**Worship**

**Many have built a temple to Folly. She has a habit, though, of betraying her worshippers and turning devotion into disillusionment. *(Joseph Loconte, historian)***

**Wonder is the basis of worship. *(Thomas Carlyle)***

**In ancient times cats were worshipped as gods; they have not forgotten this. (Terry Pratchett, author)**

**Our culture's worship of celebrity: It was F. Scott Fitzgerald's Jazz Age that the modern concept of celebrity was born, said George Packer. But if the worship of gaudy wealth and fame began in The Great Gatsby era, we've taken it to new, "perverse" heights in 21st-century America. Today, celebrity demigods dominate every field: There are celebrity chefs, bankers, computer engineers, chief executives, hip-hop moguls, and reality-TV stars. "This jet-setting, Davos-attending crowd constitutes its own superclass," amassing more and more wealth and power even as the country's middle class loses theirs. Martha Stewart tells the unwashed massed how to decorate and cook, while Michael Bloomberg -- one of America's richest men -- rules over its largest city. To address the misery of the world's poor, we turn to the superheroes Bono, Bill Gates, and Mark Zuckerberg. "Instead of a vibrant literary culture, we have Oprah's book club." As inequality grows, average folk willingly "yield their dreams to the gods," adopting the superrich's "brands" as badges of validity and identity. Even Gatsby would be astonished. (The Week magazine, May 31, 2013)**

**I also began, slowly, to make sense of our gathering together on Sunday morning, recognizing, however dimly, that church is to be participated in and not consumed. The point is not what one gets out of it, but the worship of God; the service takes place both because of and despite the needs, strengths, frailties of the people present. (Kathleen Norris, in Dakota)**

**Ancient Egyptians worshipped, among other things, cabbages. *(Isabell Mattingly, in Tidbits)***

**If God is love, the only way we can worship God is by loving others. *(John Shelby Spong, in Unbelievable)***

**It is possible to worship God while driving along the highway or sitting in a baseball par k. But if we raise the question of statistical probability, the worship of God is scarcely as frequent in those places as in houses built in his honor. There is the story of the father who said, “Come on, we can sing hymns at the beach,” to which the little girl replied, “But we won’t, will we?” (*George Hedley, in The Superstitions of the Irreligious)***

**The fact that human beings all over planet Earth intuitively worship something is proof that God has written this in our hearts. It's part of our spiritual genetics. *(Cary Schmidt, author and pastor)***

**Such unselfish Sabbath acts are worship, too – worship in action. They are patterned on the supreme example. For it was on the Sabbath that Jesus performed many of his most notable acts of compassion. To those who objected, he retorted: “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath.” *(Rev. Billy Graham)***

**Hero worship is strongest where there is least regard for human freedom. *(Herbert Spencer, British philosopher)***

**Wife to husband tracking in mud: "And to think I used to worship the ground you walked on." *(Paris, in The Progressive Farmer)***

**The Aramaic word for Magi is Magoshey. Its root is derived from the Babylonian and Persian word Magno, meaning receptive. It is from this root that our words magnetic and magic are derived conveying the impression of greatness by means of wonders. The Magi, however, were not kings as usually pictured. The Magi were Chaldean astrologers, soothsayers, fortune tellers, and sun worshippers. Being the great astronomers of their day, they studied the stars and planets in connection with their temple worship and as the result of their study, they were able to divide the years into months, weeks, and days. (George Lamsa, in Gospel Light, p. 12)**

**Tradition is tending the flame, it's not worshiping the ashes. *(Gustav Mahler, composer)***

**If you worship money, you'll always feel poor. (Tom Sachs, artist)**

**Worship God as though you see Him. (Muhammad, the Prophet)**

**Power worship blurs political judgment. Whoever is winning at the moment will always seem to be invincible. *(George Orwell)***

**The world’s first hospitals were Greek temples of 350 B.C. Patients weren’t patients, exactly. They were worshippers who hoped the gods would cure them. *(L. M. Boyd)***

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**We have become a generation of people who worship our work, who work at our play, and who play at our worship. *(Charles Swindoll, in Stress Fractures)***

**The word “worship” comes from an old English word meaning “worth”; thus, it indicates the “courtesy or reverence paid to worth.” What is it you value more than anything else in the world? Whatever you value supremely is your god, speaking functionally. *(Fred Cloud, in Dethrone Your Modern Idols)***

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