



Showing 1-30 of 1,352

“We are all atheists about most of the gods that humanity has ever believed in. Some of us just go one god further.”

Like

– Richard Dawkins, *The God Delusion*

tags: atheism, philosophy

4346 likes

“The God of the Old Testament is arguably the most unpleasant character in all fiction: jealous and proud of it; a petty, unjust, unforgiving control-freak; a vindictive, bloodthirsty ethnic cleanser; a misogynistic, homophobic, racist, infanticidal, genocidal, filicidal, pestilential, megalomaniacal, sadomasochistic, capriciously malevolent bully.”

Like

– Richard Dawkins, *The God Delusion*

tags: bible, christianity, god, organized-religion, religion, yahweh

1828 likes

“I am against religion because it teaches us to be satisfied with not understanding the world.”

Like

– Richard Dawkins

1747 likes

“We are going to die, and that makes us the lucky ones. Most people are never going to die because they are never going to be born. The potential people who could have been here in my place but who will in fact never see the light of day outnumber the sand grains of Arabia. Certainly those unborn ghosts include greater poets than Keats, scientists greater than Newton. We know this because the set of possible people allowed by our DNA so massively exceeds the set of actual people. In the teeth of these stupefying odds it is you and I, in our ordinariness, that are here. We privileged few, who won the lottery of birth against all odds, how dare we whine at our inevitable return to that prior state from which the vast majority have never stirred?”

Like

– Richard Dawkins, *Unweaving the Rainbow: Science, Delusion and the Appetite for Wonder*

tags: death, inspirational, science, wonder

1644 likes

“There is something infantile in the presumption that somebody else has a responsibility to give your life meaning and point... The truly adult view, by contrast, is that our life is as meaningful, as full and as wonderful as we choose to make it.”

Like

– Richard Dawkins, *The God Delusion*

tags: atheism, existentialism, follow-your-bliss, self-actualization, self-determination

1407 likes

“More generally, as I shall repeat in Chapter 8, one of the truly bad effects of religion is that it teaches us that it is a virtue to be satisfied with not understanding.”

Like

– Richard Dawkins, *The God Delusion*

tags: ignorance, satisfaction, understanding, willful ignorance

1407 likes

“Science is interesting, and if you don't agree you can fuck off.

Like

Note: Dawkins was quoting a former editor of New Scientist Magazine, who is as yet unidentified (possibly Jeremy Webb)”

– Richard Dawkins

tags: science

629 likes

“Do not indoctrinate your children. Teach them how to think for themselves, how to evaluate evidence, and how to disagree with you.”

Like

– Richard Dawkins, *The God Delusion*

tags: children, critical-thinking, indoctrination

620 likes

“A child is not a Christian child, not a Muslim child, but a child of Christian parents or a child of Muslim parents. This latter nomenclature, by the way, would be an excellent piece of consciousness-raising for the children themselves. A child who is told she is a 'child of Muslim parents' will immediately realize that religion is something for her to choose -or reject- when she becomes old enough to do so.”

Like

– Richard Dawkins, *The God Delusion*

tags: children, indoctrination, religion

575 likes

“Let children learn about different faiths, let them notice their incompatibility, and let them draw their own conclusions about the consequences of that incompatibility. As for whether they are 'valid,' let them make up their own minds when they are old enough to do so.”

Like

– Richard Dawkins, *The God Delusion*

461 likes

“The total amount of suffering per year in the natural world is beyond all decent contemplation. During the minute that it takes me to compose this sentence, thousands of animals are being eaten alive, many others are running for their lives, whimpering with fear, others are slowly being devoured from within by rasping parasites, thousands of all kinds are dying of starvation, thirst, and disease. It must be so. If there ever is a time of plenty, this very fact will automatically lead to an increase in the population until the natural state of starvation and misery is restored. In a universe of electrons and selfish genes, blind physical forces and genetic replication, some people are going to get hurt, other people are going to get lucky, and you won't find any rhyme or reason in it, nor any justice. The universe that we observe has precisely the properties we should expect if there is, at bottom, no design, no purpose, no evil, no good, nothing but pitiless indifference.”

Like

– Richard Dawkins, *River Out of Eden: A Darwinian View of Life*

tags: biology, design, disease, evolution, fear, indifference, natural-selection, purpose, science, starvation, suffering

441 likes

“Be thankful that you have a life and forsake your vain and

Like

BE GRATEFUL that you have a life, and forsake your vain and presumptuous desire for a second one.”

– Richard Dawkins

Like

425 likes

“Do you really mean to tell me the only reason you try to be good is to gain God's approval and reward, or to avoid his disapproval and punishment? That's not morality, that's just sucking up, apple-polishing, looking over your shoulder at the great surveillance camera in the sky, or the still small wiretap inside your head, monitoring your every move, even your every base though.”

– Richard Dawkins, *The God Delusion*

Like

tags: god, morality, morals

424 likes

“To be fair, much of the Bible is not systematically evil but just plain weird, as you would expect of a chaotically cobbled-together anthology of disjointed documents, composed, revised, translated, distorted and 'improved' by hundreds of anonymous authors, editors and copyists, unknown to us and mostly unknown to each other, spanning nine centuries”

– Richard Dawkins, *The God Delusion*

Like

tags: bible, organized-religion, religion

353 likes

“After sleeping through a hundred million centuries we have finally opened our eyes on a sumptuous planet, sparkling with color, bountiful with life. Within decades we must close our eyes again. Isn't it a noble, an enlightened way of spending our brief time in the sun, to work at understanding the universe and how we have come to wake up in it? This is how I answer when I am asked—as I am surprisingly often—why I bother to get up in the mornings.”

– Richard Dawkins

Like

tags: beauty, color, enlightened, inspirational, meaning, motivational, questions, sleep

325 likes

“Religion is about turning untested belief into unshakable truth through the power of institutions and the passage of time.”

– Richard Dawkins

Like

tags: institutions, organized-religion, religion, richard-dawkins

319 likes

“Faith can be very very dangerous, and deliberately to implant it into the vulnerable mind of an innocent child is a grievous wrong.”

– Richard Dawkins, *The God Delusion*

Like

tags: atheist, child, faith, parental-love, parenthood, parents

318 likes

“...when two opposite points of view are expressed with equal intensity, the truth does not necessarily lie exactly halfway between them. It is possible for one side to be simply wrong.”

– Richard Dawkins

Like

tags: dissent, opinion, truth

317 likes

“Faith is the great cop-out, the great excuse to evade the need to think and evaluate evidence. Faith is the belief in spite of, even perhaps because of, the lack of evidence.”

– Richard Dawkins

tags: religion, willful-ignorance

290 likes

Like

“Let us try to teach generosity and altruism, because we are born selfish. Let us understand what our own selfish genes are up to, because we may then at least have the chance to upset their designs, something that no other species has ever aspired to do.”

– Richard Dawkins, *The Selfish Gene*

tags: altruism, inspirational, science

259 likes

Like

“It's been suggested that if the super-naturalists really had the powers they claim, they'd win the lottery every week. I prefer to point out that they could also win a Nobel Prize for discovering fundamental physical forces hitherto unknown to science. Either way, why are they wasting their talents doing party turns on television?”

By all means let's be open-minded, but not so open-minded that our brains drop out.”

– Richard Dawkins

tags: atheism, good-advice, nobel-prize, open-minded, science, suggestion, television

250 likes

Like

“There's real poetry in the real world. Science is the poetry of reality”

– Richard Dawkins

245 likes

Like

“I am thrilled to be alive at time when humanity is pushing against the limits of understanding. Even better, we may eventually discover that there are no limits.”

– Richard Dawkins, *The God Delusion*

217 likes

Like

“The chicken is only an egg's way for making another egg.”

– Richard Dawkins

tags: evolution

216 likes

Like

“The majority of children born into the world tend to inherit the beliefs of their parents, and that to me is one of the most regrettable facts of them all.”

– Richard Dawkins

198 likes

Like

“Bush and bin Laden are really on the same side: the side of faith and violence against the side of reason and discussion. Both have implacable faith that they are right and the other is evil. Each believes that when he

Like

dies he is going to heaven. Each believes that if he could kill the other, his path to paradise in the next world would be even swifter. The delusional "next world" is welcome to both of them. This world would be a much better place without either of them. ”

– Richard Dawkins

192 likes

“The take-home message is that we should blame religion itself, not religious extremism - as though that were some kind of terrible perversion of real, decent religion. Voltaire got it right long ago: 'Those who can make you believe absurdities can make you commit atrocities.' So did Bertrand Russell: 'Many people would sooner die than think. In fact they do.’”

Like

– Richard Dawkins, *The God Delusion*

tags: extremism, religion, religious-extremism

186 likes

“The feeling of awed wonder that science can give us is one of the highest experiences of which the human psyche is capable. It is a deep aesthetic passion to rank with the finest that music and poetry can deliver. It is truly one of the things that make life worth living and it does so, if anything, more effectively if it convinces us that the time we have for living is quite finite.”

Like

– Richard Dawkins, *Unweaving the Rainbow: Science, Delusion and the Appetite for Wonder*

tags: awe, beauty-in-nature, science, wonder

168 likes

“You could give Aristotle a tutorial. And you could thrill him to the core of his being. Aristotle was an encyclopedic polymath, an all time intellect. Yet not only can you know more than him about the world. You also can have a deeper understanding of how everything works. Such is the privilege of living after Newton, Darwin, Einstein, Planck, Watson, Crick and their colleagues.

Like

I'm not saying you're more intelligent than Aristotle, or wiser. For all I know, Aristotle's the cleverest person who ever lived. That's not the point. The point is only that science is cumulative, and we live later.”

– Richard Dawkins

tags: albert-einstein, aristotle, charles-darwin, crick, darwin, einstein, francis-crick, intellect, isaac-newton, james-d-watson, james-watson, knowledge, max-planck, newton, planck, polymath, science, understanding, watson

159 likes

“Many of us saw religion as harmless nonsense. Beliefs might lack all supporting evidence but, we thought, if people needed a crutch for consolation, where's the harm? September 11th changed all that.”

Like

– Richard Dawkins