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# Why I am an Atheist

## Bhagat Singh

October 5–6, 1930 (Written in the shadow of the gallows)

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# The Charge of Arrogance

**Context:** Following his sudden fame from the Delhi bombing and the Lahore Conspiracy Case, friends and critics alike leveled a heavy accusation against Singh: his atheism was merely foolishness born of a swollen ego.

“It is a matter of debate whether my lack of belief in the existence of an Omnipresent, Omniscient God is due to my arrogant pride and vanity... I am known as a dictator among my friends.”

**Resolution:** Singh accepts he possesses pride—but he challenges the assumption that this pride is empty, or that vanity alone is powerful enough to erase a belief in God.

# The Anatomy of Pride: Vanity vs. Conviction

## Empty Vanity

**Definition:** An unfounded, exaggerated assessment of one's personality without serious effort.



**The Result:** Leads a person to either deem themselves in possession of Godly qualities, or declare themselves a god.



**The Irony:** In both states, the person remains a theist affirming supernatural power. They are not an atheist.

## Constructive Conviction

**Definition:** A rigorous, independent reliance on one's own mental powers and study.

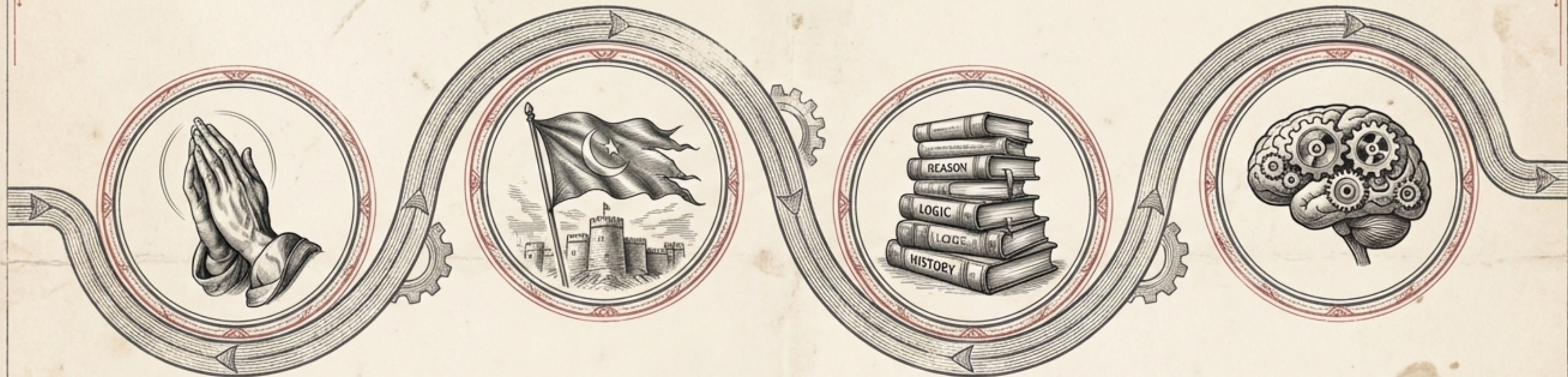


**The Result:** Produces merciless criticism and the strength to challenge obsolete, contemptible social values.



**The Truth:** The epithet 'vanity' is always hurled at the strength we get from our convictions.

# The Genesis of a Mind



## The Devout Boy

Raised by a staunch Arya Samaji father. Chanted religious Mantras for hours at D.A.V. College, Lahore.

## The Romantic Militant

Held unwavering belief in God. Followed theist revolutionary leaders like Sachindara Nath Sanyal, who sang praises to God's glory.

## The Turning Point

Faced party opposition and realized blind faith was insufficient. Developed an incessant desire to study to face opponents with logic.

## The Realist

Devoured works by Marx, Lenin, Trotsky, and Bakunin. Serious ideas ousted romantic mysticism. By 1926, atheism takes permanent root through rigorous reasoning.

# The Crucible of the Lockup

## Narrative

Arrested in May 1927, Singh spent a month in the Railway Police lockup. Facing threats of being hanged for the Kakori Case and Dussehra bombings, police officers persuaded him to pray to save his life.

*I would settle it to myself whether I could brag only in days of peace and happiness that I was an atheist, or in those hard times I could be steadfast in my convictions.*

## Outcome

He refused. He realized depending on God was an escape; he would face the ordeal entirely on his own feet.



# The Refusal of the Opiate

## The Comforts of Faith



### The Illusion of Reward

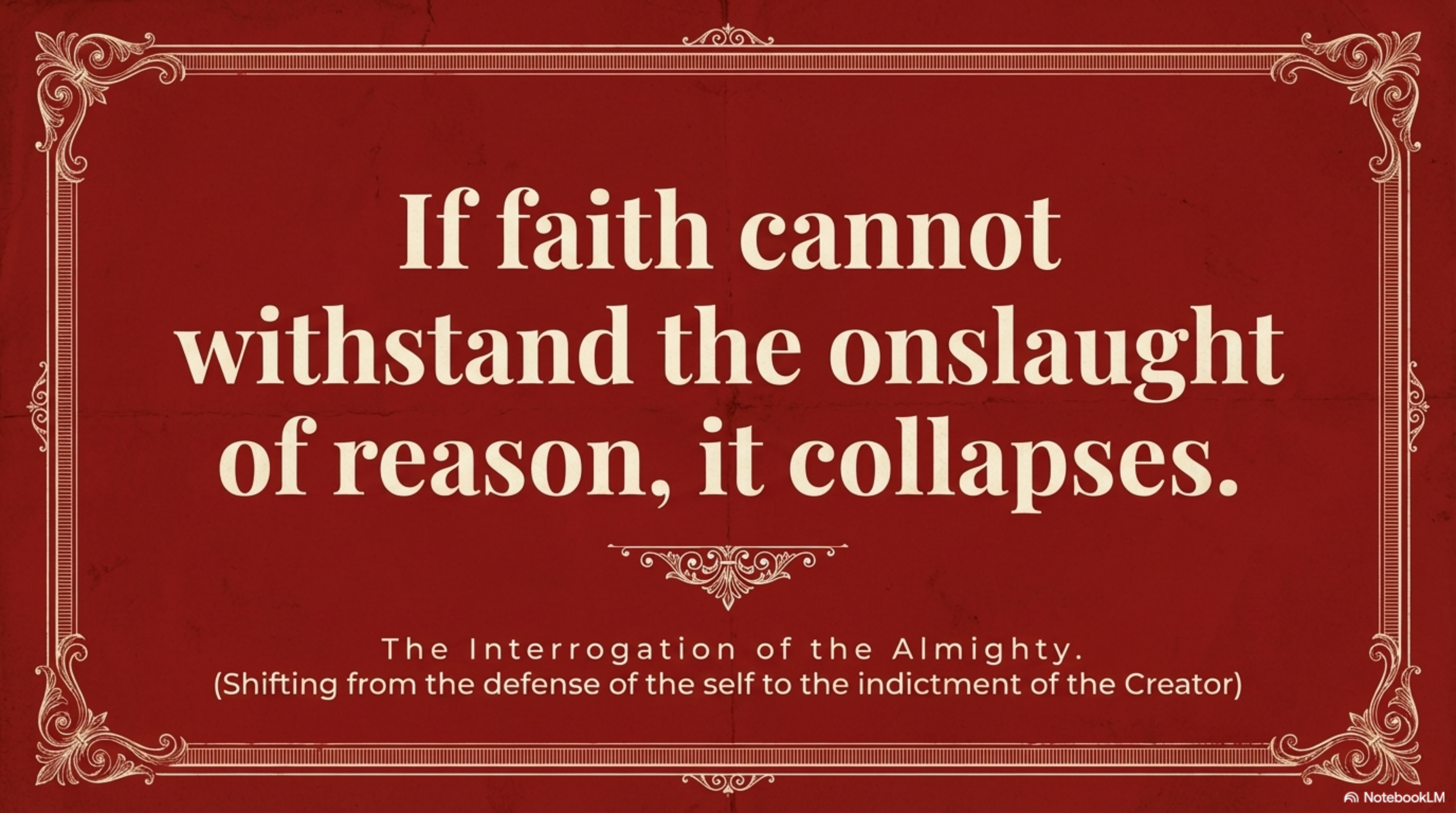
Belief makes hardships pleasant. A God-believing Hindu expects to be reborn a king; a Muslim or Christian dreams of the luxuries of paradise as a reward for sacrifices.

## The Reality of Reason



### The Disinterested Sacrifice

Rejecting God means utter annihilation at the gallows. With no afterlife and no selfish motive of paradise, the reward is the short, glorious life of struggle itself—devoted purely to the cause of liberty.



**If faith cannot  
withstand the onslaught  
of reason, it collapses.**

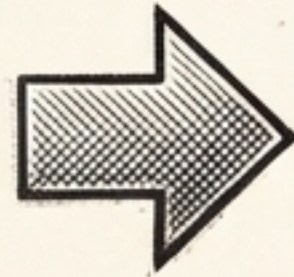
The Interrogation of the Almighty.  
(Shifting from the defense of the self to the indictment of the Creator)

# The Problem of Infinite Evil



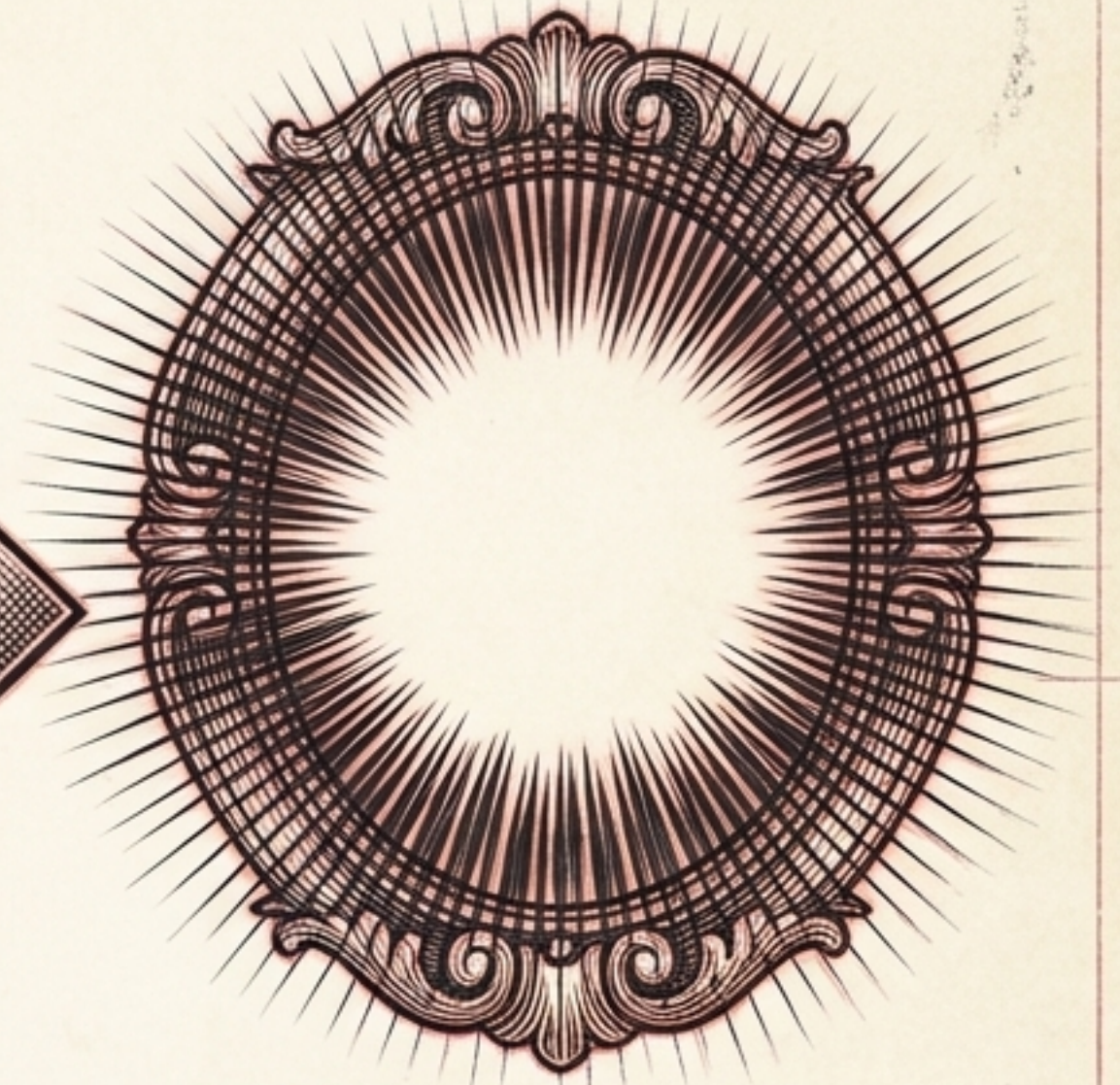
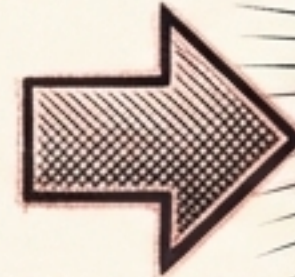
**Nero**

Burnt Rome and killed a limited number of people for his morbid enjoyment. History condemns him as a tyrant.



**Genghis Khan**

Slaughtered thousands to seek pleasure. Humanity hates his very name.

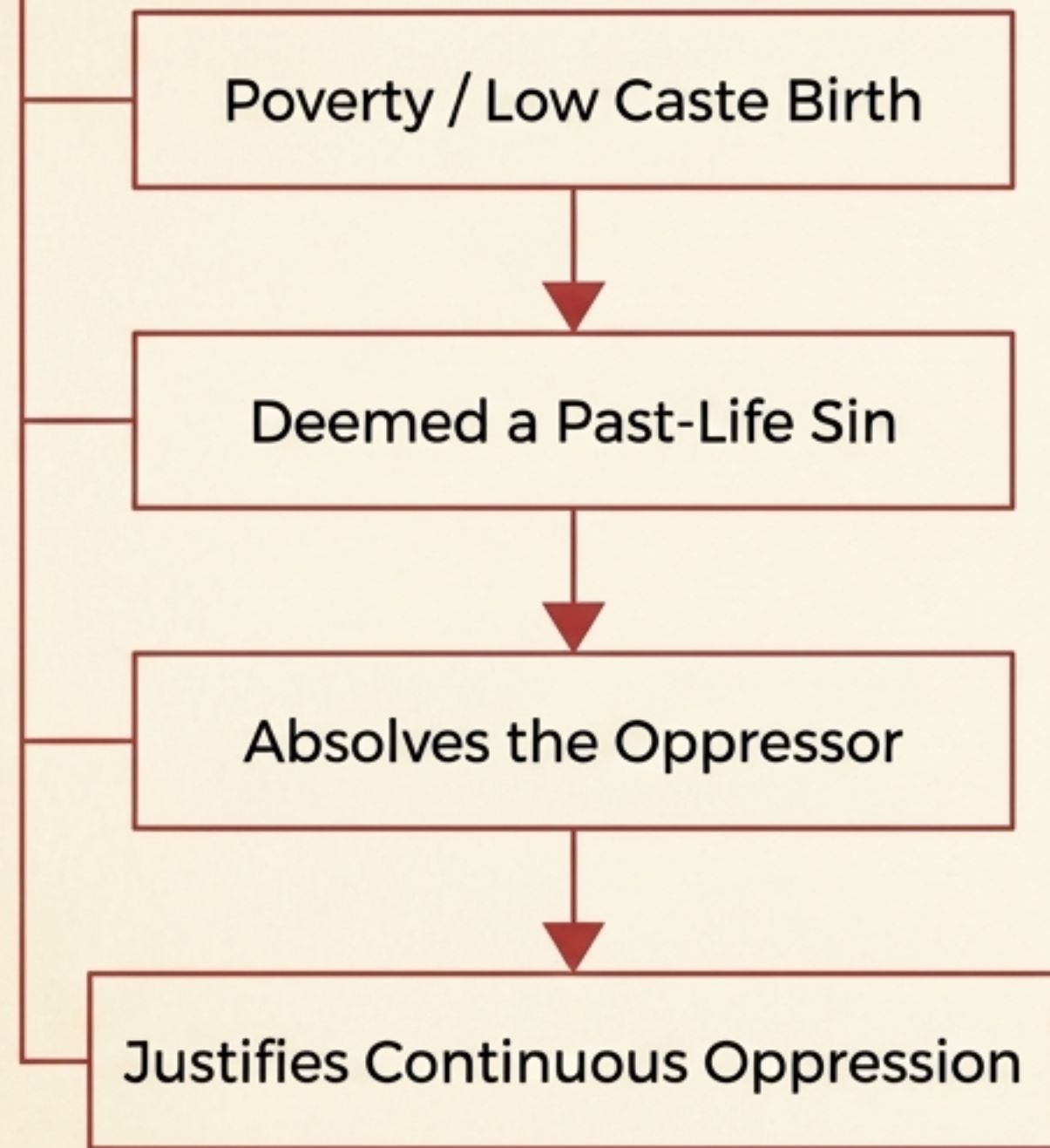


**The Creator**

If Omnipotent and Omniscient, He created a world of constant woe where millions die of hunger in slums. He surpasses historical tyrants in the daily misery He inflicts. Why create a living hell?

# The Myth of Retribution

## Hoax of Transmigration



## The Argument

Hindus claim current suffering is punishment for a previous birth. This logic dictates that current oppressors were Godly people in past lives, justifying their current hoarded power.

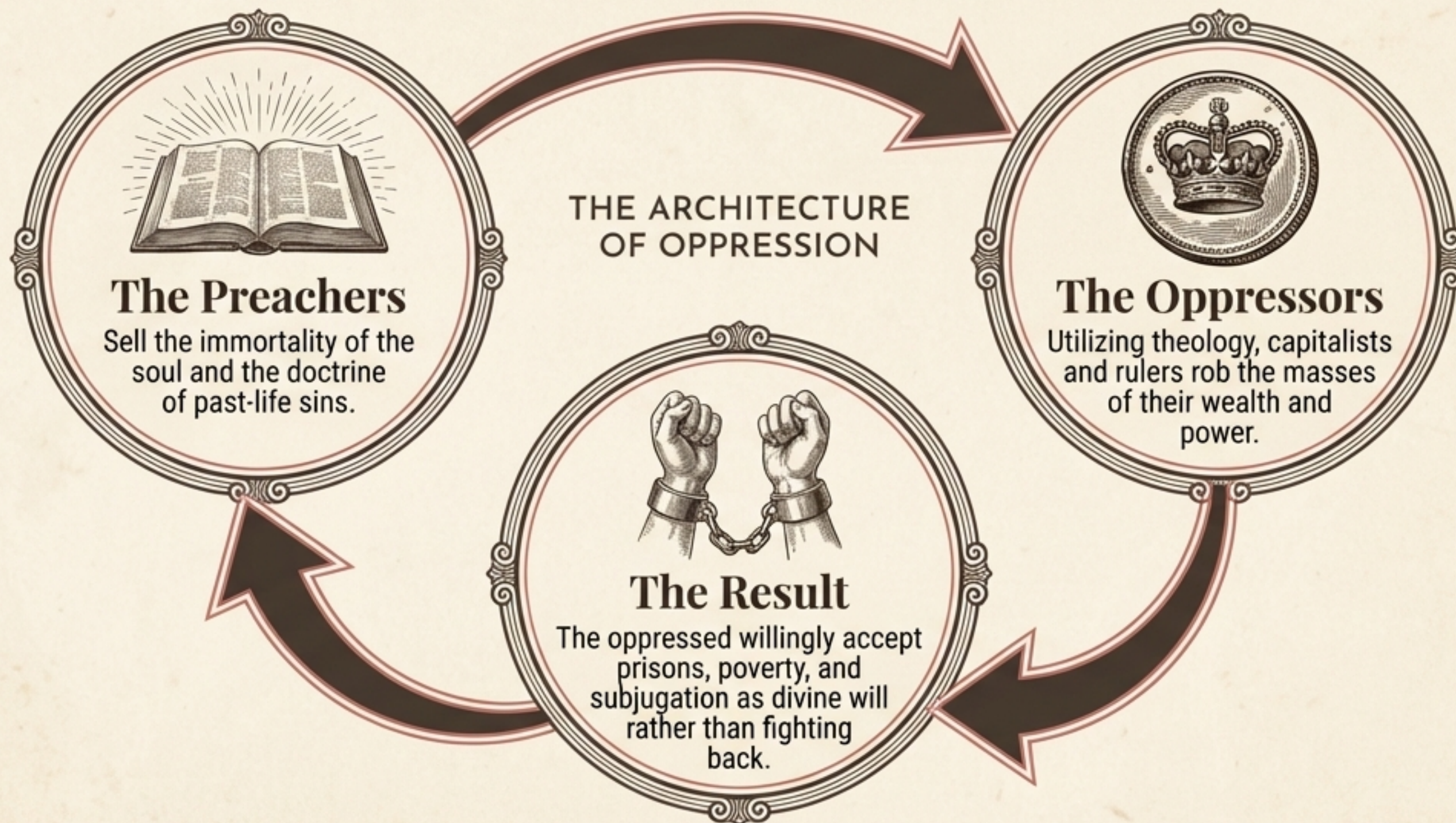
## The Reality

Singh argues the transmigration cycle has zero reformatory effect. It is a fairy-tale coined by shrewd ancestors to snatch the power of Reason from the poor.

## *The Cruc*

Do you really know the most cursed sin in this world is to be poor? Yes, poverty is a sin; it is a punishment!

# The Dirty Alliance



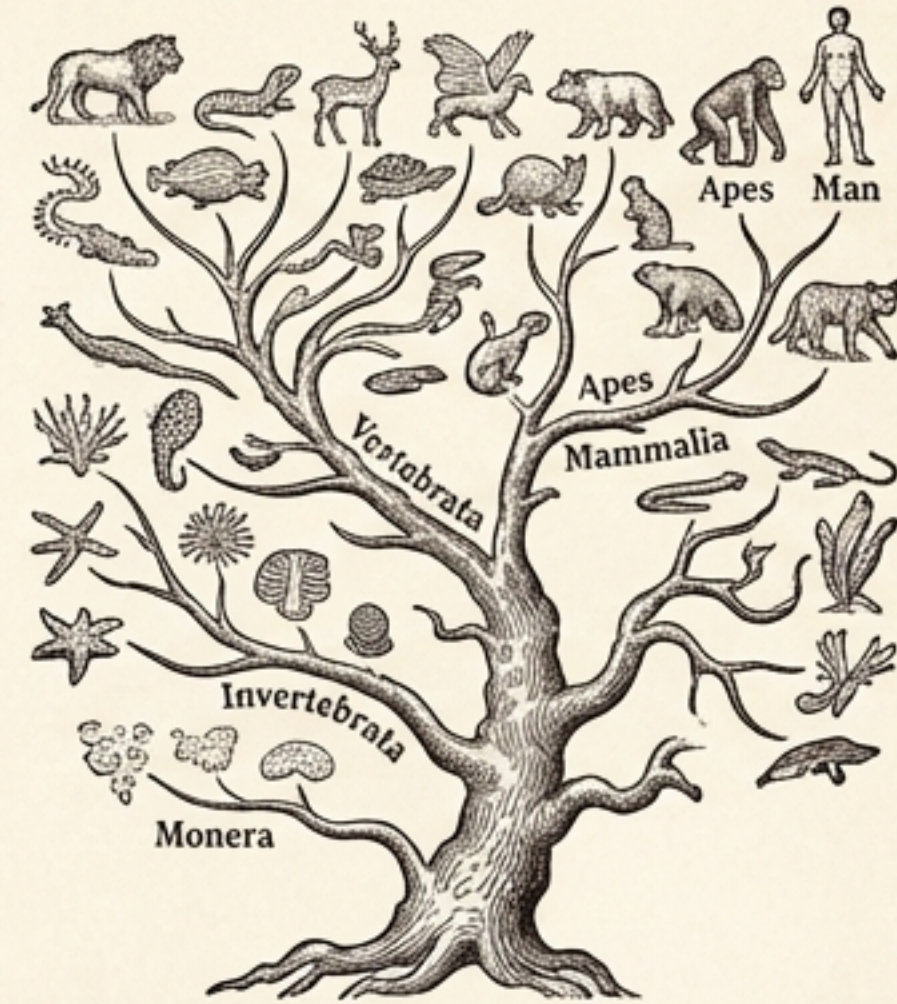
*Inspired by Upton Sinclair's **Profits of Religion**: If you make a man believe in the immortality of the soul, you can rob him completely.*

# The Scientific Alternative



## Origin of the World

The accidental mixture of different substances in the form of Nebulae gave birth to the earth.



## Origin of Man

Biology, natural history, and Darwin's Origin of Species explain the evolution of life.

## The Engine of Progress

Human advancement is not guided by a conscious supreme power. It depends entirely on man's constant conflict with, and domination over, nature.

# The Psychological Origin of God

## The Invention

Man created God in his own imagination when he realized his immense weaknesses, limitations, and shortcomings in a hostile world.

## The Purpose

God serves a dual role: first, as a comforting father/mother figure when the distressed soul is left helpless. Second, as a deterrent factor—painted with whimsical laws and fury—to keep societal outbursts in check.

## The Conclusion

Religion is the outcome of human weakness.



# The Final Stance

Society must fight against the belief in God to stand on its own feet. A realist must throw faith aside and face all adversaries with courage.

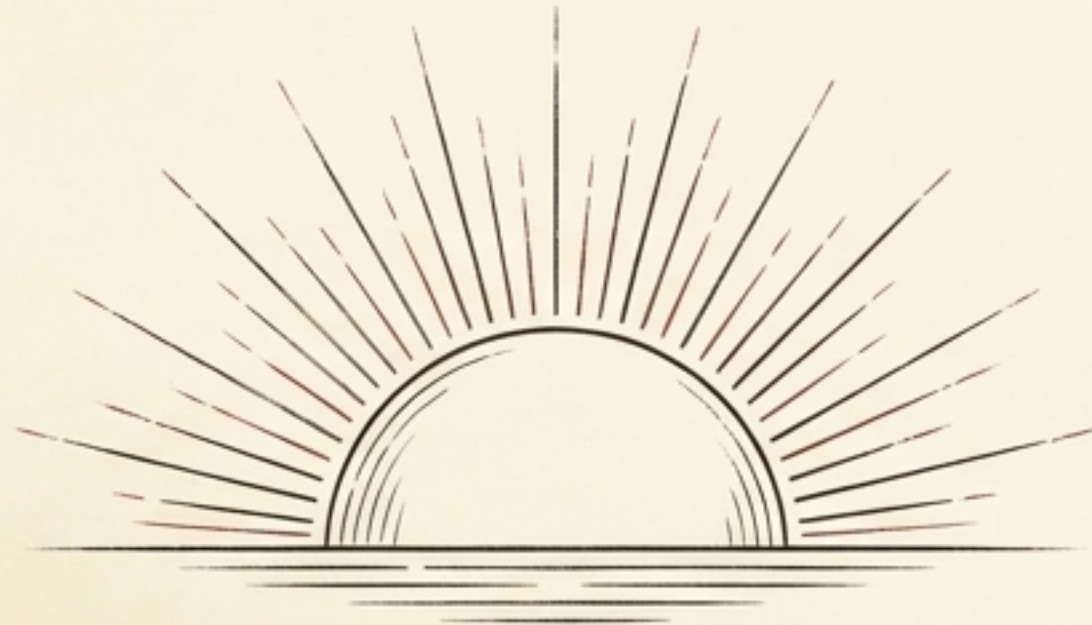
*I am trying to stand like a man with the head high and erect to the last; even on the gallows.*

When told he would pray in his final days, he refused, calling prayer an act of degradation for selfish motives. Reader and friends, is it vanity? If it is, I stand for it.

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