



# Confessions of a Murdered Pope

*Lucien Gregoire*

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## Confessions of a Murdered Pope Lucien Gregoire About the Book

As a bishop, the 33-day Pope (John Paul I) ordered his priests to melt down their golden chalices and other implements of idol worship to build an orphanage.<sup>1</sup> As a pope, he lifted a chalice to worldwide television cameras: "This chalice contains one hundred and twenty of the world's most pristine diamonds. Do you really think this is what Christ meant by His Church?"<sup>1</sup>

The little boy Albino Luciani had grown up in a tug-of-war.

His mother--a devout Catholic--prayed before crucifixes made of bits of wood. She told him the only path to heaven was on his knees mumbling vain repetitions asking for selfish favors in this life and a better life in the next world.

His father--an avid atheist--burned his mother's crucifixes in the stove. He told him the only path to heaven was on his feet helping others and making the most of this life.

Under his father's guidance he grew up free of prejudices peddled by religion. He reasoned atheists have a better chance of salvation than do the faithful. He wondered how faith had come about to begin with.

When his father placed him in a seminary with the mission to bring change to the Church he traced the evolution of religion from the caveman to modern man. His investigation culminated in his doctoral thesis:

"If we are to determine what happens to us after we die we must first determine the truth of the God-assumption we are born into. Then we must define the human soul. Exactly what is it we are trying to save? These things we will do now..."<sup>2</sup>

He carried his father's ideology into his papacy: "According to tales told by ancient *men*, God is our Father... According to all we really know, God is our Mother."<sup>3</sup>

In *Confessions of a Murdered Pope*, the reincarnated Albino Luciani--in the voice of a precocious ten year old boy in a wealth of entertaining chats with his bewildered father-- traces the evolution of Christianity from the Neanderthals to the Cretans, to the Grecians, to the Egyptians, to the Hebrews, to those who wrote of Jesus. He finds that religion evolves just like any other social practice, each prophet building on the imagination of those who came before him.....

<sup>1</sup> *Associated Press* 14 Jun 1959 & 27 Sep 1978 <sup>2</sup> *Albino Luciani doctoral thesis* 24 Mar 1947 Note: *Confessions of a Murdered Pope* is consistent with his thesis and his overall ministry. <sup>3</sup> *La Repubblica* 27 Sep 1978 - John Paul I explains what he meant when he declared 'God is the Father. More so, the Mother.' in his sermon of 10 Sep 1978.

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