

HOW CONCERNED IS THE PRC GOVERNMENT ABOUT THE FALUN GONG ?

The Government of the People's Republic of China (PRC) is running scared of the spiritual cult, the Falun Gong.

And the way that the PRC Government is trying to contain cult members is doomed to failure.

This is the view of an American political scientist* who was interviewed by TARGET, last week.

According to Dr Strone (this is not his real name), there are socioeconomic and sociocultural characteristics about the Falun Gong, which could easily be compared with other 'cults' in history.

'Look at the growth of Christianity,' Dr Strone pointed out. 'Its beginnings are not dissimilar to those of the Falun Gong.'

'Interestingly enough, the repressive government of the Roman world, in the first Century, after the birth of Christ, has certain similarities to the totalitarian government of the People's Republic of China, today.'

Dr Strone pointed out that the Judean military governor of about 36 A. D., Pontius Pilate, was compelled to agree to the demands of the Sanhedrin (the Judean Jewish Supreme Council), which wanted Jesus killed, but did not have the legal power so to do.

Only a Roman Court could have condemned a man to death for acts of disseminating blasphemous statements in those days; and, the deed fell on Pontius Pilate to accede to the demands of what appeared to be the wishes of the populace of Judea.

The Jews of the first Century, Dr Strone explained, were very concerned that this man, Jesus, supposedly born of Jewish stock, was claiming that which the Jews, themselves, could not claim: He was the son of Yahweh, the God of the Hebrews.

The easiest way out of the religious dilemma, the thinking went in those days, was to kill the blasphemous dog.

But only the Romans could execute the deed because the Sanhedrin did not have the legal power.

While historical records of that period are sparse, it is clear that Pontius Pilate, either committed suicide after pronouncing the death sentence on Jesus (according to Eusebius, a well-known and highly respected historian of Caesarea of the period 260 A.D); or, he converted to Christianity, only to be condemned to death in due course by the Roman Senate.

The death of Jesus martyred him in the eyes of many in the civilised world of that time.

It served no purpose to have him executed, Dr Strone pointed out.

He went on to state: *'Strangely, even the man who signed the death sentence, Pontius Pilate, is revered today by the Christian Church of Egypt. The Coptic Church, which differs from its "cousin" in the West, maintains the Monophysite Doctrine: Jesus was possessed of a single divine nature. Which is in contrast, you see, from the West where it is maintained that there is the Trilogy of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.'*

'What the PRC Government is doing, today, in respect of the Falun Gong, is to make the same mistakes of history.'

'What will be accomplished is that adherents to this cult, no matter what you and I may think of it, will proliferate ... until it gets out of control, not just in the PRC, but everywhere else in the world where the fires of the cult can find the necessary fuel.'

'It was said, first, by the English philosopher Bertrand Russell, that, if a man cannot live without the crutch of satisfying intelligent thinking, then he will revert to the crutch of religion in order to solve the riddles of which he cannot find a satisfying answer.'

Religion, according to Dr Strone, answers questions which science can not.

The Government of the PRC may well be able to eliminate certain elements of the cult, but it is highly unlikely that they can stamp it out, completely, or even for a short space of time.

The view of the Falun Gong, in the eyes of the PRC hierarchy, Dr Strone explained, is that it could well become a political force.

'In fact, it is a political force, today,' Dr Stone remarked.

'Look at it, and the way that it has spread in the PRC, even though the death penalty has been imposed as a deterrent punishment for adherents of the cult.'

'Still, Chinese people embrace it.'

'When the German Army, after the outbreak of World War II, sat down in Amsterdam, Holland, by the side of the Dutch, what could the Dutch do about the situation? For the Dutch to say to the Germans that they would fight to the death would have been tantamount to suicide. And the Germans knew this, only too well.'

'What happened was that the Dutch had to endure the totalitarian government of Chancellor Adolf Hitler for a period of about 4 years until the time came when the country could, successfully, rebel and drive the German horde from The Netherlands.'

'This could happen in the PRC, but it is more than likely that there will be more violence; and, more determined demonstrations in support of the movement.'

Dr Strone said that, in the US and Europe, where there appears to be a small following of the Falun Gong, the governments of those countries leave the cult adherents to do whatever they choose, provided that they act within the law.

'They (the governments of the US and Europe where the Falun Gong have shown their presence) do not fear the Falun Gong because this relatively new cult is up against an established religious presence where accepted sociocultural doctrines embrace those societies of today.'

'However, if the Falun Gong becomes a socioeconomic force, as is the Catholic Church and the Jewish 'nationalistic' faction of today, it is likely to have strong support of political parties, especially in the US.'

'And, then, it is likely to be widely accepted – because it would be politically expedient so to do.'

According to Dr Strone, the PRC Government's course, of alienating the adherents of the Falun Gong, will be counter-productive, in the long term.

He said: *'The acts of the leaders of the PRC Government, in rounding up the followers of the Falun Gong and "having them disappear", could well backfire on the PRC Government of today.'*

'When it comes time to sit at the bargaining table with the then leaders of the Falun Gong – and that time is sure to come – the day of reckoning will be at hand, and the PRC Government will have to explain its actions of today.'

Dr Strone suggested that what the PRC Government is doing to the Falun Gong could result in other countries 'getting in on the act', asking for explanations about this and that.

The world, today, is not like the world of Pontius Pilate, he explained: *'The earth has "shrunk" with the advent of the Internet, the jet plane, the telephone, and the television set.*

'Today's civilisations demand that the tyranny of yesteryear stop, that all men be awarded the same inalienable rights, and that the rights of man, as recorded in the original 1789 Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen, be the minimum requirement for any free government.

'It is held that all men are endowed with inalienable rights, such as: Equality before the law; equitable taxation; protection against loss of property through arbitrary action by the State; freedom of religion; freedom of speech; freedom of the Press; and, protection against arbitrary arrest and punishment.

'The National Assembly of France, following the French Revolution of 1789, adopted this Manifesto, which is widely accepted throughout the West, and has been since the establishment of the First Republic of France with the overthrowing of King Louis XVI of France, thus nullifying the Divine Rights of Kings.

'Do you think that the PRC Government can fight against the world?

'Even if the PRC Government crushes this cult, another "Falun Gong" will emerge and, like the mythical phoenix, it will rise from the ashes of this cult.'

Recently, Falun Gong adherents staged protests in Beijing and the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the PRC.

The Falun Gong selected Tiananmen Square to stage their protest in the PRC on the first anniversary of the PRC Government's banning of the cult.

Officials of the Communist Party of the PRC have confirmed, officially, that at least 200 Falun Gong protesters have been arrested on a daily basis at Tiananmen Square.

It is recorded that not less than 24 Falun Gong members, incarcerated in prisons in the PRC, have been murdered while still in prison.

Last week, Beijing Police knocked down women and children in Beijing in order to quash the demonstrations by Falun Gong members.

At least, 1,100 members of the Falun Gong are in a Beijing prison, today, awaiting trial, the outcome of which is a forgone conclusion

* TARGET has agreed not to publish this doctor's name and the university for which he is Chair of the Faculty of Political Science.

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