Also, if you do not take everything in your chosen holy book literally, how do you decide which parts to take literally and which parts to dismiss as parable? How do you chose which parts of your book are “dated” and no longer relevant, and which parts should still be followed today? Do you make these choices personally, or under the instruction of a religious group or leader? Any and all answers appreciated, thanks! From some of the questions I've seen saying no offense intended. There's offense in the details. Maybe the persons intent is not to offend. But there's always something offensive in details. So if no offense is really meant. What's written in the details shouldn't be wrote offending in my opinion. 0.