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## GIVING THE DEVIL HIS DUE

Who is the “Devil”? And what is he due? The devil is anyone who disagrees with *you*. And what he is due is the right to speak his mind. He must have this for your own safety’s sake because his freedom is inextricably tied to your own. If he can be censored, why shouldn’t you be censored? If we put barriers up to silence “unpleasant” ideas, what’s to stop the silencing of any discussion? This book is a full-throated defense of free speech and open inquiry in politics, science, and culture by the *New York Times* bestselling author and skeptic Michael Shermer. The new collection of essays and articles takes the devil by the horns by tackling five key themes: free thought and free speech, politics and society, scientific humanism, religion, and the ideas of controversial intellectuals. For our own sake, we *must* give the devil his due.

Michael Shermer is Presidential Fellow at Chapman University, USA, the Publisher of *Skeptic* magazine, the host of the Science Salon podcast, and for eighteen years he was a monthly columnist for *Scientific American*. He is the author of a number of *New York Times* bestselling books including: *Heavens on Earth*, *The Moral Arc*, *The Believing Brain*, and *Why People Believe Weird Things*. His two TED talks, viewed over nine million times, were voted into the top 100 out of more than 2,000 TED talks.

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# **GIVING THE DEVIL HIS DUE**

*Reflections of a Scientific Humanist*

**Michael Shermer**

Chapman University



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*This book is dedicated to my friends Christopher Hitchens and Steven Pinker,  
peerless champions of liberty who have always given the devil his due . . . for our  
own safety's sake.*

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Thank you to my wife Jennifer . . . for loving me . . . forever.