

The Origin of Religions

There exists not the slightest shred of credible evidence to support the notion of any supreme being or any other sort of deity. In fact, virtually every living thing and all of what we experience as culture is evidence to the contrary. Yet a majority of people persist in their religious beliefs and superstitions. Others are driven to misinterpret or even fabricate evidence to support their theologies. Why?

The answer to this question can be condensed to a single word: evolution. Against a background of traditional debates between the religious and the advocates of Darwinism, many will find this counter-intuitive. Others will delight in the irony of a Darwinistic origin not only of life, but of all of human culture - especially human religions.

One of the primary goals of this book is to facilitate an accurate understanding of the true nature of our religions. To achieve this goal it is necessary to first establish a more accurate understanding of what we really are. That in turn will require other building blocks. Please be patient as we assemble the various bits of required understanding. If you harbor religious beliefs, then remember that your religious indoctrination has lasted virtually your entire lifetime - this book does not ask that. This book asks for but a few hours.

If you harbor religious beliefs, reading this book may result in your deprogramming. If this happens you may find yourself unable to answer a very basic philosophical question: Should mankind choose to be the things he fancies himself to be, or should nature be allowed to take its course? The answer is important, because man is not nearly what he fancies himself to be, but allowing nature to take its course means mankind is likely to prove of little more significance than a leftover bologna sandwich forgotten in the back of the cosmic refrigerator. Most importantly, the two answers are mutually exclusive - the answer cannot be both.

That brings us to the second major goal of this book. Hopefully, all readers of this book will gain a new understanding of what it means to be human. For many, that understanding will strand them in a sort of philosophical quicksand. They will flounder about grasping for the familiar absolutes and comforts of their religion. For these people, I will share my answer to the basic philosophical question posed above - and in so doing establish a possible basis for a personal philosophy and morality based on something other than religion.

After reading this book, you should fully grasp the true nature of life, of humankind, and of religion. You should also grasp the significance of the

question: “Should mankind choose to be the things he fancies himself to be, or should nature be allowed to take its course?” It is perhaps the most important question for the human race.