

The wages of Sin

Hector Brimson - April 2001

There was a time, once, when sin was a matter for the churches and the devoutly religious.

It was a sensible arrangement.

In return for our repentance churches offered God's forgiveness and thereafter we inched more hopeful toward the looming judgement of our immortal souls on the last day.

But hell has been flagged away and the joys of heaven seldom get a mention in the trendy move to social justice.

Brimson has nevertheless discovered that in a society of pagans ruled over by the politically correct, sin is nevertheless alive and well.

The market always fills a vacuum and as the churches surrendered their grip on sin it moved to the grasping hands of the politicians.

Strictly speaking though the state cannot pass judgement that you are a sinner.

It can only make you a criminal.

Being a criminal has only short term outcomes.

You can lose your liberty, cash, car, reputation, and livelihood.

Being a sinner in the true sense has longer term effects not given much credence these days like burning in hellfire for all eternity or longer.

So politicians have done what they do best and introduced a tax on sin. There's money in it and the current fashion for the politically correct rulers of the state to judge sections of the population sinners for "inappropriate behaviour" is a growing and profitable trend.

As customers queue up in the bottle stores and dairies to buy their ration of "sin" the government puts it hand out for the "sin" tax.

Never mind that some "sinners" go through life, with never an illness related to booze or cigarettes, they are still to be taxed millions.

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It is said that the poor eat the most expensive rice.

Their sins are no cheaper.

It is supposed to be a comfort that some of the tax on sin went on health spending to set right the damage caused by the sin. That's such of a wet joke you couldn't even get a laugh at a stand up comic convention

Brimson recommends as your poorer customers stand in your shop saying they cannot afford to buy your beds or your biscuits or your excellent services because they have no money, remember that they are but poor penitent sinners who are in need of forgiveness.

On their way to the store they were mugged by the new clerics of economic lunacy where the poor pay tax on their small sins and the politicians prosper on larger more enterprising vices.

Maybe its time sin went back to the churches and the government stopped dredging the last dollars from poor weak-minded citizens who pay for their sins long before the day of judgement.

That if the poor are to sin, and god knows it has over the ages been hard to restrain them indulging in their few small pleasures, it should cost less.

That the greed of the politicians in their paid palaces and subsidised decanters be leavened to allow the downtrodden to retain of their own money, a few more dollars, for food and shelter.

Failing even that small relief from constant pillage there should at least be absolution in the dairies and remission of sins in the bottle stores (on a pro rata basis of course)

Hector Brimson