

SHORT WRITING #4

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During the Black Death, Christianity was called into question when thousands of people began to die and prayers were no help. People lost faith in religion and questioned their morality. The Flagellant Movement and the violence against the Jewish community are both without question or doubt, immoral and painfully a true part of history. Both are similar in the fact that the flagellation and the violence against Jews both stemmed from the beliefs of the religion of Christianity and harsh punishment.¹ As far as the Flagellation Movement, this was also a form of punishment, self inflicted by Christians who believed the Black Death was sent down by God himself as retribution for their sins.

As far as history goes, Judas the twelfth Apostles betrayed Jesus leading to his arrest and execution. Because of this betrayal, Christians have always seen the Jewish community as “Christ Killers” and rejectors of the messiah. The Violence inflicted on Jews during the Black Death, was seen as a form of punishment for their betrayal and actions against Jesus.² Jews were hated and were even accused of poisoning Christians.³ Not only do flagellants punish themselves for God but they punish the Jews for God as well.

¹ John Aberth, *The Black Death: the Great Mortality of 1348-1350: a Brief History with Documents* (New York, NY: Bedford/St. Martin's Macmillan Learning, 2017).

² John Aberth, *The Black Death: the Great Mortality of 1348-1350: a Brief History with Documents* (New York, NY: Bedford/St. Martin's Macmillan Learning, 2017).

³ John Aberth, *The Black Death: the Great Mortality of 1348-1350: a Brief History with Documents* (New York, NY: Bedford/St. Martin's Macmillan Learning, 2017).

Flagellants believe that the Black Death was sent down by God to punish men for their sins. During the Black Death, people were dying at a very quick rate, and by the thousands. Prayers did no justice as even those who prayed died. People became scared and felt as though God was mad. The voluntary self-punishment inflicted by these people was a response to seek repentance for their wrong doings. The punishments used to self harm involved flogging as a religious discipline.^{4 5} Christians had also managed to drive out Jews from farming and becoming tradies. Being a minority, the Jewish community was at the mercy of the powerful Christian churches who ruled the land and participated in the destruction and deadly assaults of Jews.

In conclusion, the Flagellant Movement and the Violence against Jews were both acts of punishment and religious beliefs. The Flagellant not only punished themselves but punished the Jews as well. From starting anti-Jewish pogroms to flogging themselves, we can quickly put together that these two historical happenings are similar in that religion is the leading cause for the punishment both groups received. Not only did the flagellants believe they have sinned but they believe the Jews have sinned to which is very ironic is you think about it. Why flog yourself and self inflict pain on yourself to repent for your sins while at the same time you go and massacre another religious group? Isn't that part of sinning as well? It is hypocritical of those Christians who believe they can wash away sins by killing other people who belong to a different religion.

⁴ John Aberth, *The Black Death: the Great Mortality of 1348-1350: a Brief History with Documents* (New York, NY: Bedford/St. Martin's Macmillan Learning, 2017).

⁵ John Aberth, *The Black Death: the Great Mortality of 1348-1350: a Brief History with Documents* (New York, NY: Bedford/St. Martin's Macmillan Learning, 2017).

Bibliography

Aberth, John. *The Black Death: the Great Mortality of 1348-1350: a Brief History with Documents*. New York, NY: Bedford/St. Martin's Macmillan Learning, 2017.