



RAPE VICTIMS: IT'S YOUR FAULT IF YOU DON'T SCREAM!

The following commentary was written by Darlene, who was never baptized as a Jehovah's Witness but is being shunned, along with her developmentally delayed daughter, by her Jehovah Witness mother and brother (a Watchtower-appointed elder).

I am the mother of a developmentally delayed child. Doctors advised me when she turned thirteen to put her on birth control pills due to the higher risk of sexual assault. This concerns me greatly because **the Watchtower Bible & Tract Society has portrayed rape without screaming as "consenting to fornication" (a disfellowshipping offense).** (Watchtower, 1/15/64, 63-64; 6/1/68, 347-348.)

"Therefore, a victim who was unable to scream ["because she is mute, unconscious, or paralyzed with fear or is forcibly prevented"] but otherwise did all she could under the circumstances can leave matters in Jehovah's hands." (Watchtower, 2/1/03).

If the Jehovah Witness viewpoint is logical, loving and scriptural, how would they treat my child if this was to happen to her and she didn't scream? Would they support and embrace her with compassion or would they turn her away with judgment and scorn?

Rape is a brutal, vile criminal act against all humanity. One hundred thousand rapes are reported every year. Estimates put the true number of rapes at closer to 1.3 million to 2 million. The crime of rape is so prevalent in the United States that one in every four women will be raped during her lifetime. Of those women raped, fewer than 10% of the survivors will report the crime. Another disturbing statistic, the number of rapists who will be imprisoned: fewer than 5%. (*Voices of Rape* by Janet Bode, 1998.)

I believe that this outdated and intellectually inept teaching by the so-called "one and only organization of Jehovah God" is perpetuating a stereotypical myth and victimizing the rape survivor a second time. How dare a collection of un-worldly, good 'ole boys that live in the capitalists Watch Tower bubble even begin to give advice on surviving a life altering atrocity! Clearly the Watchtower teaches that women are an intellectually inferior disappointment to be dealt with accordingly.

The Four Presidents of the Watch Tower Society, Edmund C. Gruss, p. 213 states: "In view of eternity, it is outright blasphemy to speak of any woman as the 'Mother of God,' for women are merely a lowly creature whom God created for man as a man's helper" (origin is from In Let God Be True, 2nd edition, 1952.) In addition, Frederick Franz, then president of the WTBT referred to teenaged girls as "cows in heat" (at the Milwaukee, Wisconsin, convention).

If the Governing Body claims to be "Jehovah God's channel of communication" (Watchtower 10/1/67, p. 591), then why do they speak with the calculation of a viper and the intellect of a farm animal concerning women's issues? Chronologically, we have moved beyond the dark



ages! Let's move our social, emotional and religious teachings to modern day. Let's preciously value a woman's worth. Let's never, ever blame the victim. Rape removes a person's control. So does lack of reasoning and judgment.

Let's understand that rape is a savage crime, meant to control and demoralize. (*Sexual Violence* by Greenhaven Press, 2003.)

From www.outofthecocoon.net