

Exorcism and Demonic Possession

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Midnight Facts for Insomniacs

Podcast Transcript

**(Note: transcript consists
of episode outline)**

The concept of demonic possession is as old as recorded history. Babylonian priests in ancient Mesopotamia would perform exorcisms by tossing wax figurines of demons into a fire.

But obviously the modern western concept of demonic possession and exorcism is rooted in Christianity. The

Christian version of possession is characterized by raving and speaking in tongues, displaying superhuman strength, spouting profanity and tossing out obscene hand gestures and exhibiting "blasphemous rage." So, Flakka. Or any American dive bar on a Friday night. Or, College.

So what does the Bible say about demonic possession? I'm always curious about what the actual text says because I've never read the entire the Bible, I'm not much of a Bible reader, I'm more of a Bible peruser, but what I do know is that many of the elements we associate with religious mythology aren't explicitly stated in the text, they're either in related volumes like the book of Enoch, or have been fully created whole cloth through fanfiction and a multi-generational game of

religious telephone. There will be one line of the Bible that mentions a morning star and a few centuries later half of us believe in a guy with horns and cloven feet. But in this case, well, demonic possession is all over the Bible. It's pretty explicit. Like it's not on every fifth page or something, but there's no denying that it's a major part of the New Testament in particular.

Here are some of the biblical passages: [Matthew 9:32-33](#); [12:22](#); [17:18](#); [Mark 5:1-20](#); [7:26-30](#); [Luke 4:33-36](#); [Luke 22:3](#); [Acts 16:16-18](#)

Many of these passages involve Jesus casting out demons, but there's a lot of crossover between casting out demons and healing the sick. Some of these people, it's hard to tell the difference. Matthew 12:22. "Then was brought unto him one possessed with a devil, blind, and dumb: and he

healed him, insomuch that the blind and dumb both spake and saw." So the devil isn't always inspiring mischief, sometimes he's just inhabiting your body and breaking shit. Just making your life miserable. I'm not sure where he finds the fun in that, he just likes to watch people stumble around silently, blind and mute, but hey, we don't kink shame. We always say that, but I feel like if we're going to kink shame anyone, it should be the devil. Probably the most famous instances of demonic possession in the Bible involved Judas, and also the man possessed by a demon in Mark 5.

First, Judas. There seem to be conflicting accounts here, because The Gospel of Mark indicates that Judas was bribed to betray Jesus, it doesn't mention anything about satanic possession. And it was generally believed to have been

written before the Gospels of Luke and John. So in all likelihood the later Gospels retconned the story to indicate that Judas was possessed by Satan, which conveniently lets Jesus off the hook for having bad judgment and choosing a morally compromised future-traitor as a disciple. In the famous "one of you will betray me" moment, John 13:21–27, Jesus tells the gathered disciples at the last supper that he will be betrayed by the man to whom he hands a piece of soup-soaked bread. Soggy bread, universal indicator of treachery. And then takes the bread and he hands it directly to Judas. Very awkward. everyone was like, "oh snap." "As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him." Vaguely homoerotic. Nothing wrong with it. We don't kink shame. You wanna be sodomized by Satan while eating soggy

bread that's your prerogative. Speaking of which, There doesn't seem to be much of a distinction between satanic possession and basic demonic possession, which is a shame, because I would definitely want to know if I was possessed by Satan himself or just some middle-management underling. But the Bible doesn't list any telltale signs. "Top five ways to tell if your internal demon is Lucifer or just some cut-rate sixth-circle wannabe." So that's Judas, and then there's the guy from Mark five. One of the most chilling moments in the new testament and it has been immortalized in comic books and pop culture. "This man lived in the tombs, and no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain. For he had often been chained hand and foot, but he tore the chains apart and broke the irons on his feet. No one

was strong enough to subdue him. Night and day among the tombs and in the hills he would cry out and cut himself with stones.

When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees in front of him. He shouted at the top of his voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? In God's name don't torture me!" For Jesus had said to him, "Come out of this man, you impure spirit!" Then Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" "My name is Legion," he replied, "for we are many."

There's a lot of speculation in Christian circles as to how many demons were possessing this man but it's worth noting that a Roman legion from the era was approximately 5,000 soldiers, so. A few.

So exorcism and demonic possession are not fringe

concepts in Christianity. This is canon. And these concepts are alive and well today. More so than I would have ever suspected. when I think of exorcism and demonic possession, my mind goes to one of two different historical eras: I either think of medieval priests flinging holy water at raving peasants, or I think of the film the exorcist and the 1970s fascination with demonic possession that was sparked by the movie and contributed to the satanic panic of the 80s. What I definitely don't think of is the internet, or 2018, or 2020, or today, but the truth is that exorcisms are happening all the time, they have never gone out of fashion, and as a result of the internet may in fact be more mainstream and popular than ever.

Now of course this is partly because there are more

people than there have ever been. One hundred years ago there were fewer people, so there were fewer people for demons to possess. Or at least there were fewer people who could claim to be possessed by demons. But this increase in demonic possession isn't just about sheer volume of humans, it's also based on percentages. There are more people to believe in demons but also a larger proportion of people believe, which is the alarming part. Though not entirely surprising in the era of QAnon.

According to recent Gallup polls, around 50% of Americans believe in the idea of demonic possession. Even more believe in—at the very least—a literal interpretation of Satan. Not Satan as a concept or metaphor, but the fallen angel Lucifer, star of episode

number 46 of this show, who also made a cameo as a wall-eyed, chicken-footed diaper-wearing roof raiser in the unintentionally comical devil's Bible in our "ancient texts" episode, number 36, this is the terrifying behorned, goat-footed entity that more than half of America will tell you with a straight face is a real thing.

So why is belief in Satan and demonic possession growing? Well, there's a lot of awfulness in the world, and the Internet has made that awfulness much more accessible. There was a time when the stream of information humans received was limited and narrow. You learned about only the most sensational cases, you read about them in the newspaper or saw them on the evening news. Even if you were fascinated with darkness and murder and the occult, you had

limited options for rabbit-holing. It was tough to be a true crime enthusiast in the era before podcasts. You could go to the library and check out a book about a serial killer, maybe even a book about multiple serial killers —really treat yourself—but you couldn't doomscore the Internet, you couldn't watch YouTube video after YouTube video or Netflix movie after Netflix movie or binge on podcast after podcast about horrible people being horrible. But now we swim in a sea of information, and because human minds tend to obsess over darker elements, there are plenty of demented rabbit holes to explore. And when you're inundated with all of this negativity, it's really hard to have any optimism or faith in humanity. The only way to maintain some level of faith in the human race is to believe that the evilness in

the world isn't intrinsic to humanity, it's the result of an outside force. We're not evil, we're just *vulnerable* to evil. This makes the idea of demonic possession super appealing. And meanwhile there are the enablers, there are religious influencers, mega churches and preachers and social media stars who fuel the fire of this demon-paranoia. Social media stars, like, for instance, the pope. He's on Twitter.

The pope has been tweeting since 2012, when he blessed the Twitterverse with his first ever message. "Dear friends, I am pleased to get in touch with you through Twitter. Thank you for your generous response. I bless all of you from my heart."

That's nice. I mean, no one had actually responded yet, so thanking people for their responses was a little presumptuous, but I guess he figured you know, people

were going to be nice because, hey, pope. Which only shows how naive and not tech-savvy he is. I would not want to read the responses to the pope's tweets, no one is immune from trolls. There's no holy water strong enough—it may repel Satan, but not teenage incels. The pope is like "may the lord bring us peace on earth" and there are just pages of replies like "fuck off, boomer." Also I'm a bit disappointed that the pope's first message wasn't "its-a-me, the pope."

Seriously though, I don't like that the pope is tweeting. I don't like it. The holiest man on earth, the man who millions of Catholics rely on for their spiritual guidance is tappity-tapping 280-character quips about Satan. Not ok. You're the leader of the catholic world, the largest sect of Christianity, you supposedly have these

lofty intentions and you're making grand pronouncements about the Devil sandwiched between cat videos and fart jokes. It just undermines credibility. I can't reconcile spirituality and the internet. "Smash that like button and Be sure to add the Dalai lama on Snapchat."

The pope has this reputation as being a reformer or kind of woke as popes go, but this guy one hundred percent believes in Satan as a real, tangible threat "We should not think of the devil as a myth, a representation, a symbol, a figure of speech or an idea," but rather as a "personal being who assails us." Also gravity isn't real, up is down, dogs are better than cats. religious logic is fun! Woke Pope!

So all of this is to say that exorcism and demonic possession are not just antiquated concepts. In

2018, the official Exorcist of Indiana received more than 1700 requests for exorcisms. Oh and by the way, there's an official Exorcist for the state of Indiana.

I'm speaking of course of Father Vincent Lampert, the [official exorcist](#) for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, who says "The problem isn't that the devil has upped his game, but more people are willing to play it." He pointed to rampant pornography, illegal drugs use and the occult. "Where there is demonic activity, there is always an entry point," he said. I knew it. Masturbating does not grow hair on your palms, that's a myth...it does doom you to satanic torment.

These entry points are known as doorways. Entry points for the devil. These can be moral weaknesses, which leads to some victim blaming: the devil entered

you because you are weak and sinful. Drug addiction or sexual depravity. Which leads to a chicken and egg conundrum. Are you sexually depraved because there's a demon inhabiting your body, or did the demon possess you because you're sexually depraved? The classic egg-chicken sex-demon conundrum. but these doorways can also be psychological vulnerabilities.

From an Atlantic article:

"Nearly every Catholic exorcist I spoke with cited a history of abuse—in particular, sexual abuse—as a major doorway for demons." another priest noted that, "as many as 80 percent of the people who come to him seeking an exorcism are sexual-abuse survivors. According to these priests, sexual abuse is so traumatic that it creates a kind of "soul wound"...that makes a

person more vulnerable to demons."

And of course, if you happen to be a skeptic, there's a pretty obvious psychological explanation for these so-called demonic possessions. Sexual exploitation usually involves a malevolent entity taking advantage of a vulnerable victim, there's a sense of being overpowered, of being invaded by an evil force. So-called demonic possession in some of these cases could be a mental manifestation of a previous real life experience, and it probably feels very cathartic to metaphorically cast out the demon that violated you.

However, "true" demonic possession, as opposed to other forms of demonic meddling, is still apparently very rare. In 2017 our official Indianapolis exorcist Father Lampert traveled to Rome to

meet with the international Association of exorcists, a support group for exorcists that meets every other year. I feel like 90% that conference is just trying to out-creep each other. Just exorcist one-upmanship. "A 12-year-old banging a crucifix, ooh. See this scar? kindergartner with flaming eyeballs spitting razor blades out his anus."

According to father Lambert, all of the attendees agreed that requests for exorcism were on the rise, but slid agreed that most of those requests don't turn out to be actual instances of demonic possession, but rather either infestations, vexations, or obsessions. So I guess all of them DO somehow involve demons, none of them are just crazy people, ok. So let's talk about the ways you can be bedeviled by devils. These terms vary based on the Christian denomination but we'll cover a variety. An

infestation occurs when a demon is causing a ruckus, making loud noises, banging things, moving stuff around. It's like an infestation of rodents, except evil. It's similar to the idea of "Spectra" in the Protestant faith, basically a haunting. Vexation ups the ante to physical attacks; if the demon graduates from making noises to physical assault, that's vexation. I would definitely find being assaulted by a demon to be vexing. Obsession is a mental attack, persistent thoughts, evil urges. So... Mental illness. Or, you know, the devil. Sure. Oppression is more demonic torment, just a demon being a dick. Causing health problems, financial problems, misfortunes...bad luck, but when you're looking for something to blame. Subjection is when a person voluntarily submits to Satan. Satan's bitch. Like a familiar.

Or a pet, with a really shitty owner. Possession is the full Monty. According to father Lampert,

"In possessions, I have seen eyes rolled back in the head, throwing out obscenities, bodily contortions, foul odors, temperatures drop in the room, and I've witnessed someone levitating."

I have also witnessed those things, because I too have watched the exorcist. I watched it for this episode. And what Lampert is describing is the textbook Hollywood pop-culture version of an exorcism. For some reason, he apparently didn't bother recording any of the instances he witnessed, but whatever. I had never seen the movie. I liked it. I get the hype. A little girl stabbing herself in the vagina with a crucifix and then rubbing her mother's face in her bloody crotch... yeah, it's compelling. It

shocked me a little bit, even me, a jaded guy with a true-crime obsessed fiancé in 2021—and I'm no lightweight, I've seen a Serbian film—but there's something just starkly, unflinchingly matter-of-fact and harsh about that movie. There are no soft edges or pulled punches, it's sometimes unintentionally funny but also just completely sincere from beginning to end. So let's take a quick side trip down this Hollywood rabbit hole to talk about the effect of this film on the American psyche, and then we'll return to the meat of the episode. The exorcist stars Linda Blair as the creepiest damn 12-year-old girl you've ever seen, a child possessed by a vulgar demon with pretty extreme indigestion. The 1973 movie was based on a popular 1971 book by Peter Blatty, and the shock factor mostly comes from the age of the possession victim...a 12-year

old chanting "fuck me" and humping a crucifix while spewing green puke is pretty much the ultimate affront to puritanical American values. The film was a smash hit—as I like to say it went 1970s viral—and there were reports of the film causing fainting spells, heart attacks and miscarriages among the scandalized viewers. The film was rated R, which meant that children could be admitted with an adult, and many were, to the glee of child psychiatrists worldwide, who would no doubt benefit financially, though probably not as much as the film itself. The Exorcist was the highest grossing R-rated horror movie for decades until it was finally dethroned by "it" in 2017. The film won two Academy Awards, for best sound and best screenplay based on material from another medium. I love those highly specific awards. "Best

98-minute film released in June featuring more than one priest." A reboot is scheduled to be released this year, so look forward to that.

The author, Peter Blatty, is a true believer, and would later release a supposedly nonfiction novel cataloging his experiences with the supernatural. In fact, the exorcist was intended to be nonfiction, Blatty had been in contact with a Jesuit priest who had performed an exorcism in prince George's county, Maryland. Blatty had read a newspaper story about it in 1949. The "real" story involved a 14-year-old boy typically identified as Roland Doe or Robbie Mannheim who was the son of a government worker and enjoyed playing with a Ouija board. After he tried to contact his deceased aunt, paintings in the house began shaking, a Bible levitated from a

bookcase, a stuffed chair flipped over, dumping the boy on the ground, a rocking chair began spinning, the boy began screaming obscenities in his sleep. The kid was later hospitalized for self harm, and later, messages in blood appeared on his skin. Eventually two priests mounted a successful exorcism, which in many ways mirrors the one depicted in the exorcist. For instance, the kid apparently broke the nose of one of the priests with a devil-strength punch. That's my favorite part of the movie, a 12 year old girl just clocking everyone in sight. She decks her mom, she decks the priests, she's mike Tysoning fools left and right. It's glorious. So one of the priests initially agreed to tell Blatty the story before the church clamped down and supposedly refused to allow the priest to cooperate. For what it's worth, pretty much

everything in that original article has been disputed by historians. Author Thomas B Allen who wrote the book *possessed: the true story of an exorcism*, said, "the consensus of today's experts is that Robbie was just a deeply disturbed boy "nothing supernatural about him." another author describes him as a "spoiled, disturbed bully who threw deliberate tantrums to get attention or to get out of school." Historians have noted that the marks found on the boys body could have easily been self harm, and none of the priests ever checked the boys fingernails to see if he had made the marks himself. And also, pretty much all the other details were wrong, including the location of the exorcism, location of the boys house, the specifics about the lives of the priests, etc. You know, just a few details. Anyway. Since no

one would agree to talk about this absolutely 100% true exorcism, Blatty decided to write the novel as fiction instead, swapping the 14-year-old boy for a 12-year-old girl and changing the location to Georgetown University in Washington DC. And to this day Blatty claims that the book was not intended to be a titillating horror movie, but instead "it's an argument for God. I intended it to be an apostolic work, to help people in their faith. Because I thoroughly believed in the authenticity and validity of that particular event." and like I said, he's a true believer. "I've read some of the most ridiculous theories, even by critics that I respect, about how the novel symbolizes teenage rebellion and all sorts of sociological nonsense. There's no hidden message. This is not a horror story. This is real. Something really

happened here in Washington DC, with ordinary life buzzing all around."

He's a real, hardcore Christian who sued his Alma Motter, Georgetown University, for not being Catholic enough (violating their charter by not assigning enough religious texts and hiring agnostics) while simultaneously marrying a cheerleader 25 years younger than him. Just throwing that out there.

The cultural impact of the exorcist is harder to quantify, but a movie that exploded into pop-culture like an atom bomb filled with green vomit is bound to have made a lasting impact. First, there has been a ton of speculation that the film and production itself was cursed. The set caught fire at one point, a bunch of people involved with production died before the film was released (most of them were

old), many of the actors were injured during filming, and a man named Paul Bateson who played a radiology technician in the film but in real life was a radiology technician, ended up stabbing a reporter to death a few years later. So basically par for the course for a sleazy low-budget film. But beyond the production itself the movie provided visually shocking images that the public would come to inextricably associate with possession and exorcism. It took an archaic, hazy concept and transformed it into something real and vibrant and terrifying. The world now had a template for demonic possession, it was embedded in the zeitgeist. The movie itself inspired a wave of reports of demonic possession. from an archived New York Times article from 1974: "the Reverend Richard Woods... said: I received dozens of

calls from people who are horribly frightened or so confused they were going to lose their grip on reality. I also know of two kids who came out of the movie thinking that they were possessed and they have now been hospitalized... father Woods said that a high percentage of his calls came from persons who were raised as Catholics but no longer practiced their religion. "It stirs up memories of all those descriptions of hell that you got from nuns," he said.

Personally, I think what makes the exorcist really work for me is that the protagonist is as skeptical as I am. The main character doesn't believe in possession, even after the child regan upchucks pea soup directly into his mouth and yells at him in Latin, he's like, meh, kids are weird. He spends a good chunk of the

movie trying to prove that there's no demon in this monstrous little levitating, maniacal pint-sized psychopath. He eventually even tells her mom that if there were a demon inside regan, which there isn't, exorcisms aren't really a thing. He says exorcisms haven't been performed since the 16th century. He's wrong, as we've discussed. I guarantee there was an exorcism last week in some bumfuck town. But what he's right about is that you can't just claim someone is possessed—or that *you're* possessed—and order up an exorcism like a spiritual pizza. There's a process. Because the church isn't stupid, or at least not anymore, they've presumably sent a lot of exorcists to the bedsides of weirdos who were like "I'm possessed by Satan and also John Travolta and I AM SPARTACUS. The church is

like, fool me once.

So in catholic tradition there's a process known as discernment to separate the frauds from the afflicted. "In a crucial step, the person requesting an exorcism must undergo a psychiatric evaluation with a mental-health professional. The vast majority of cases end there, as many of the individuals claiming possession are found to be suffering from psychiatric issues such as schizophrenia or a dissociative disorder, or to have recently gone off psychotropic medication."

Part of the reason the idea of possession is so compelling is that many people WANT to believe that they're possessed. There's no stigma related to being possessed by a demon—even though maybe there should be. there's a solution to your problem. You're not

mentally ill, you're not stigmatized as "crazy," you're not sick, you're a victim, and you're somewhat heroic, you're battling a demon. And there's a way out, there's a quick potential solution. If I could cast anxiety out of my body with some screaming and holy water, sign me up.

But Not everyone is eligible for an exorcism.

"The following are able to receive this specialized blessing if it is determined necessary: 1) Catholics; 2) Catechumens; 3) Non-Catholic Christians who request it; and 4) Non-Christian believers provided they have the proper disposition—meaning, they are sincere in their desire to be free of demonic influence." So, if you're a non-Christian we'll perform an exorcism as long as you can convince us that you really,

truly want to not be a demonic vessel. "I don't think he wants it. I think he enjoys being a pea-soup firehose"

So let's talk about the actual ceremony. What to expect when you are expecting to expel a demon from any of your orifices.

"The ritual begins with the exorcist, who is typically assisted by several people, sprinkling holy water on the possessed person." I like that this is a team effort. Sprinkling water is a three person task, minimum. Never sprinkle alone, that's the first rule of exorcising. And peeing in the woods at night. Exorcising like exercising...you have to have a few spotters. Hey bro, could you help me with some sprinkling? "The exorcist makes the sign of

the cross and kneels to recite the Litany of the Saints, followed by several readings of scripture. He then addresses the demon or demons, establishing the ground rules they must abide by: to reveal themselves when called, give their names when asked to identify themselves, and leave when dismissed. Because the exorcist is working with the full authority of God and Jesus Christ, Catholic doctrine stipulates, the demons have no choice but to obey." I appreciate that these demons are team players. The devil is evil to his core, he wants to torment all of humanity, but he's not some kind of anarchist. Demons will invade your body and corrupt your soul but they respect authority.

"At the rite's climax, sometimes an hour or more into the ritual, the exorcist

calls on the devil directly: "I cast you out, unclean spirit, along with every Satanic power of the enemy, every specter from hell, and all your fell companions."

Sessions typically end with a closing prayer and a plan to continue. For those few people the Church believes are truly possessed, a half-dozen or more exorcisms may be carried out before the priest is confident that the demons have been fully expelled." So the demons respect m authority (respect my *authoritah*, demon) but you might have to exert your authority like half a dozen times.

Now let's talk about a few notable cases of supposed possession.

As as you might expect, Demonic possession has been used as an attempted murder defense. And see, tangent but, if you believe in

demonic possession, you have to believe that this could happen. Do you really think the devil is going to take possession of someone and just scream a bunch of obscenities and vomit pea soup and then NOT try to strangle the shit out of anyone nearby? So many Christians are super hardcore about being tough on crime, but what if that guy who killed your wife was possessed by Satan? Does that matter? Shouldn't we be sending people to priests instead of prison? I don't see a lot of Christians campaigning for leniency for the possessed. This to me is the litmus test for your level of dedication to your religion. We've talked about this before, the cherry picking is so hypocritical. you have to buy into the parts of the religion that are straight up bonkers, not just drink the blood-wine and eat the flesh-wafers. So Jason

Dalton was a 50-year-old Uber driver and convicted psychopathic murderer who in 2016 shot 8 people—killing six—during a shooting rampage in Kalamazoo Michigan. Either that, or he's a victim of A malevolent demon that managed to seize possession of his body via the Uber app. Dalton said that an image of the devil had popped up on his Uber app, and it took control of him when he pressed on it. Which, first off, let's just get this out of the way, don't click on the devil. I don't believe in Satan or demonic possession, but I believe in best practices. Better safe than sorry. I also believe in computer viruses, and if any random demon apps pop up on my screen, no thank you. Not today, Anonymous. I'm pretty sure a rogue app isn't going to try to steal my soul, but it will definitely steal my identity.

"Dalton claimed that he'd

seen the symbol of the Eastern Star when he initially logged into the Uber app. 'I just tapped it and then there was like a devil head that popped up...it was some sort of like horned head like a cow head or something. ... I pressed that button and that's where all the problems went after that."

Problems. That's one way to put it. "Today was very problematic, I shot a bunch of people because of a cow devil on my iPhone."

So Dalton told investigators that the phone was communicating with him, providing instructions. "One ding" meant "yes" and "two dings" signaled "no." When he was pulled over, he was about to reach for his gun and fire at the officers, but his phone turned red.

Apparently that was the Devil's stop signal.

"I was no longer being guided. ... I mean, that's not my nature to be that way,"

he told detectives. "The minute that the app went from black to red. ... I had my presence."

I guess what interest me about all this is that I guarantee even people who believe in demonic possession are laughing at the story, or they just don't find it credible, maybe they're shaking their heads in disbelief. And like, if you believe someone can be possessed through a Satanic text, or some book of invocations, or through some talisman, some cursed object, why not through a cell phone? Why does it seem like 99% of people would not support letting this guy off on a demon plea? I just find it fascinating, the way our brains rationalize everything.

Tanacu exorcism

In 1989, revolution swept across Romania. the brutal communist dictator Nicolae

Ceausescu was overthrown, which allowed Catholicism to re-emerge. Yay! We once again have the glorious Freedom to censor and shame and and persecute and discriminate.

Communism is notoriously hostile toward religion—Marx famously referred to religion as the opiate of the masses, and in this case, I'm not saying Ceausescu had any GOOD ideas, but hey. So this one is pretty rough. a convent called Tanacu was constructed in 2001 in Vaslui county by a private donor, and In 2005 a 23-year-old former orphan named Maricica Irina Cornici moved into the orphanage to pursue life as a nun. She quickly began to exhibit signs of mental illness, acting erratically, and giggling uncontrollably during mass. She was hospitalized and diagnosed with schizophrenia. After two weeks the hospital

released her to the care of the monastery, where the priest of the monastery, Daniel Petre Corogeanu, wisely and sympathetically instructed four nuns to hogtie Maricica and lock her in her room. To make sure she didn't harm herself.

After a few days they chained her to a metal cross and anointed her forehead with holy oil to drive out the demons, and also stuffed her mouth with a holy towel. She eventually died of lack of oxygen combined with dehydration and exhaustion. No word as to what happened to the demon.

This was like 16 years ago, this wasn't the Middle Ages.

There are a bunch of stories like this. Tying up and berating and sprinkling people who are mentally ill is maybe not actually helpful, and it might be time to quit humoring stupid antiquated superstitious bullshit when

people's lives are on the line.

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