

According to my world view, a non-Christian culture should have a more fatalistic outlook than a Christian culture. The Godzilla movies tend to support this notion, though there could be other explanations for the characters's behaviors and mind-sets.

*Gojira* is the title of the Japanese movie that served as the template for the first Godzilla movie released in the USA. It has several fatalistic features.

Godzilla is created through mutations caused by atomic bomb tests. Yet, Godzilla attacks the Japanese people who had nothing to do with the atomic bomb tests. Godzilla acts as an agent of blind fate. It would seem more reasonable that the people directly involved in such risky adventures (which could be considered playing God) would suffer the adverse consequences and thus learn a lesson. For example, in the Star Trek movie, *The Wrath of Kahn*, Kirk's son engages (with others) in risky experiments that are unsanctioned by the Federation and through an unintended chain of events he ends up paying the ultimate price.

The scientist who saves the Japanese people from the wrath of Godzilla commits suicide. Only a very fatalistic people would find this scenario reasonable. He is singlehandedly saved Japanese people from disaster. Therefore, he is the most important person in Japan. Since he has destroyed his notes that describe how to make the super weapon, which destroyed Godzilla, he is also the most indispensable man in Japan because the atomic bomb tests could have caused more dangerous mutants like Godzilla.

He commits suicide because he wanted his technology to be used only for peaceful purposes. It doesn't seem to matter to him that the use of the weapon is entirely morally justifiable and that the collateral damage is non-existent.

There is a strong element of a particular kind fatalism in his actions. He knows certain people will take control of his technology even though all the relevant information is contained in his mind. It is implied they will not force the information from him. It is implied that anyone with superior status would merely have to request the information from him and he would have no choice but to comply. His fate while alive is blind obedience to social norms and the only way for him to escape it is death.

In *Godzilla 2000* there is a “suicide by Godzilla.” The individual committing the act seems to be a top scientist/executive. He has many personality flaws, but they all seem to flow from the fact that he is an individualist and not a team player. There is no outstanding strain of fatalism in this movie, and in fact Godzilla saves Japan. Unless the fatalism is in the beginning scenes I missed.

In *Godzilla, Mothra, & King Ghidorah (2001)*, Godzilla is again trying to destroy the Japanese people. He can again be seen as an agent of blind fate, but blind fate with a clever rationalization. This time Godzilla is imbued with the restless spirits of all those killed in the Pacific theater of WWII. Because there are more non-Japanese spirits than Japanese spirits, the spirits motivate Godzilla to attack Japan. The people of modern Japan, which Godzilla attacks, do not actually bear any responsibility for the actions of their predecessors. So there is no actual justification for the attacks.

It is interesting that the three guardian creatures (spirits) that fight Godzilla are not interested in aiding the people of Japan. They are only interested in protecting the natural features of Japan such as lakes, rivers and mountains. Fatalism makes it easier to accept that guardian creatures would have no affection for the actual people of Japan.

The Japanese hero who aids the guardian creatures in killing Godzilla is quick to point out that he was only one member of a large team.

Fatalism in Japanese culture seems to be bound up with the idea that the individual is always subservient to the group and the group has a rigid hierarchy. A fatalistic mind-set makes it easier to accept such a constraining social order.