
Subject: Re: Questions I would like to pose to athiests
Posted by [MUDKIPS](#) on Fri, 10 Jun 2011 00:21:33 GMT
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Altzan wrote on Thu, 09 June 2011 13:31MUDKIPS wrote on Thu, 09 June 2011 07:23It used to be a great tool to help form and unify society, to give itself a purpose and goal. Now it is obsolete, and anyone who follows religion is simply a weak link in the chain that is human civilization.

Just curious: why do you consider it obsolete, now? Are you saying the world now has a purpose and goal, as opposed to the past?

As an archaeologist I can tell you that the way the world is now, religion can only be detrimental.

Look at it like this. In the past people had no idea how things worked, how life worked, how nature worked, they just lived their lives, and did their best. When a certain human consciousness evolved (which can be distinguished in the archaeological record to some extent) people obviously started wondering about their existence, how things worked, what they should do with their lives.

So for lack of an explanation, they began to band together and form religions, a coalescent for society basically, which allowed people to live their lives together in a framework that was understandable for them, and motivating.

As time passes, and we see prehistory and history unfold, people discover more and more about life. Gravity, electricity, magnetism, psychology, you name it.

Right now, a far greater percentage of what our daily life encompasses is known, than in the past. Say, maybe in the 15th century, the average person knew 20% of what was actually happening in his life, like, he knew how leverage worked, or he knew about the hardness of certain metals and stones, whatever basically.

Nowadays, people roughly know 75% of what is happening in their life, there is a very high degree of predicatability and certainty to life around us. The common argument against leading an atheist life is that "science hasn't explained everything yet". It has explained the MAJORITY.

Religion is only detrimental because it shields you from the reality of daily life, of what is really going on and how strongly you can influence your life, which is not in the hands of some bearded ghost floating above our heads. Religion tends to absolve people of their responsibilities.

A society in which people are driven by their responsibilities, to themselves, to other people (rather than fairy tales) the more they will accomplish, since they are knowledgeable to what is around them, why, and how to manipulate (not in a negative sense, in a general sense) it best to achieve their goals.

If you place your own self-actualization (both in the sense of individual accomplishment as well as what a society can achieve) in the centre of your life, you will achieve far more. Individually, and cooperatively.

If you take the responsibility for your own life and other people's lives out of everybody's hands, you're only putting a brake on humanity. Simply, because you cannot face the reality of life, the fact that it begins, and it ends, and in that timespan good and bad things happen, and YOU have to make the best of it while you can.

Praying to a non-existing god, placing responsibility with him is a waste of time, it achieves nothing

and is in effect more detrimental than beneficial.
