

# **The International Flying Spaghetti Monster (FSM) Movement**

## ***"Jesus, Save us from Gloomier, Ignorant, Dead Lunacies"***

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The International Flying Spaghetti Monster Movement (IFSMM) is dedicated to bringing light and hope to the those afflicted with the spiritual darkness of religious dogma and intolerance.\* Our primary tool is humor. We believe that God laughs and that those who can laugh at the foibles of their religiosity come closer to the Real Truth.

The Flying Spaghetti Monster movement was inspired by Prophet Bobby Henderson. The launching of his website, *venganza.org*, and the publication of his *Gospel of the Flying Spaghetti Monster* (Villard, 2006) triggered a burst of interest in the use of humor to challenge the flaws and sins of institutionalized religion. However, religious movements based only on the writing of a single person whither and die. Movements that inspire the insights and creations of many flourish and grow.

To illustrate, the Bible has been the world's No. 1 bestseller for centuries. Imagine a world populated entirely by non-Christians. Now imagine an archeologist finds the Bible and publishes it for the first time. In this imaginary world, the Bible would most certainly be a literary flop. Readers would view it as strange and poorly-written, filled with sadistic violence and contradiction. Its many stories might appear simple-minded and replete with two-dimensional characters. Standing utterly alone, the Bible would surely fail. However, this book is the world's No. 1 best-seller, partly because of the creative productions of Christians. Centuries of creative sermons, sacrifices, and acts of service and bearing witness have made the Bible a success.

This is the strategy of the IFSMM. The FSM movement is beginning to grow and consists of dozens of FSM websites and over a dozen articles and books published by other FSM authors. Numerous spin-off sects have emerged, including my own Reformed Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster ([www.lulu.com/stress](http://www.lulu.com/stress)). But this garden is more likely to flourish when many more seeds are planted, watered, and fed. We encourage curious and free thinkers of all persuasions to explore and expand our understanding of the FSM through writing, art, music, dance, and anagrams. As a famous horticulturist once proclaimed, "Let a thousand flowers bloom!" It is time to challenge the ungodly gloom of ignorant and dead lunacies.

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\* The enigmatic wisdom of the anagram (the FSM's preferred vehicle of expression) provides us with three illuminating alternative descriptors for this insidious condition. Those afflicted with "**religious dogma and intolerance**" can properly be described as suffering from the affliction of:

***"An ungodlier, emotional disgrace"***  
***"Ungodlier and costlier egomania"***  
***"Gloomier, ignorant, dead lunacies"***