**NOVEMBER 9, 2008 THESKEPTICARENA.COM**

**[Argument # 24: "There is no such thing as a soul or spirit that lives on after you die. Consciousness is purely neurological and nothing else."](http://www.victorzammit.com/skeptics/winston.html" \l "top)**

**This is the standard materialistic view of life after death. While at this point we can not prove conclusively whether or not there is life after death, there are many compelling categories of evidence for it. A great summary of all these categories can be found at the following website, which lists over 20 categories of evidence by a lawyer named Victor Zammit, with an essay for each category.**

**WINSTON, A LAWYER IS THE LAST PERSON WHO SHOULD HOPE THAT THERE IS LIFE AFTER DEATH. A LAWYER’S WORST NIGHTMARE WOULD BE TO DISCOVER THAT NOW THEY HAVE TO ANSWER FOR EVERYTHING THEY DID IN LIFE.**

**Here are the categories of evidence that it lists:**

**A LAWYER PRESENTS  
THE CASE FOR THE AFTERLIFE**

**The Irrefutable Objective Evidence**

**WINSTON, THIS GUY IS JUST LIKE YOU: HE MAKES A PROCLAMATION THAT HIS BELIEFS ARE OBJECTIVE AND IRREFUTABLE. TALK ABOUT HAVING A “GOD” COMPLEX. YOU CAN’T JUST CLAIM YOUR BELIEFS ARE IRREFUTABLE, YOU HAVE TO PROVE IT. NOW I SEE WHERE SOME OF YOUR ABSOLUTE CERTAINTY COMES FROM WINSTON.**

**Victor Zammit BA (Psych) MA (Hist) LLB. PhD**

**WINSTON, WHEN YOU SEE PEOPLE LIST EVERY CREDENTIAL THEY HAVE EVER EARNED AFTER THEIR NAME, YOU SHOULD RECOGNIZE THAT YOU ARE BEING HIT WITH AN APPEAL TO AUTHORITY. THE REASON THEY LIST EVERYTHING THEY HAVE EVER ACCOMPLISHED IS THAT THEY ARE ATTEMPTING TO “IMPRESS YOU INTO ACCEPTING” WHAT THEY ARE ABOUT TO SAY. IT IS ANOTHER WAY OF SAYING “DON’T YOU DARE DISPUTE WHAT YOU ARE ABOUT TO BE TOLD BY SUCH AN ACCOMPLISHED INDIVIDUAL.”**

**retired Solicitor of the Supreme Court of New South Wales and the High Court of Australia. Psychic researcher and Lecturer in psychic phenomena.**

**Contents  
1. Introduction: essential information  
2. What's wrong with being a closed-minded skeptic?**

**WINSTON, I CAN SEE BY HIS WORDING THAT THIS CLOWN IS MORE THAN A REFERENCE, HE SEEMS MORE LIKE YOUR MENTOR. HE ALSO MAKES THE MISTAKE OF CALLING SKEPTICS CLOSED-MINDED WHICH IS EXACTLY THE OPPOSITE OF WHAT IS TRUE. I’M CONFIDENT THAT ANYONE WHO DISAGREES WITH BOZO HERE IS LABELED AS “CLOSE-MINDED.”**

**3. Respected scientists who investigated.**

**WINSTON, TO BE CLASSIFIED AS A “RESPECTED SCIENTIST” REQUIRES NOTHING MORE THAN TO AGREE WITH HIM.**

**4. Electronic Voice Phenomena (EVP)  
5. Instrumental Transcommunication (ITC)  
6. Recent advances in ITC- under construction  
7. Rebutting the skeptics on EVP and ITC  
8. Einstein's E=mc2 and materialisation  
9. Other psychic laboratory experiments  
10. Scientific observation of mediums  
11. Leonor Piper- a US medium who convinced all skeptics**

**WINSTON, SINCE NO MEDIUM HAS EVER CONVINCED ANY SKEPTIC, MUCH LESS ALL SKEPTICS, THIS CHAPTER SHOULD RAISE YOUR EYEBROWS.**

**12. Two closed minded cheats  
13. Materialisation mediumship  
14. Helen Duncan- a magnificent British medium**

**WINSTON, I KNOW YOU WOULD NEVER ACCEPT ANYTHING THAT DOESN’T FALL INTO YOUR BELIEF SYSTEM, BUT I’LL OFFER IT ANYWAY. GO TO WIKIPEDIA AND READ THE HISTORY OF THE “MAGNIFICENT BRITISH MEDIUM” HELEN DUNCAN. SHE WAS ANYTHING BUT “MAGNIFICENT.” IF THIS IS YOUR HERO’S IDEA OF PROOF, THEN HE IS AN EVEN BIGGER BOZO THAN I THOUGHT. TO THINK THAT THIS GUY WAS PRACTICING LAW IS PRETTY SCARY. THE THOUGHT THAT YOU MAY SOMEDAY DO THE SAME IS JUST AS SCARY.**

**15. Direct voice mediumship  
16. A modern medium who confounds the skeptics**

**WINSTON, THIS WOULD BE THE FANTASY CHAPTER. NO MODERN MEDIUM HAS EVER CONFOUNDED THE SKEPTICS.**

**17. Irrefutable proof- Frederick Myers Cross Correspondences  
18. Proxy sittings refute the allegation of mind reading  
19. Science and the Out of Body Experience  
20. Science and the Near Death Experience  
21. Science and apparitions  
22. Deathbed Visions  
23. Science and the magnificent aura  
24. The ouija board  
25. Xenoglossy  
26. Poltergeists and the failure of the (British) SPR  
27. Reincarnation  
28. Summing up the objective evidence  
29. Communicating with afterlife intelligences  
30. What does happen when we die?  
31. Bibliography for afterlife research  
32. Links to similar sites**

**Part 2  
Theoretical physics backs survival  
By British Physics analyst RON PEARSON- author, lecturer on subatomic particles**

**WINSTON, TRUE BELIEVERS ALWAYS ATTEMPT TO INVOKE SCIENCE TO ADD CREDIBILITY TO THEIR CLAIMS. THAT IS THE SAME SCIENCE THAT BELIEVERS HATE SO FERVENTLY BECAUSE IT NEVER SUPPORTS THEIR BELIEFS. BUT IF THEY THINK THEY CAN TWIST IT AND MAKE IT APPEAR AS THOUGH IT SUPPORTS THEM, THEY WILL QUICKLY USE IT.**

**Part 3  
The Seven Laws of Psychic Energy by Dr Victor Zammit**

**WINSTON, SO NOW THE LAWYER IS MAKING LAWS?**

**[Argument # 25: "Spiritual experiences only exist in your mind, not in external reality."](http://www.victorzammit.com/skeptics/winston.html" \l "top)**

**Since no one knows all that exists in all of reality, including skeptics, no one can say with infallible authority what exists and what doesn't.**

**YET THE BIBLE, WINSTON, TAKES SUCH A POSITION. AND YOU, WINSTON, HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT YOU BELIEVE IN THE BIBLE. CLAIMS MADE BY MIDDLE EASTERN GOAT-HERDERS 2,000 YEARS AGO ARE ALL IT TAKES TO PUT YOU DOWN ON YOUR KNEES IN PRAYER.**

**Even if we take something out of fantasy like unicorns and dragons, for instance, we don't know that those type of creatures don't exist in the trillions of other planets in the universe since we haven't even been to any others beside our own.**

**WINSTON, THAT IS EXACTLY WHY IT IS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO PROVE THAT SOMETHING DOES NOT EXIST. YET, WHEN YOUR BELIEFS ARE CHALLENGED BY SKEPTICS, AND THEY DEMAND THAT YOU PRODUCE PROOF, WHICH OF COURSE YOU NEVER HAVE SINCE ALL OF YOUR BELIEFS ARE UNSUPPORTED BELIEFS, YOU RESORT TO THE TACTIC OF REQUIRING THEM TO PROVE THAT YOUR BELIEFS ARE NOT TRUE. YOU DO THIS FOR 2 REASONS: 1) YOU DON’T HAVE ANY PROOF, AND 2) YOU USE THIS TACTIC BECAUSE YOU KNOW, AS WE ALL DO, THAT YOUR UNSUPPORTED BELIEFS CANNOT BE DISPROVEN. THE MISTAKE YOU MAKE IS TO THEN ASSUME THAT YOU HAVE THEREFORE PROVEN YOUR BELIEFS. ALL YOU HAVE DONE IS TO ATTEMPT TO DISTRACT YOUR OPPONENTS. THAT DISTRACTION TECHNIQUE WORKS LIKE A CHARM WITH OTHER IRRATIONALS. BUT IT FAILS MISERABLY WITH TRAINED SKEPTICS. THAT IS WHY YOU HATE THEM SO MUCH: YOU CANNOT GET THEM TO ACCEPT YOUR BELIEFS AS YOU CAN WITH IRRATIONALS.**

**Furthermore, string theory in physics suggest that there may be many dimensions, which if true may suggest other planes or levels of reality that we don't understand yet.**

**WINSTON, UNTIL WE KNOW ANYTHING FOR CERTAIN ABOUT STRING THEORY, YOU ARE JUST WASTING OUR TIME WITH NONSENSE. EVEN PHYSICISTS BARELY UNDERSTAND THE THEORY. LIKE ALL IRRATIONALS, YOU LATCH ON TO SCIENTIFIC IDEAS THAT YOU HAVE NO CONCEPT OF, THINKING THAT SOMEHOW THEY MIGHT HELP YOU HOLD ON TO YOUR FANTASIES.**

**A PERFECT EXAMPLE IS THE MISUSE OF THE CONCEPT IN QUANTUM PHYSICS REGARDING “WAVE / PARTICLE” DUALITY. IRRATIONALS, WHO HAVEN’T GOT A CLUE WHAT THEY ARE TALKING ABOUT, THINK THEY SEE AN OPPORTUNITY TO USE SCIENCE TO SUPPORT THEIR FANTASIES. THEY CLAIM THAT THE DUALITY PROVES THAT “ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE.” THEREFORE, THEY FEEL FREE TO RETAIN THEIR FANTASIES.**

**PHYSICIST VICTOR STENGER EXPLAINS THE CONCEPT IN LAYMAN’S TERMS AND SHOWS THAT NO “MAGICAL” EXPLANATIONS ARE NECESSARY. TO READ THE ARTICLE, JUST GO TO MY WEBSITE AT “THESKEPTICARENA.COM” AND CLICK ON THE LINK FOR QUANTUM PHYSICS.**

**These other levels of reality could contain creatures or beings that we can't even imagine, even unicorns and dragons.**

**BUT WINSTON, YOUR MISSING THE POINT. UNICORNS AND DRAGONS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN PROPOSED AS EXISTING IN OUR DIMENSION. IT IS IRRELEVANT WHAT EXISTS IN OTHER DIMENSIONS.**

**PEOPLE LIKE YOU, WINSTON, WANT TO REMAIN LITTLE CHILDREN YOUR WHOLE LIVES AND HOLD ONTO YOUR SANTA CLAUS FANTASIES, AND YOU DO SO BY ATTEMPTING TO MANIPULATE SCIENCE SO THAT IT WILL APPEAR YOU HAVE SOME KIND OF CREDIBILITY. IT SEEMS OBVIOUS THAT YOU NEVER WILL FACE THE REAL WORLD; YOU NEVER WILL BE CAPABLE OF COMING TO GRIPS WITH YOUR OWN MORTALITY; AND YOU WILL REMAIN LIKE THIS FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE.**

**I DO NOT WRITE THESE REPLIES TO YOUR FANTASIES OUT OF ANY DELUSION THAT THEY MAY HELP YOU OR OTHER TRUE BELIEVERS LIKE YOU. I WRITE THESE REPLIES FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT BEYOND HELP; PEOPLE WHO TRULY WANT TO LEARN HOW TO USE THEIR REASONING MINDS; PEOPLE WHO WANT THE TRUTH - NOT CONFIRMATION OF THEIR BELIEFS.**

**THESE PEOPLE WINSTON, AS FAR AS YOU ARE CONCERNED, MIGHT AS WELL BE A SEPARATE SPECIES.**

**Even arch skeptic James Randi**

**WINSTON, THERE YOU GO AGAIN WITH THE PERSONAL ATTACKS. I’VE POINTED THIS OUT TO YOU BEFORE - YOU ONLY USE THE ADJECTIVE “ARCH” WHEN REFERRING TO AN SOMEONE YOU WISH TO INSULT.**

**has said that to say that something doesn’t exist is an extraordinary claim. When Eldon Byrd, the Naval Scientist who tested Psychic Uri Geller’s effects on Nitinol, saw this argument in my article, he wittily remarked, "The lack of spiritual experiences only exists in the Skeptic’s mind, not in external reality."**

**WINSTON, MR. BYRD SEEMS WITTY TO YOU. BUT IF HE FELL FOR THAT CON GELLER, THE JOKE MAY BE ON HIM.**

**BY THE WAY, I USED THE WORD “CON” MEANING CON-ARTIST. BUT AFTER THE FRAUDS PERPETRATED BY THIS MAN, HE SHOULD LITERALLY BE “A CON.”**

[**Argument # 30: "Atheists don’t hold the belief that God doesn’t exist. An Atheist is one who is without a belief in God, or lacks a belief in him. Therefore the burden of proof for God is on the theist, not the atheist."**](http://www.victorzammit.com/skeptics/winston.html#top)

**WINSTON, THAT IS EXACTLY RIGHT.**

**Atheists like to remind others of this argument because they feel that people have a misconception about their position. They emphasize that their position is not that they believe that "God doesn’t exist", only that they don’t believe in God. Using semantics, they point out that the definition of Atheism is to be without belief in God because the "A" in "A - theism" means "without" and "theism" means "belief in God". However, this makes little difference either way because their core philosophy toward God is still the same.**

**BEAUTIFUL WINSTON. YOU JUST GAVE A PERFECT DEMONSTRATION OF WHAT THE IRRATIONAL MIND DOES WHEN THE DICTIONARY SIDES AGAINST THEM. THEY SIMPLY REDEFINE THE WORD TO MAKE IT MEAN WHAT THEY NEED IT TO MEAN. SINCE THE DICTIONARY BACKED UP THE ATHEIST POSITION, YOU MUST ATTACK IT FROM A DIFFERENT ANGLE. IF THE DICTIONARY HAD SIDED WITH YOU, YOU WOULD BE ALL OVER THEM. SINCE IT DIDN’T, YOU ARE FORCED TO TAKE THE POSITION THAT IT “MAKES LITTLE DIFFERENCE” AND THEN YOU CONCOCT A STORY ABOUT A “CORE PHILOSOPHY.”**

**THIS HIGHLIGHTS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN RATIONAL PEOPLE AND IRRATIONAL THINKERS LIKE WINSTON. RATIONAL PEOPLE MUST FOLLOW THE RULES OF LOGIC AND LANGUAGE. IRRATIONAL PEOPLE CANNOT FOLLOW THOSE RULES BECAUSE WHEN THEY DO SO - THEY LOSE. RATHER THAN ADMIT THEY ARE WRONG, THEY GO INTO THE OLD IRRATIONAL SONG-AND-DANCE TO EXPLAIN AWAY WHY THE RULES DON’T APPLY IN THIS PARTICULAR CASE.**

**The reason why they emphasize this strongly, I believe, is to put themselves in a less attackable position.**

**WINSTON, NOW WE SEE WHY YOU ARE “RE-DEFINING” WORDS: YOU NEED A POSITION THAT YOU CAN ATTACK. THAT IS CALLED THE “STRAW MAN” LOGICAL FALLACY WHEN YOU CREATE A WEAKER ARGUMENT TO REPLACE A STRONG ONE. THE GOAL IS TO CONVINCE EVERYONE THAT THE STRAW MAN IS ACTUALLY THE REAL ARGUMENT. WHEN YOU KNOCK DOWN THE STRAW MAN THEN YOU CLAIM VICTORY OVER THE ORIGINAL ARGUMENT. THIS TECHNIQUE WORKS GREAT ON OTHER IRRATIONALS. SKEPTICS ARE TRAINED TO SPOT IT AND WON’T ALLOW BELIEVERS TO GET AWAY WITH IT.**

**WINSTON, THE STRAW MAN LOGICAL FALLACY IS ONE OF YOUR MOST COMMONLY-USED TECHNIQUES, SECOND ONLY TO “THROWING IT BACK” IN WHICH YOU TAKE THE SKEPTICAL ARGUMENT, TURN IT AROUND BACKWARDS AND THROW IT BACK, CLAIMING THAT THEY ARE GUILTY OF THE EXACT THING THAT YOU ARE, IN FACT, GUILTY OF.**

**This way they can demand the burden of proof on the theist, who believes in God, while claiming that since they don’t "believe" in God, they don’t have to defend that belief.**

**WRONG WINSTON. THE BURDEN OF PROOF IS ALWAYS ON THE CLAIMANT. WHEN SOMEONE DEMANDS PROOF OF A CLAIM, ONE OF TWO THINGS WILL HAPPEN: 1) PROOF WILL BE OFFERED AND EVALUATED, OR 2) LACKING PROOF, THE CLAIMANT WILL RESORT TO A LOGICAL FALLACY OR DISTRACTION TECHNIQUE. ONE OF THE MOST COMMON LOGICAL FALLACIES IS TO “SWITCH THE BURDEN OF PROOF.” IN THIS FALLACY, THE CLAIMANT, UNABLE TO PRODUCE EVIDENCE, TAKES THE POSITION THAT BY DARING TO ASK FOR PROOF, YOU HAVE NOW MADE A CLAIM! IF YOU ALLOW PEOPLE TO TRICK YOU LIKE THIS - YOU DESERVE WHAT YOU GET. THROUGH TRAINING IN CRITICAL THINKING, YOU CAN LEARN TO SPOT PLOYS LIKE THESE AND DEFEAT THEM. NEVER LET THE IRRATIONAL TRICK YOU INTO DEFENDING A CLAIM YOU NEVER MADE. ASKING FOR PROOF IS YOUR RIGHT. ONLY PEOPLE WHO CANNOT PROVE THEIR CLAIMS WILL TRY TO DECEIVE YOU INTO THINKING THAT BY ASKING FOR PROOF, YOU ARE NOW THE ONE MAKING THE CLAIM.**

**PEOPLE LIKE WINSTON (IRRATIONALS) LIVE BY THESE TECHNIQUES. THEY HAVE TO; THEY HAVE NO CHOICE BECAUSE THEIR ONLY OTHER OPTION IS TO ADMIT DEFEAT AND ACTUALLY LEARN SOMETHING NEW - AND THAT THEY WILL NEVER DO. TO IRRATIONALS IT IS ALL A GAME. TO RATIONALS IT IS ABOUT LEARNING TRUTH.**

**It’s a political semantic ploy, I think. This is why most Atheists prefer the term "I don't believe in God" to "God doesn't exist".**

**NO WINSTON. AS PREVIOUSLY STATED, IT IS NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE TO PROVE THAT SOMETHING DOES NOT EXIST, THEREFORE ATHEISTS DON’T USE THE PHRASE “GOD DOESN’T EXIST” THEY USE THE MORE ACCURATE PHRASE “I DON’T BELIEVE IN GOD.”**

**You see, they can’t really prove that God doesn’t exist because you can’t prove a negative.**

**ACTUALLY WINSTON, YOU CAN PROVE A NEGATIVE: IF I WANT TO PROVE YOU ARE NOT IN THE ROOM (A NEGATIVE) THEN ALL I HAVE TO DO IS PROVE THAT YOU ARE SOMEWHERE ELSE.**

**TO BE MORE ACCURATE, YOU SHOULD HAVE SAID, IT IS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO PROVE THAT SOMETHING DOES NOT EXIST.**

**Regardless of either definition, the Atheist obviously believes deep down that there isn't a God or deity anywhere anyway, which is prevalent in their attempts to debunk and refute every single argument for the existence of God.**

**WINSTON, REMOVE THE WORD “ATTEMPTS.” THEY HAVE DEBUNKED AND REFUTED EVERY SINGLE ARGUMENT FOR THE EXISTENCE OF GOD.**

**THERE IS NO EVIDENCE FOR THE EXISTENCE OF GOD. THE ONLY THING CHRISTIANS HAVE LEFT IS TO THROW A BIBLE AT YOU, CLAIM IT IS MAGIC, AND THEN THREATEN YOU WITH INDESCRIBABLE HORRORS IF YOU DON’T AGREE TO BELIEVE IN IT.**

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

**THE SCIENCE SEGMENT**

**MORE PHYSICS FACTS:**

**relativity 1905 special - inertial frames**

**1916 general - accelerating frames & gravitational fields**

**Soliton A wave (of any type: water, air, etc.) that holds its shape**

**due to the canceling effects of compression and dispersion.**

**The wave is similar to a 'bubble'.**

**Sound travels farther in water than it does in air.**

**String Theory all matter are manifestations of the different vibrations of incredibly tiny ' energy strings'.**

**The Universe had 10 dimensions, 9 spatial and 1 of time,**

**of which only 3 spatial and the time dimension expanded with the Big Bang**

**Time Atomic clocks use vibrations of quartz crystals to measure time. They are one-millionth of a second off per year.**

**Microwave oscillation within an artificial sapphire crystal is 100,000 times more accurate.**

**1) Atomic clock: phone 303-499-7111.**

**2) Caesium clock: phone 900-410-TIME.**

**(both accurate to .03 sec)**

**1 sec = caesium 133 atom.**

**Sunburn You can't burn through a window pane because**

**ultraviolet radiation has the same oscillating frequency as window glass and the energy is therefore absorbed by the pane.**

**Uranium 1 ounce = 600 tons of TNT.**

**X-Ray diffraction exposes the atomic arrangement of crystals in molecules.**

**gravity Fg = Gm1m2 / R2**

**radioactivity atoms seek stability by discarding excess nucleus neutrons in the form of alpha and beta particles.**

**alpha = 2 protons and 2 neutrons**

**beta = neutron becomes a proton and emits an electron.**

**universe 74% dark energy**

**22% dark matter**

**4% visible matter & energy**

**size = 46 billion light years**

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

**THE ARENA GOES ABROAD**

**At the Toronto International Film Festival this September, the debut of Cyrus Nowrasteh's film "The Stoning of Soraya M.", based on a true story, confronted the audience with all the gruesome and horrifying details of a barbarian ritual that is still being executed in today’s Iran.**

**Oficially there is no stoning in Iran after the head of judiciary, Ayatollah Mohmoud Hashemi-Shahroudi, ordered under pressure of international protest a moratorium on stoning in 2002. But still there have been several people stoned to death since then. In July 2007, the case of Jafar Kiani, stoned to death in Qazvin (north east Iran), caused an international outcry. In May 2006, Abbas H and Mahbubeh A were stoned to death in Mashhad (north east Iran). In 2007, the Islamic Supreme Court of Iran upheld several death sentences by stoning. In January 2008, Amnesty International called for Iran to abolish the stoning execution. At that time at least nine people, sentenced to death by stoning, were waiting for their execution. Strong protest from Iran and abroad during the next months pressed for the sentences to be commuted - but it is not yet clear if the victims are really saved. Meantime the National Council of Resistance of Iran and human rights organisations report about the cases of Gilan Mohammadi, a 30-year-old woman, and the Afghan national Gholamali Eskandari, both sentenced to death by stoning and awaiting their sentences to be carried out in Isfahan prison central Iran.**

**"The stoning of Soraya M" happened some twenty years ago and was described in 1990 by the French-Iranian journalist Freidoune Sahejan in his book with the same title. It is the story of a young woman, mother of nine children, who is wrongly accused of adultery by her husband Ali, because he wants to get rid of her to marry a very young girl offered to him. Suddenly the innocent and helpless Soraya is an outcast, stripped of basic human rights, marked like a sacrificial animal to become the object of a gory and blood thirsty ritual that unites the conspiring male communify of the village in destruction of the evil that she now seems to represent. The film rolls slowly from detail to detail: stones are collected - not too big, as they should not kill fast, her body is ritually washed, wrapped in a white shroud and carried on a stretcher to the stoning ground, her hands tied behind her back. There she is buried up to the armpits - and the marcabre ritual unfolds. Her two sons are forced to abjure her and join the stone throwers.**

**The film is made by people who have personal experience with the fear of fundamentalism in power. Director Cyrus Nowrasteh is an Iranian-American whose family had to flee Iran after the revolution. When lead acress Shohreh Aghdashloo, another Iranian-American, once spoke to a reporter in the USA about torture victims in Iran, Iranian police arrested her brother at home and kept him in prison for one year.**

**Links: Report of the NCRI: http://ncr-iran.org/content/view/5599/1/**

**AI's statement: http://www.voanews.com/english/archive/2008-01/2008-01-15-voa48.cfm?CFID=44707033&CFTOKEN=46282609**

**Stop Stoning Forever campaign in Iran: http://www.stop-stoning.org/node/25**

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

**FAMOUS QUOTES**

**Edward Gibbon (April 27, 1737 – January 16, 1794) 56 years.**

**He was an English historian and Member of Parliament. His most important work, The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire, was published in six volumes between 1776 and 1788. The History is known principally for the quality and irony of its prose, its use of primary sources, and its open denigration of organized religion, though the extent of this is disputed by some critics.**

**HIS QUOTES:**

**"In the revolution of ten centuries,**

**not a single discovery was made**

**to exalt the dignity or promote the happiness of mankind.**

**Not a single idea had been added to the speculative systems of antiquity,**

**and a succession of patient disciples became in their turn**

**the dogmatic teachers of the next servile generation."**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**"The various forms of worship, which prevailed in the Roman world,**

**were all considered by the people to be equally true,**

**by the philosopher as equally false,**

**and by the magistrate as equally useful."**