

**The Attackers: Black Sheep: Demetrius: Loss of the Artemis Bric-a-Bras Concession Will Soon Be Replaced by the Iconography of the Western Church; Organizing a Mob: Rhetorical Veil-Hidden Agenda; Confusion at the Theater, Acts 19:29; Doctrine of Mobs: Emotion plus Entitlement Mentality equal Justification for Violence; Freedom to Worship Is a Right; Having a Job Is a Privilege**

**Acts 19:28** - When the metalworkers heard this and were filled with rage, they began crying out, saying, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!"

11. The issue is clear and the crisis is identified: "If people stop worshiping Artemis and convert to Christianity, we will all be out of a job."
12. Little did they know that when a vacuum occurs, opportunity fills the void. Christianity would soon provide a system of iconography that would put Artemis to shame.
13. Nevertheless, the current crisis did not allow for prognostications regarding future prospects. This crusade had its worthy cause to help preserve its evil purpose.
14. The crusade is now organized by virtue of the following process:
  - (1) Demetrius understood that Paul's influence had led to a significant loss of business.
  - (2) Demetrius realized he did not have the ability to argue against the belief system subscribed to by the Christians.
  - (3) If he was to preserve his source of income he had to resort to underhanded tactics which required influencing the metalworkers union to engage in civil disobedience.
  - (4) His strategy included (a) assembling the metalworkers, (b) appealing to their emotions, (c) emphasizing the threat to their religion, (d) fomenting mob action, (e) stoking the emotional sins of hatred and vengeance, and (f) promoting the rallying cry, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!"
15. This may be summarized as follows: A change in public opinion can be achieved by use of a rhetorical veil that conceals while advancing a hidden agenda.
16. For Demetrius, the rhetorical veil is selling the idea that the worship of Artemis is threatened by the upstart Christians. This will appeal to the emotions of those who still follow Artemis.
17. His hidden agenda is: "I get to keep my job." He is gambling that a large percentage of the population in Ephesus will join in the uprising. He was correct.

**Acts 19:29** - The city was filled with confusion, and they rushed with one accord into the theater, dragging along Gaius and Aristarchus, Paul's traveling companions from Macedonia. (NASB)

18. This has now developed into mob action. Once a mob becomes one unit it will react to any suggestion given by an acknowledged leader. Demetrius has incited a riot.
19. Solomon assures us that what happens in the present has occurred before and will occur again:

**Ecclesiastes 1:9** - That which has been is that which will be, and that which has been done is that which will be done. So there is nothing new under the sun. (NASB)

20. The same tactics used by Demetrius are pretty much standard fare for those who find profit in manipulating the benighted. The following principles apply as much to our present hour as they did in Acts 19.
21. **The Doctrine of Mobs:**
  - (1) Although all mobs are made up of people, only those which can be easily manipulated by emotional appeals to their sense of entitlement will actually join the group.
  - (2) Those that join a mob are incapable of rational thought and thus are easily led by a charismatic personality.
  - (3) Such a leader stokes their emotions by asserting an alleged miscarriage of justice.
  - (4) Since a mob is united by emotion it is incapable of thought. When confronted with opposition, emotion transforms the entitlement mentality into justification for violence.
  - (5) The entitlement mentality is defined by *Merriam-Webster's* as "belief that one is deserving of or entitled to certain privileges."
  - (6) The problem is the assumption that certain privileges are rights. The mob in Ephesus had a right to worship Artemis, but they did not have a right to oppose Christianity in order to preserve their jobs.
  - (7) A job is a privilege and not a right. Ephesian metalworkers were not entitled to keep their jobs if a cultural change caused their product to fall into disuse.
  - (8) The Ephesian mob is energized by the rhetorical veil of preserving the worship of Artemis, but they are motivated by the prospect of losing their jobs.
  - (9) Freedom to worship Artemis is a right, but keeping their jobs is a privilege. Assuming an entitlement to their jobs resulted in the mob moving into civil disobedience.
  - (10) The entire industry that surrounded the temple of Artemis was underwritten by demon influence and demon possession.
  - (11) Metalworkers whose living depended upon the votaries of Artemis allowed their temporal security to blind them to the availability of eternal security.
  - (12) This overemphasis on the temporal caused the mob to become the catalyst for a riot in the city of Ephesus.
  - (13) When a mob transforms into a riot, crusader arrogance driven by rage results in innocent people being accused of things about which they had no knowledge or involvement.
  - (14) Mobs make slaves out of all its participants and nothing positive is ever accomplished as a result of mob action.

- (15) Mobs may be summarized as follows: When a group of people with common interests are made to feel threatened, they become emotional which leads to irrationality. Emotion cannot think and the problem-solving device is whatever the change agent motivates them to utilize. Being irrational, the newly formed mob is anxious to oblige. Once enraged the mob causes disturbances that are designed to threaten or alter the current status quo. The root cause of mob mentality is anger that is coaxed into bitterness and a change agent can cause the anger to go proactive with his propaganda.

**Acts 19:29** - The city was filled with confusion, and they rushed with one accord into the theater, dragging along Gaius and Aristarchus, Paul's traveling companions from Macedonia.

22. Mob action resulted in the loss of public peace; order has been suddenly exchanged for chaos. The city is said to be filled with confusion.
23. "Was filled" is an aorist passive indicative of the verb **πίμπλημι (pimplēmi)**: to be literally filled with some emotion which is said to be "confusion," the noun **συγχέω (sunchēō)**: "to throw into confusion."
24. Disorder and confusion has erupted in the city and with it the seizure of two innocent associates of the apostle Paul: Gaius \gā'-yus\ and Aristarchus \ă-ris-tăr'-kus\.