable through threats of eternal damnation, infinite punishment for finite crimes, is it belief or coercion? Since I don't believe in hell, I can speak in absence of fear and ask the questions others were told is doubt.

### **Frameworks ✶ You were never saved in the first place**

You're claiming my faith wasn't for real, and thus my apostasy doesn't count. I'm claiming this is my lived experience. My leaving doesn't erase my past, yet proves that faith can be sincere and still unravel. Salvation being real yet fragile enough to disappear when questioned what would that say about your god's promises?

### **Frameworks ✶ You're just angry and bitter**

I'm tired and angry, but somebody should be (Halsey.) Tired and angry of the abuse of children, hypocrisy, acceptance of a death-cult controlling so much of the world in which we live. My anger is not all consuming. It was formed by reason and evidence, not just emotion. My anger is proof that I cared. Prophets were also angry at injustice – was theirs unjustified too? You call me bitter, but if that's all my words were you wouldn't need to try and silence them. Something about them threatens you.

### **Frameworks ✶ Every knee shall bow**

Yeah, that's not persuasion that's intimidation, pal. Threatening eternal punishment and subjugation isn't proof, it's control through fear. If the truth was real, why does it sustain itself on threats and not draw us all in by its beauty? And just because the knee is bent doesn't equate to my heart being willing. But then again, god has had no issue hardening hearts before.

## Frameworks ✶ No good without Jesus

People throughout time have practiced kindness, compassion, and love without ever hearing of Jesus. Are you suggesting that without Jesus you would rape murder and steal? Can you tell me where Jesus said murder in his name?

## Frameworks ✶ Kids could see this website

To accuse me of being a corrupter and poisoning innocents is rich. I teach anyone who wants to look that it's okay to question, to think critically, to ponder deep inside yourself until you find the light in the dark. From the moment I was born, I knew religion. Believed I was born broken because of a fable called Original Sin. I was told the Devil was in my body and my thoughts at all times, and that my only hope was a person who never seemed to answer my prayers even though he always helped in the bible. I ask what is more harmful, helping a child who could possibly see my site to question, or to threaten them instead with eternal hellfire? You're telling me that's not a more real and present danger? Shit.

## Frameworks ✶ You think you're smarter than god

I know I wouldn't have my legacy dripping in the blood of countless. I think critically about human claims about god and ask appropriate questions to the bold claims that are treated as absolute truth. What is truly arrogant in my opinion isn't asking questions at all, but assuming you already have all the answers because you own a book that you mayn't have even fully read. I stand in defiance of the devout devils and those who claim to speak for god.