

Synopsis

"All God Worshippers Are Mad: a little book of sanity" seeks to demonstrate in a logical and common sense manner that the fundamental beliefs held by all monotheists are incomprehensible and lunatic. The method employed is to take the obscurantist vocabulary of monotheism and translate it into plain language. In doing so, the book attempts to show that god worshippers themselves do not understand the things they claim to believe, and by which they live their lives. For the reader who believes in god, this polemical little volume may help them to understand why secularists get so frustrated and infuriated when in debate with god worshippers. For the secularist, this book is a reminder that not everyone is susceptible to reasoned argument. The reminder is a timely one for those who live in an era of the resurgence of Islamic Jihad. A clear understanding of the irrationality of monotheism is something which matters urgently when confronted by the global rise of religious fascism. What is said in this little book will no doubt be found impolite and overly-provocative by those authoritarian people within the politically correct establishment who conflate morality with niceness. They will probably utter the familiar refrain that we ought not to denigrate other people's deeply and sincerely held beliefs. Instead we should live in a permanent state of apology for the crime of having minds of our own. But religions are no more above criticism than any other ideologies. They have no entitlement to a privileged status. Besides which, large numbers of god worshippers feel free to denigrate and insult everyone else's deeply and sincerely held beliefs, so why should they have special permission to be hypocrites? Topics covered: 01. God 02. Prayer 03. Worship 04. God the Infinite 05. Immortality and Heaven 06. Soul / Spirit 07. Salvation 08. Faith 09. Spreading The Word 10. Theocracy 11. Theocracy and Nuclear Armageddon 12. God, Guilty of Genocide 13. Religion and Morality are Mutually Exclusive 14. God worship is Immoral 15. God worship is Obscene 16. Everything is God's Fault 17. If it's in The Book, then it Must be True 18. Claiming Incomprehensible Beliefs 19. Is Islamism the New Fascism? 20. The Moderates

Book Information

File Size: 1354 KB

Print Length: 106 pages

Publication Date: December 6, 2013

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00GQLN4YQ

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #179,402 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #34

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Religion & Spirituality > Agnosticism #63 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > Agnosticism #77 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Religion & Spirituality > Atheism

Customer Reviews

I found the first 18 chapters of this book mostly fantastic. Early in the book, Tate clearly and unflinchingly deconstructs what monotheism means (or is purported to mean) and how these beliefs are incoherent and cognitively illogical. He then goes on to show that if the tenets of monotheism are held to be true, the result is reverence for a deity which commits appalling atrocities, which is inconsistent with protestations that religion is about love and comfort. For example, one of my favorite points from Chapter 15 "God Worship is Obscene": "That thousands of years of hardship and misery were not the unlucky consequence of our natural human condition but instead had been calculatingly engineered by god in pursuit of unspecified purposes of its own is an idea that is so appallingly and unforgivably obscene, so unspeakably vile, that it really ought to hold the status of the most obscene thought that anyone ever had." Unfortunately, after making a watertight case that monotheism is incoherent, inconsistent, illogical, immoral, and obscene, for some reason Tate veers off into a bizarre political diatribe. The first hint of this is in Chapter 16, "Everything is God's Fault", in which he correctly points out that if there is an omnipotent being running the show, surely that being should be held accountable for the negative things that happen in the world. He chooses to illustrate this point by quipping "God is like a feminist; even though they are in power, everything bad that happens is always someone else's fault. God and feminists; they never hold themselves accountable." Wait, what? I realize that I am in the US and Tate is apparently in the UK; perhaps there is a feminist state there of which I am unaware, or perhaps Tate does not understand what feminism means.

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